

Blackberry Preserves

**The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society**



KHS to Tour Marsh Mansion: August 11



Kirkland Heritage Society

JULY PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by
Bob Burke

I've decided to do a series of President's letters reflecting on the importance of our history in maintaining the character of Kirkland. Where I previously highlighted what has been going on in KHS, I've asked those involved in all of our activities to write about what they have been doing. Undoubtedly it will be a lot more interesting in their own words!

Preservation and Kirkland's Character

I am an architect and urban planner. My specialty is doing long range planning for smaller communities. It has been extremely rewarding and enlightening. I have become increasingly convinced that understanding and respecting a community's past is essential to maintaining the quality of it's future. It is the reason that I live in Kirkland. It is the reason I relocated a 1919 bungalow to live in. It's why I'm active in the Kirkland Heritage Society!

Why is the preservation of our history and those sites and buildings which have been instrumental in it so important?? At a recent Conference I heard Donovan Rypkema speak on the "Economics of Historic Preservation." It was not at all what I thought - it wasn't that preserving old buildings 'penciled out' financially. It was much broader in concept.

Rypkema's conclusion was that with the changes in our society and the increasing reliance on technology that people will need places where there is positive human interaction and a sense of place. Those communities which have retained a human scale and a sense of the past will be the ones considered most desirable in which to live. They will provide the environment where the

human spirit will be refreshed. They will provide the context - the link to our past.

Think about communities that you like to visit. They are the ones with a history; ones that have preserved buildings and spaces which reflect that history. You don't go to a 60's subdivision! The people who live there usually reflect a caring for their community. How do they achieve this?

It is not just the decision of a supportive City Council, it is also the collective decisions of the residents. It is the decision to build a new home that reflects the neighborhood such as a couple recent good examples along Waverly Way. It is the decision of the owner of an older home to keep the character of that home in a remodel. It is the decision of a store owner to respect downtown's overall character and not need to make a statement through bright paint. It is an individual like Louis Marsh who gave the waterfront park to the city.

A community with this strong sense of place and its history integrated into its very fabric will survive to nurture its resident's lives and to be truly viable. KHS challenge is to help Kirkland understand and respect its history!

BE SURE TO ATTEND !!
MARSH MANSION TOUR
AUGUST 11th, NOON to 4:00 p.m.

The Marsh Mansion, 6604 Lake Washington Boulevard, NE, will be open on Sunday, August 11 from Noon to 4:00 p.m. Parking will be available in the next block to the north. Because of the costs associated with the tour we are asking an \$8.00 donation in advance or \$10.00 at the door. For ticket information please call **Lynette Friberg** at 827-2936.

Jerry Marsh, a KHS member, has provided photographs of the family and house which will be on display at the tour. He has also written a brief history of the family and the mansion which will be in the tour brochure. We will again serve our traditional Dixie cup and sarsaparilla!! Take advantage of this rare opportunity to see the **Marsh Mansion!**

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THANK YOU! DORRIS FORBES BEECHER

The KHS Board voted Dorris Forbes Beecher a Lifetime Membership in May of this year. In June she wrote the following letter to us.

What a pleasant surprise and honor to be voted a lifetime membership in the Kirkland Heritage Society. Thank the members of the Society for me, please. May I live many more years!

Being a member and receiving Blackberry Preserves mean much to me. Losing my husband and my elder son during the last six months prompted my leaving my beloved Pacific Northwest to be near my remaining son and daughter-in-law.

Enclosed is a small donation perhaps to help defray postage, etc. Please remember me to Matthew McCauley. Sincerely,

Dorris Forbes Beecher

*15101 Ford Road, Apt #H.S. 120
Dearborn MI 48126-4631*

KIRKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

Thanks to every one who helped on our exhibit booth at the Kirkland Arts Festival July 13th and 14th. **Loita and Dale Hawkinson** contributed two historic* 1994 World Series Baseballs for which we sold chances at \$1.00. They also worked on the booth. Thanks! Myron Lewis and Sven Burke (Bob's grandson) each won a ball! Many members helped over the two very hot days - quite a contrast to last year's rain: **Christina Brugman, Bob Burke, Angie Eggers, Lynette Friberg, Barbara Loomis, Ernie McKibben, Alan Stein, Nancy Stephens, Laura Westlund, Velda Wilson and Don Winters.** Thank you !!

The sarsaparilla sold better than last year, even though free drinks were available two booths away. We got some new members and a lot of interest in the Marsh Mansion Tour!!

** Know why a 1994 World Series baseball is Historic? Find out at our next meeting!!*

SUCCESSFUL VIRGINIA V VISIT!!

We received a note from Andrew Price, Virginia V Foundation thanking KHS for our tremendous help. He noted that the "people in Kirkland has been very generous in their offerings for the boats restoration."

Thanks to all of our members who helped in promoting the visit and making arrangements for the special KHS meeting (47 participated) on board Saturday evening! **Paula Riggert** was able to get articles in both the JA and the Times. **Barbara Loomis, Loita Hawkinson** and **Laura Westlund** called people to rsvp. **Velda Wilson** arranged for the old fashioned Dixie Cups. The schools and businesses throughout the community put up the posters. Neighborhood and community service groups made announcements at their meetings. **Alan Stein** spoke on the Maritime History of Lake Washington at the June Chamber of Commerce lunch



Touring the Virginia V

The Virginia V would like "Kirkland to have a high priority" for a visit next summer to show off the restoration work! Can we get someone to sponsor an exhibit on the maritime history of Kirkland and Houghton? Volunteers??

Announcements:

Training to conduct surveys of historic buildings. Presented by King County Heritage and Landmarks staff. Contact **Velda Wilson** for info. 641-0528

Future Meetings: The Kirkland Arts Festival and Marsh Mansion tour events serve as our July and August meetings. Our September 25 meeting will be at 7 pm at the Kirkland Congregational Church.

Program Committee chair needed. Call Bob Burke if you are interested in serving for the remainder of 1996. 828-4095 or 827-6550.

Board and Committee Chairs to meet in August or early September--details TBA.

Oral History Committee Meeting: Anyone interested is welcome! September 9, 7:30 pm, Joie Goodwin's home, 2156 7th Ave. W. 827-7720.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Glenn Carter
Chet & Melissa Nelson

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUSTAINING/SUPPORTING
MEMBERSHIP**

Dr. Ernest McKibben

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
RENEWAL AND CONTINUED SUPPORT**

Bill Ballantine Angie Eggers
Charlotte DeVore Evie Florian
Lynette Friberg Myra Gamberg
Jo Ann & George Harris
Shannon & Patrick Harris
Matt & Ashley McCauley
Michael & Robert Muse
Dave & Hazel Russell
Alan Stein Pat Stupfel

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ADDITIONAL DONATION**

Jo Ann & George Harris



From the 1947 Eastside Directory

Archives: *Managing Archives in Museums and Historical Societies* Workshop

By Ernest Mc Kibben Jr. MD

The Washington State Historical Society sponsored a day-long workshop, on June 15 at the Nordic Heritage Museum, entitled: MANAGING ARCHIVES IN MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES. There were about 50 attendees from various small local history groups throughout the state.

Mr. Ed Nolan, Curator of Special Collections at the Washington State Historical Society, in Tacoma, discussed the range of materials which groups such as ours might be collecting. He noted that two large categories, CORPORATE or BUSINESS records and PUBLIC RECORDS are not within our ken. The preservation of corporate records is a special field in itself where the emphasis is on legal protection of the corporation. Public records, that is governmental records such as correspondence, completed forms, any documents regardless of form, produced by state government go, by legal mandate, to the Washington State Archives. A third category, one which is definitely within our realm is EPHEMERA. This is largely printed material which is not meant to be kept. It includes posters, pamphlets, handbills and the like. He showed us some fascinating examples from the Edward N. Fuller Collection, accumulated in the Tacoma-area during the 1890s. This is the sort of stuff that people put into a "time capsule" on the laying of a cornerstone of a public building. It is physically fragile and of questionable immediate importance but may be of interest to future social historians.

Mr. Ken House of the Washington State Archives, in Olympia, spoke to us on the basic procedures of archive development, particularly on inventory and registration methods. This means establishing an index

format and then cataloging all items. It is a heavy responsibility because we thereby commit the present and future cataloging to that format. Each collection is unique. There is no handbook of instructions. It makes our efforts seem either naive or presumptuous. This is where we need the help of a trained archivist.

A discussion of oral history led me to feel that we are off to a good start. Housing our collection at the public library gives good public access but does not answer the requirements of back-up tapes, documentation or supplementary data.

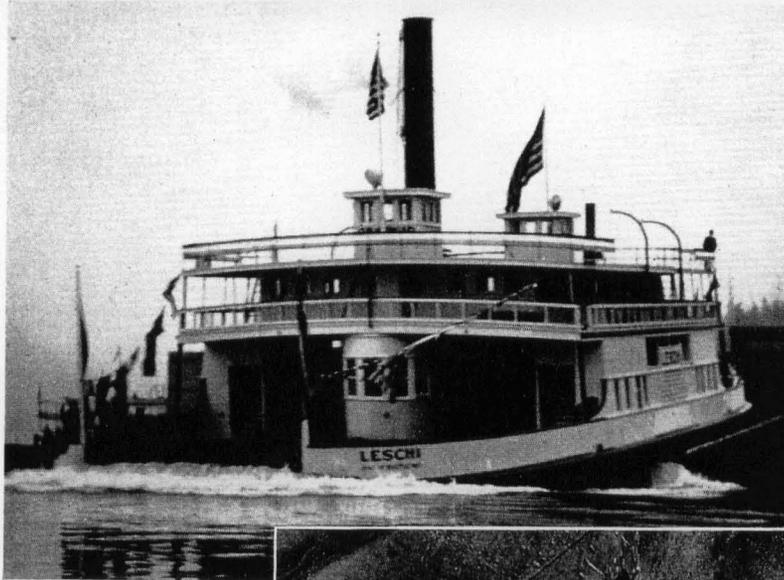
A session on preservation of photographic material gave some very useful technical information. It was suggested that the lifespan of a good black and white photo is about 200 years while that of a color slide (Kodachrome) is about 50 years. There are many techniques and products available for storage of photos. The prime requisites of storage area are cool, dry and ventilated. Proper description, legal ownership documentation, classification or cataloging are all of prime importance. It was suggested that a photocopy of the "original" print in a browsing book or catalog will facilitate search of the files without endangering the original. Even though new technologies may enhance or improve the image, the true archivist cherishes the original!

We have a significant collection and a start on the Kirkland Archives. We must continue efforts to develop a system, a place, appropriate tools and trained staff.

Dr. McKibben is a Kirkland "Native Son." A retired physician, he practiced medicine here for decades and has amassed considerable knowledge of Kirkland's past. He has a distinguished record of civic involvement, is a founding KHS member and is working to help establish a Kirkland archive.--Ed.

On the Ways

LESCHI COMES ASHORE AT LWS

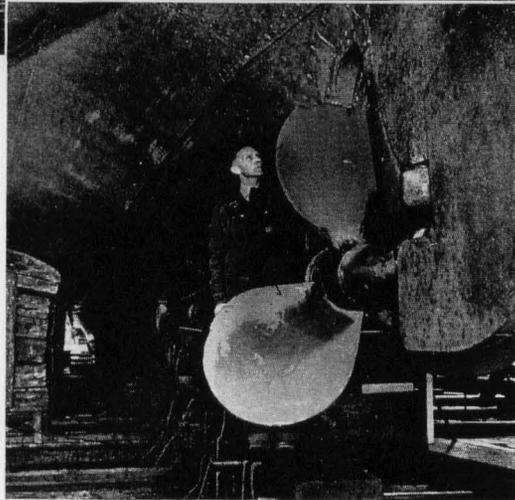


The *Leschi* was launched at Taylor's Mill December 6, 1913. Walter Matson looking over the assembly he helped put on the *Leschi*.

The ferry *Leschi* that hauls LWS workers across the Lake has had an unusual history. In 1912 the Port Commission of Seattle awarded a contract to J. F. Duthie to construct a sidewheel ferryboat to be operated between Leschi, Bellevue and Medina.

Duthie then had a small yard on East Waterway near the present site of the Isaacson Iron Works. Here the ferry *Leschi* was completely fabricated. Then she was torn down, plate by plate, carted over to a location near Taylor's Mill on lower Lake Washington and built all over again. On December 6, 1913, she was launched. When she hit the water it looked to the uninitiated as though she were about to submerge. But it was just a big bow wave and the ferry floated without wetting her main deck.

For a good many years the *Leschi* operated on the lake and her paddlewheels were satisfactory after a fashion. But in the last of the twenties it was decided that she needed more



speed and better maneuverability. So according to Captain Thompkins of the King County Ferries, Walter Lynch, then purser of the *Leschi*, figured out the way to use the keel of the ship as a shaft tunnel and by attaching a fifty-nine inch "pontoon" on the bottom of the hull, the engines could be housed in a satisfactory manner

This unique conversion job was done in LWS and was so well done that the *Leschi* comes back each year for her annual trip on the marine ways. When the *Leschi* had her shafts pulled last week the "old guard" of LWS employees who worked on her conversion job looked the ship over and reminisced on the "good old days."



**The Fighting Men of the *Coos Bay* v. the
AFL-CIO**

The *Coos Bay* was a Lake Washington Shipyard-built seaplane tender launched in 1943. While unglamorous duty, these vessels performed a vital job, often quite near the enemy. They were frequently attacked and sunk. So the men, kids really, in their teens and early-twenties, mostly, on these ships and throughout the US armed services, were undoubtedly demoralized, given what they faced daily, to hear of stateside unions who went out on unauthorized strikes. Because the ship was built here, local papers ran this wire story:

**Navy Battle Survivors Offer to Pay Raise to
'Cash-Hungry Strikers'**

"The Associated Press is in receipt of the following communication by registered air mail, marked as coming from the USS *Coos Bay*, a seaplane tender, and stamped, 'Passed by Naval Censor':

USS *Coos Bay* (AVP-25)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
10 June, 1944

The Associated Press
Editorial Department
San Francisco, Calif.
Sirs:

We, the crew of the USS *Coos Bay*, which consists mainly of survivors of other naval ships or veterans of other engagements, and all who have seen action not once but many times and who, while on this cruise, have not had a liberty for one full year, feel that we can do more than fight and even give our lives if necessary for our country. We are willing to help the wage increase from our meager pay that money-hungry strikers are demanding if they will just continue to produce the implements necessary so that we can end this war. We have seen war--and we hate it.

We have chosen you as our agent or go-between to represent us in our campaign to "buy off" the present strikers of the Wright Aircraft Corporation with the money we have collected from our small crew: A total of 41,200 pennies.

Please implore them to end their strike and accept our offer to help pay their wage increase which they feel is more important than our lives.

Ask them not to strike in the future but, instead, to let the men in the war zone know of their dissatisfaction and they will gladly chip in each month to save them from starvation so that they may continue to produce arms for us to defeat their enemy as well as ours, and so that we may come home soon and see the ones we love, our sons and daughters whom we have never seen and our wives and mothers who haunt us with memories day and night; also to see our country for which we are willing to die--yes--and to see you strikers; do you want to see us?

Out here we are close to our 'foreign' enemies and can properly deal with them; our enemy at home we cannot reach. Therefore, in desperation, we can think of nothing but to offer our money to 'buy' them back to work; this money saving been earned honestly and in the belief that our efforts were the salvation and protection of those who are striking against us.

The Crew of the USS *Coos Bay*

P.S. If the Wright strike is over, just choose another. There are always plenty at hand.

The money accompanying this letter, all in US currency, has been forwarded to the secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal."

The union assured the men of the *Coos Bay* and everyone else that their members were not greedy and the issue underlying the unauthorized strike was not at all about wages. No, 15,000 union members had walked off the job at the Cincinnati plant because management had the gall to insist that the unionists work alongside seven "Negros."

The men of the *Coos Bay* probably didn't care if those building their arms were white, black or green. It sounds, from their letter, like they just wanted to end the war and come home to their families.--MM.



View South Getting the Road to the Juanita Bridge Ready, 1910s.

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: mccauley@seattleu.edu



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