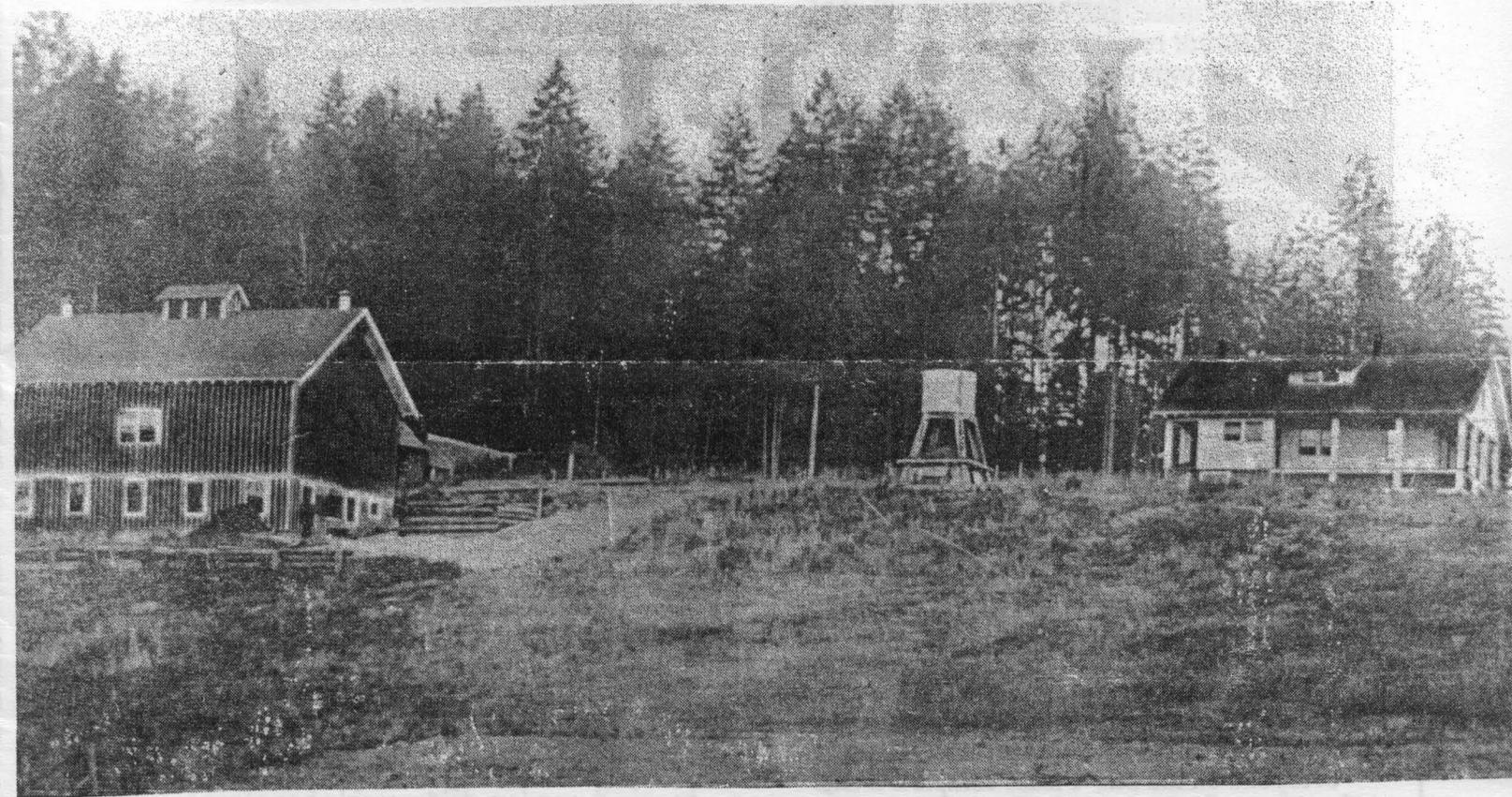


Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



Colleen Granger's 1912 Juanita Farm to be Sold

January Meeting: Susan Busch presents "The Houghton that was—the Houghton that wasn't"



Kirkland Heritage Society

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by
Bob Burke

HAPPY NEW YEAR -- 1996!!

Well, as usual the New Year starts out with lots of resolutions. Some people are smart enough to know better than to even try! I'm not one of those, and I hope you aren't either - and that your resolution involves KHS! I'm sure it was tops on your list!! Ho! Ho!

There is a lot to be done for both the Kirkland Heritage Society and the City. I am constantly reminded about the importance of our efforts to research our community's history; to make the lives of those who helped shape it live through the oral history; to help preserve buildings and sites for future generations to enjoy; and to make everyone living, working or visiting Kirkland aware of our heritage. In 1996 will have increased opportunities to work to achieve our mission!

- to identify historic resources;
- to encourage their preservation;
- to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret the history and heritage of Kirkland and its people; and
- to promote public involvement in and appreciation of its heritage and cultures.

Two things are coming up this month -- a **Membership Survey** was sent out to everyone on the 5th. Please complete it and mail it in as quickly as you can. We've had great response so far! Even if you didn't meet the initial 17th date, please send it in. Your ideas are critical to how we operate this year!

On January 21st the members on the Board and Committee met in a **workshop** to plan out programs for 1996! More information on that will be coming out in the next issue. There will be lots of opportunities to participate in KHS in 1996! This can range from coming to programs to being in charge of a Committee or running for the Board this

spring. If there is something you feel we should be doing or would be willing to work on a project, please give me a call at 827-6550 or 828-4095.

1996 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It is very appropriate to sum up the things which we accomplished in 1995 -- and the people who were responsible for them:

- Conducted Board/Committee Retreat to prepare the 1995 program in January.
- Received \$1,695 grant from King County to update, print and distribute a Historic Tour brochure.
- Held eleven very successful, varied and interesting monthly programs.
- Adopted new KHS bylaws and conducted first nomination and election under their provisions.
- Received Award for our Report - *Historic Preservation: City of Kirkland* - from both Association of King County Historic Organizations and Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.
- City adopted strengthened policies on Historic Preservation in the updated Comprehensive Plan.
- Membership reached 80 with 4 business/professional members.
- Reinstated Oral History Committee and began transcribing tapes.
- Received City support to install and update a display of historic photographs in the lower lobby of City Hall.
- Participated with Lakeview PTA and Golden Grads of LWHS in their events.
- Initiated contact with neighborhood associations to help identify historic resources.

It is almost impossible to thank everyone who has participated in all of these KHS activities this past year! I would like to mention six: **Hazel Kelly** and **Jeanne Bartels** for the great monthly programs; **Christina Brugman** and **Alan Stein** for the Courier articles, oral history and Golden Grads work; **Laura Westlund** for helping identify names and addresses for membership recruitment; and **Barbara Loomis** for preparing the bylaws.

KHS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The bylaws establish the seven member elected Board with five appointed committees which are responsible for the operation of the Kirkland Heritage Society.

Within the Board there is provision for a Communication Officer responsible for *Blackberry Preserves* and other articles. The five Committees are: Archives and Collections; Education and Research; Membership and Funding; Planning and Historic Sites; and Programs. This year a special committee will be formed related to the update and printing of the Historic Walking Tour Brochure and other activities involving members from many committees.

We received a grant from King County to help pay for the Historic Tour Brochure. We received support from the **City of Kirkland, Chamber of Commerce and Kirkland Arts Center** in putting together the grant application. Hopefully this will be published and distributed this spring. Thanks to everyone who helped in this successful effort!!

The primary responsibilities and some of the ongoing and longer term projects of each of the standing committees are as follows:

Archives and Collections

This Committee keeps a record of all of the photographs and ephemera which are owned by KHS. One of their jobs is to expand the collection; another to find a permanent safe location for an archives.

Education and Research

The primary activity of this committee is to research information about the history of the people and places which make up Kirkland and to develop programs to inform people about our heritage. Specific activities include the oral history project, newspaper research at the library and the display at City Hall.

Membership and Funding

The responsibility of the committee is to maintain a strong membership base for KHS to support our various activities. Efforts have included contacting people who's homes or buildings are noted in our surveys as being of

historical potential as well as asking business with an interest to become business/professional members. This committee sponsored the entertainment books and submitted the grant application for the historic tour brochure update.

Planning and Historic Sites

This committee has primary responsibility for identifying and protecting Kirkland's historic buildings and sites. One effort has been the work with the City on the Comprehensive Plan. Others are also working to install street signs with the original names and interpretive markers along the pedestrian path system. They have contacted neighborhoods with historic resources to help them identify them and plan for their preservation.

Programs

This committee is responsible for all aspects of arranging monthly programs, one of our most visible membership services. In addition efforts to again hold an annual home tour/tea and to initiate an awards program are being discussed.

There are a number of very exciting things happening through the efforts of members of each of these committees. During the coming months we will highlight some of these efforts so you will know what all we are doing in KHS.

After the Workshop on the 21st we will have lists of new Committee Co-Chairs and any sub-committees which have been formed. It is only through the effort of our individual members that we are able to achieve our mission.

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January Program
Wednesday, January 31, 7 pm
Kirkland Congregational Church
106th--5th Avenue, Kirkland

KHS member, architect and Houghton resident **Susan Busch** will present:

"The Houghton that was--The Houghton that wasn't."

KHS is lucky to boast among its membership ranks numerous individuals who bring exceptionally interesting personal, professional and/or academic experience to the study of Kirkland's past. Susan Busch is one of those individuals. Her master's thesis from the University of Washington focused on Houghton's development and during the course of her research she uncovered fascinating information which included interviews, photographs, articles and sketches of proposals for development (i.e. a shopping center) which were never enacted. Remember, Houghton was settled well before Kirkland was and it boasts a colorful history. I heartily recommend Susan's informative and entertaining presentation.--
Ed.

Mark Your Calendar!
by **Alan Stein**

On Monday, Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m., I will be giving a lecture at the Kirkland Public Library about the history of Kirkland. The presentation will be geared towards families, so be sure to bring the kids. Overhead slides of some of the more interesting articles and photos from the old newspapers will be shown, and some of the fascinating events in Kirkland's history will be discussed.

This is also a chance for the public to learn more about the *East Side Journal*

database. I will be collecting questions from the audience after the presentation, so if you'd like to know about any aspect of Kirkland's past, don't forget to ask!

Tales from the East Side Journal
by **Alan Stein**

All of us are familiar with answering machines. In fact, in today's society, most of us cannot function without one. Rapid communication is a necessity in our fast-paced world. The answering machine was invented to meet this need, and is a product of modern science.

Or is it? This month's article is from the April 13, 1950 edition of the East Side Journal. Although it describes a contraption right out of the comic strips of Rube Goldberg, you can't help but be impressed with the foresight of its inventor. To illustrate the uniqueness of this device consider that, in 1950, owning a television set was looked upon as being on the cutting edge of technology. Dishwashers and washer/dryers were slowly entering homes nationwide. To some people, refrigerators were still a novelty.

Yet, here in Kirkland, people were getting a glimpse of the future.

**Gertrude, The Electronic Secretary,
Answers Telephone in Taxi Office**

You've heard of the Robot Man, the fellow put together with nuts and bolts and conduit and controls.

Now here comes his counterpart on the feminine side, the Electronic Secretary.

For the sake of keeping the Electronic Secretary straight, throughout this piece, let's just call her Gertrude.

Gertrude is a combination telephone and wire recorder. She works while people, normally engaged in answering telephones in an office, sleep, play or are otherwise occupied.

Gertrude is being tried out at the 30-30 Taxi office by the owners, Wallace T. Drain and Denny Renando. She was placed there on trial by H. S. Frazier, dealer for the firm which sells this gadget.

We'll say that it's 11:30 p. m. Mrs. Drain who answers the phone all day long, is home



Wallace Drain Operating New Phone Invention

looking after the baby. Denny Renando, worked all day too, and he's home, slumbering. That leaves Wallace to look after the taxi business and he's busy delivering a man who came in on a late boat. There's no one in the office to answer the phone but Gertrude. But don't sell her short!

Mrs. Jones, on Rose Hill, at that particular moment, wants a cab to take home an elderly couple who have been at her house playing whist. She phones the cab company.

When the phone rings, Gertrude goes to work. The receiver pops off the hook and the wire recorder starts. Gertrude speaks somewhat as follows:

"This is the Taxi office. You are listening to an electronic device to record your message. Please do not hang up until this message is completed. The boys are out for a minute but will be back promptly and your cab will be there in a few minutes. You have 10 seconds to state where you want the cab and how soon."

Mrs. Jones then says to Gertrude, "Please send a cab to 11004 Newcastle in 20 minutes."

Gertrude says: "Thank you."

That does it. When Wallace comes back to the office from chauffeuring the man home from the late boat, he runs the wire recorder to see if any messages have come in. Sure enough there's one from Mrs. Jones on Rose Hill. He gets the information and starts out on his newest assignment.

Turning to Gertrude he says, "I'll be back in a few minutes. Answer the phone while . . . oh, never mind!"

Mr. Frazier will have the electronic secretary on exhibition Friday and Saturday at the office next to the Up and Up Cafe formerly occupied by Crawford Real Estate. Then you'll see Gertrude in action for yourself.

From the Editor

By
Matt McCauey

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. **Welcome new member.** First, I want to welcome aboard our newest Sustaining/Supporting member, **Mr. Bernard Peach** of Durham, North Carolina. Mr. Peach grew up in Kirkland during the 1920s and 1930s and wrote me last year requesting some information on the city during that time period. As a boy he delivered newspapers in town and will soon be writing an article for the *Golden Grads Newsletter* about those days. He mentioned that he is interested in obtaining copies of the 1937, 1938 and 1939 KHS yearbooks. Call me for his contact information if you can help him.

Kalakala Update. For those of you interested in following the efforts to return the famous Lake Washington Shipyards-built (well, sort of) streamlined Black Ball Line ferry *Kalakala* to its old home on the Seattle waterfront, **Alan Stein** reports that the *Kalakala* Foundation will soon have a highly detailed homepage available on the World Wide Web, featuring all sorts of photos, ephemera and lots of information on the vessel and restoration efforts. You can get the website address from Alan, or try entering "kalakala" into a search engine.

South Juanita Neighborhood Association forming. Those living in South Juanita might be interested to know that a South Juanita Neighborhood Association is forming. Such associations already exist on Rose Hill and in Houghton and are encouraged by the City of Kirkland as a way for residents to work together on issues of interest relating to their neighborhood. If you are interested in more information contact me at 823-6838.

(from the Editor *cont.*)

Norman Blye speaks at November 29 meeting on Lake Washington steamboats and ferries. We owe a big thanks to Mr. Blye, of Bellevue Historical Society, for his fascinating and informative presentation on steamers and ferries on the lake. Next to the Kirkland Cemetery tour, it was the year's best-attended meeting. Mr. Blye is a Bellevue native, born on Main Street in old Bellevue immediately following W.W.I. His firm grasp on the subject is undoubtedly related to his personal experience as a young ferry landing newspaper vendor and the experience of his parents, who also worked on and near the boats. As some of you know, I have a strong interest in this subject, having myself discovered some of these vessels on the lakebottom, and have researched lake and steamer history for over 15 years. I found Mr. Blye's account highly informative and took away quite a bit of new information.

Lorraine McConaghy writes weekly history articles in the *Seattle Times*. The *Seattle Times* is running history articles every Sunday co-authored by KHS member and Oral History Committee Chair Lorraine McConaghy and Sharon Boswell as a part of its centennial efforts. A new book by Lorraine about the paper is also scheduled for release soon.

The Cover: Colleen Granger's home for sale. As members may recall, KHS member Colleen Granger kindly hosted our August, 1994 meeting at her home in Juanita, which was one of the best attended meetings of that year. Colleen says that it is time for her to move into something smaller, so she has decided to sell her home. The following is an article that originally ran on August 31, 1994, in the "A Look to the Past" column I

wrote for the *Kirkland Courier* (sans the paper's congenital typesetting problems):

Around 1908, a newly married young couple, Rowan and Ada Walters, moved from North Carolina to Bellevue's Midlakes area, where they established Walters Grain and Feed Store.

Within a few years they had a daughter, Hazel. Occasionally, Ada took young Hazel to visit a family named Hartig who lived on a 10-acre farm in North Juanita. The families eventually fell out of touch, but the Hartig house still stands today.

George and Liberty Hartig had moved to their farm from Seattle, where George owned businesses. Suffering from an illness, his doctor told him to leave Seattle and go "out to the country." Of course, Juanita was "the country" up until the late 1960s, or so.

The Hartigs built their house about 1912 and lived there with their four children. Then considered a 'gentlemen's farm,' the house was elaborate and well appointed for local standards. In an era when some local residents lived in converted chicken coops, the Hartig property boasted a large, fine home, a barn and several outbuildings, including a blacksmith shed.

The Hartigs grew grapes and lived on the farm for the rest of their days, passing the property on to their daughter, Georgie Chase, a widow. In 1964, South Juanita resident Colleen Granger and her family began looking for a 'new' old house to buy but didn't find anything they liked until the old Hartig place became available in 1969. By then Chase's health necessitated she move. Granger said she decided to buy the house and a portion of the property sight unseen.

To convenience Mrs. Chase, the Grangers told her not to worry about cleaning the place up when she moved. When the Grangers opened the door to their new house they got a big surprise: the house was still furnished with its 1912 appointments: furniture, 1890 Monarch wood and coal stove, stereo photo viewers, Sanitor wood ice box, hand-operated water pumps, laundry wringer, three 1912-era telephones, and even a 1895 National Gramophone record player. In short, the house was a time capsule of Juanita life from that era—a veritable museum.

"Everybody said bulldoze it over," Granger said, since older homes were not considered as desirable in 1969 as they are today. Instead, Granger kept the house with its original appointments, down to the 1900s calendars on the walls.

Granger will host the Aug. 31 Kirkland Heritage Society meeting at 7pm, and anyone interested in seeing this fascinating real life glimpse into Kirkland's past is welcome. Her address is: 10616 NE 132nd (the driveway across from Juanita High School's entrance)

One last note about Granger. Her mother was Hazel Walters, the little girl who made the long trek from Bellevue to play with the Hartig children during the 1910s.

Anyone interested in the historic, two and one-half acre property--which King County said can be operated as a bed and breakfast, can be subdivided and currently produces considerable cash flow via rental of several outbuildings--should contact Colleen at 820-8125.

Blackberry Preserves. As we begin the fourth year, it is a good time to both review and look ahead at BP in 1996.

I put out the first BP in March, 1993, when the then-fledgling KHS boasted few members. In addition to the typical information on KHS activities, meeting locations and times I wanted to provide an outlet for some of the historical information and photographs various members were uncovering through their research. The idea was also to encourage new members by periodically providing BP issues to the general public.

Sometimes new members ask about the name, "why Blackberry Preserves?" Actually, my wife, Ashley, whose degrees are in English/Literature, thought of it. 'Blackberry' refers to what is probably the most common wild-growing plant in the Puget Sound lowlands (ironically, the most voracious variety is non-native), and 'preserves' refers to KHS's objective of preserving information about Kirkland's past. Hence, *Blackberry Preserves*...get it.

I heartily encourage submissions from readers, articles, graphics, whatever you want. I tend edit notices and the like more severely for space considerations than historical materials, but I do exercise editorial control over all submissions. Generally I only edit for space considerations, so if something is interesting, factual and not libelous, then I will probably run it. If you want submit

something to me you can send it to me via snail mail at:

10635 NE 120th
Kirkland, WA 98034
or E-mail me at: mccaule@seattleu.edu

I also plan feature some of the new photos we are scheduled to acquire soon. Alan Stein has scouted them in various museum s' collections and the board recently authorized funds to acquire copies.

Do You Know Someone Interested In Joining KHS?

- Individual \$20
- Family \$25
- Senior/Student \$10
- Sustaining/Supporting \$100
- Life Member \$1,000
- Organization/Government \$100
- Professional/Business \$125
- Corporate \$250
- I would like to make an additional contribution of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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Organization/Firm

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Checks should be made payable and mailed to Kirkland Heritage Society, 304-8th Ave. W., Kirkland, WA 98033. Phone: 206 / 827-7194



Ferry Lincoln docks at Madison Park in a color-tinted postcard discovered recently by Alan Stein. It provides an interesting view of Laurelhurst which would be obscured today by the Evergreen Point Bridge.

Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, 10635 NE 120th, Kirkland, WA 98034, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. Matthew W. McCauley, Editor. For more information call: 823-6838 or 827-7194. E-mail: mccaule@seattleu.edu

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