

# **Blackberry Preserves**

**The Journal of the  
Kirkland Heritage Society**



**FOR SALE  
AMERICAN LEGION HALL**



Kirkland Heritage Society

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by  
**Bob Burke**

Each month we seem to generate more and more options for KHS!! The American Legion Building has created a lot of interest! Now we discover that we are 20 years old!!

### **KHS - 20th Anniversary!!**

In putting together our application of 501-c-3 status I discovered that the Kirkland Historic Commission - our beginning - was incorporated on **May 5, 1977**. The official documents were signed by: **Victor Sampson**, President, **Ken Warnes**, **Susan Creger**, **Kris Whitely**, **Helen Benham**, and **Arline Ely**.

We need a celebration in May!!

We testified at the public hearing before the Kirkland Planning Commission on the design guidelines for downtown Kirkland. We also presented the list of Landmark Buildings which were approved at the March 8th retreat.

**Bill Cundy**, Overlake Press, donated a framed copy of *The Kirkland News*, Volume 1, Number 1, dated September 6, 1890. That issue proclaims Kirkland as the future steel provider to the entire Pacific.

A lot of people are working on a variety of things right now - if we are to take on a major responsibility such as the American Legion Building, we will need even more people to step forward to take charge of that effort. Please return the survey and come to the meeting on the 26th or give me a call. We need your ideas!!

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING

by  
**Bob Burke**

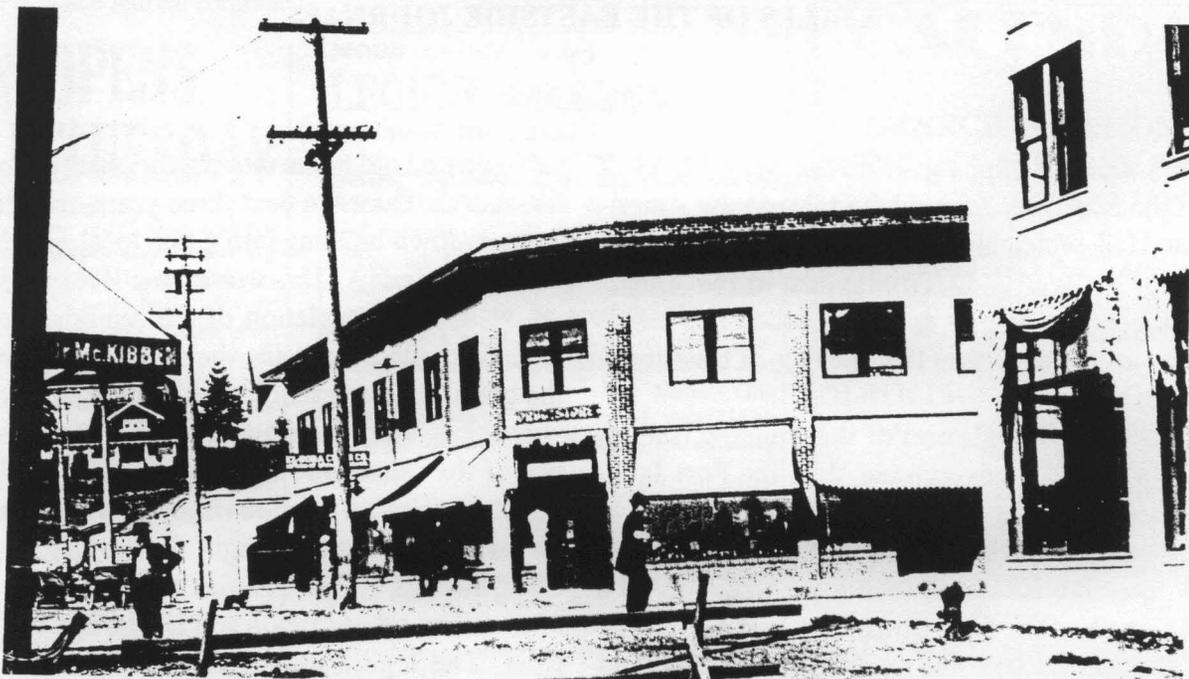
You should have received a letter and survey on the potential of making an offer for the purchase of the American Legion Building! As you can tell by this issue of Blackberry Preserves this is a major item of discussion right now! I urge each of you to read the letter and these articles and please send in the survey form and plan to attend the meeting at the American Legion Building on March 26th when we will have an exciting presentation by **Dr. McKibben** and will also have time to discuss the potential purchase of the building.

The single most important ingredient in making this decision is whether there is the commitment of the membership - and this means at least ten additional, dedicated members who are willing to spend the time over the next 2 to 3 years (1) to raise funds from the KHS membership, community and through grants as well as (2) to coordinate the maintenance, operation and renovation of the building. We need 4 people who will become co-chairs of these two committees!

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS NEEDED!!**

During this past year Bob Burke arranged for most of the monthly programs with the help of other Board members and Committee Chairs. He no longer has the time to continue that effort. Last year at the Board / Committee workshop we actually came up with program ideas for almost the entire year, but it requires following through and making the arrangements. We already have people who do publicity and arrange refreshments and programs have already been set up for March and April. We would like two people who could act as Co-Chairs. In addition to making arrangements for the monthly programs the Co-Chairs attend Board/Committee Chair meetings usually prior to monthly meetings.

If you are willing to work on the Program Committee, please contact Bob Burke: Home - 828-4095 or Office - 827-6550.



## EARLY KIRKLAND STREET SCENE

Attend our March 26, 1997 Program and Dr. Ernest McKibben will tell us about the street sign on the left side of this picture!

Dr. Ernest McKibben will delight us with a presentation about the early days of Kirkland's history. Join us at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall 140 - 5th Avenue, across from City Hall. If you need a ride to our meeting, please call George Harris at 822-7141.

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The election for three Board positions: President, Secretary and At-Large is scheduled for May. The nominating committee is: **Barbara Loomis** (827-7194); **Nancy Stephens** (822-9475); and **Velda Wilson** (827-7098). If you are interested in being considered for one of those offices please contact anyone on the nominating committee. The nominations are listed in the April *Blackberry Preserves* and the election is held in May - nominations from the floor are accepted.

## EDITORS NOTES

by

*Barbara Loomis*

*I wish to extend a huge THANK YOU to Matt McCauley for the years he served as Editor of **Blackberry Preserves**. As I was up until midnight last night, and up at 6 this morning working on BP, I appreciate him all the more! THANKSMATT! Also Matt, how about sending us a note about life in historic Boston and being a DAD! Photos gladly accepted and published. We'd love to hear from you!*

*As the new editor of **Blackberry Preserves** I would ask for your patience with me as I play with some new formatting and layout designs of this newsletter. I recently finished a program in desktop publishing so this is my experimentation and practice! I am much more of a visual person than a writer so I would really appreciate articles from the membership. Subjects pertaining to historic preservation (how to refinish old floors, or moldings, or jacking up that sagging porch,) or on oral history, or how to archive historic photos, or whatever experiences or interests you have in that realm would be welcome. Letters to the Editor might be fun too! I would really like your feedback both good and bad!*

*Articles should be submitted by the first Friday of the month so I can get BP out about one week before our meeting. If you have Word on a PC and can get the disk to me it helps a lot. Also, any pictures you would like to share would be great. Thanks for your help.*

TALES OF THE EASTSIDE JOURNAL

by  
Alan J. Stein

This month's clipping, from the May 27, 1937 edition of the *East Side Journal*, pertains to the American Legion Hall, which is currently up for sale. The Legionnaires of the Warren O. Grimm post of the American Legion had just bought and remodelled this building, and the article discusses the opening of their then-new meeting hall.

Prior to the acquisition of this building, the legionnaires had used a government ship, the Fort Jackson, as their clubhouse. In 1922, the post had bought the vessel, which had been sitting idle in Lake Union, and had it towed to Kirkland, where she was moored a few blocks south of the ferry dock. The boat served the post well for over 7 years, and many dances, parties and other events were held on board. In 1929, the post sold her and spent the next few years holding their meetings in rented facilities.

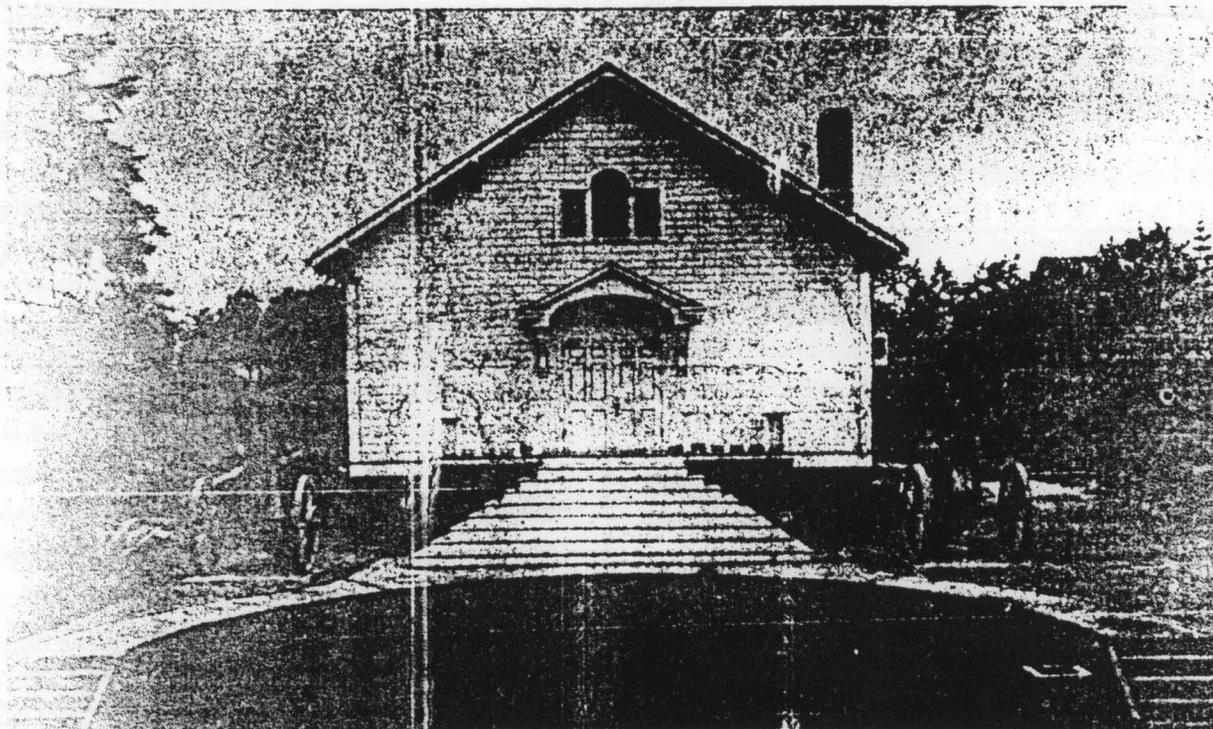
In 1934, members of the legion and the ladies' auxiliary decided to find a permanent home. They bought

a dilapidated old home that was originally used as a Baptist church. Over the next three years, they transformed the run-down building into a fine local meeting hall that still stands today. (*This was also a WPA project.ed*)

Upon completion of the remodelling, two cannons were placed outside the entrance, on either side of the grand staircase that led up to the front doors. A few years later, after the start of WWII, the legion donated one of the cannons to a wartime scrap-metal drive. The papers noted with delicious irony how the cannons would be used, once again, to fight the Germans, this time as bomb casings.

The other cannon still exists, and can be seen locally. The legion eventually donated this cannon to Washelli Cemetery on Aurora Avenue in Seattle. This spring, when the weather is nice, take a little Sunday field trip and check it out. The cannon is located near the main entrance, at the foot of the hill where all the veteran's graves are aligned with precise accuracy.

## BEFORE AND AFTER OF LEGION HALL



(Tales of the Eastside Journal continued)

# LEGION OPENS HALL TUESDAY

The "standing room only" sign was the order of the evening Tuesday, when the local American Legion Post held its first meeting in its new hall. Every seat in the large hall was taken and many had to stand to witness the ceremonies as they unfolded. Arriving unexpectedly and without ceremony or fanfare was the State Commander of the American Legion, Claude Snider of Vancouver, who as the honor guest, spoke briefly on the program and accomplishments of the American Legion both in the state and nationally.

Short talks were made by District Commander Ambrose and State Service Officer K. Klemmetson, both discussing the problems of the Legion.

Mrs. A. Eagle, one of the gold star mothers of the local post presented the post with a large American flag in honor of her son who was killed at Chippily during the war. The flag is 8x10 feet in size and a fine addition to the post equipment. It will be placed in a honored position in the hall.

The uniformed initiation team of the 40 & 8, under the direction of Lester Wolfe exemplified the work of the initiation ceremony with the induction of five veterans into the ranks of the legion.

(Continued on page four)

## MORE ABOUT . . . LEGION HALL . . .

Continued from page 1 . . .

Orville Rummell, Chef De Gere of the voiture 75 of the 40 & 8 was present and introduced his initiation team.

The 40 & 8 organization also brought with it its so-called "haywire band" which proved to be anything but haywire. As a matter of fact the band produced some exceptional harmony and was called back time after time. One of the members of the band was Hugh Swartz, former Kirkland automobile dealer.

Another popular entertainment number was that of the two Latimer girls, Joyce and Anne. The girls gave a combination of singing, dancing and acrobatic numbers which were very well received by the large audience. The girls were accompanied on the piano by their mother, Mrs. Latimer.

A surprise presentation came to close an evening replete with surprises, when Lester Wolfe, chairman of the initiation team presented, on behalf of Orvie James the bell which was used in the ceremony. The bell is an exact replica of the old Liberty bell, crack and all, and was made by James. The presentation of this fine piece of equipment came as a complete surprise to the membership.

Refreshments were served following the closing of the meeting.



# CALENDAR

## MARCH IS NATIONAL WOMAN'S HISTORY MONTH

March 25

**AKCHO 9:30 am**

Viewing the new exhibit at the Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle.

March 26

**KHS Meeting at American Legion Hall, 140-5th Ave.**

**Tour Hall 6:30 pm**

**KHS Program 7 pm**

Dr. Ernest McKibben will make a presentation on the early days of Kirkland's History.

KHS Members will discuss the feasibility of purchasing the American Legion Hall.

**KHS Board Meeting after Membership Meeting to discuss American Legion Hall Purchase.**

March 27

**Kirkland Planning Commission 7 pm**

Community Character Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

April 2

**Oral History Meeting 7:30 pm**

Mary Ann Timeus' house: 10001-116th Ave. NE, Kirkland. Call Mary Ann for directions, 889-9661. For Oral History information call Christina Brugman, 821-3605.

April 29

**AKCHO 9:30 am**

Tukwila Community Center

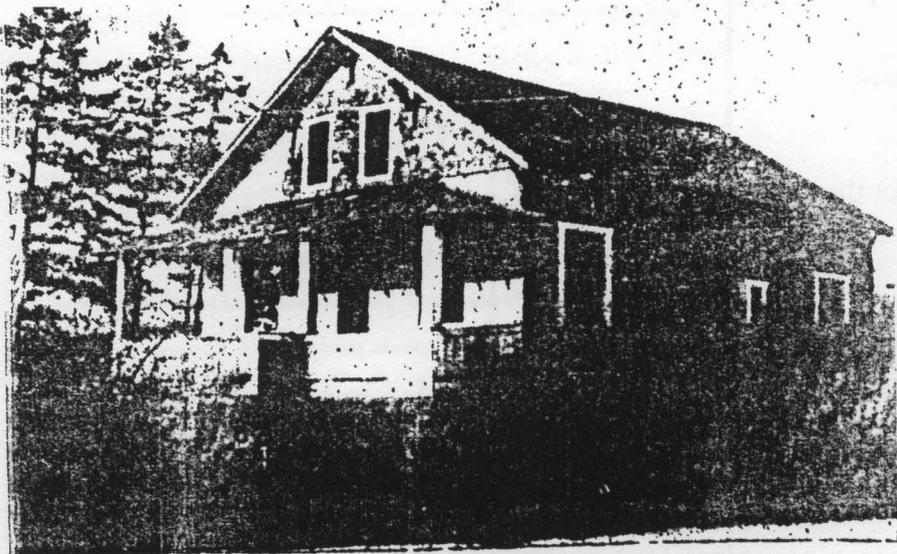
April 30

**KHS Board 6 pm**

**KHS Program 7 pm**

Alan Stein will do a presentation about the Kalakala.

*Unless otherwise noted KHS meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Kirkland Congregational Church, 106-5th Ave., Kirkland.*



Upper picture shows Legion Hall after completion through work by Legion Wives and Works Progress Administration. Pictures demonstrate amount of work that has been done in remodeling program. First meeting in new hall was held Tuesday night. The lower photo was taken in 1934 by Clyde Miller.

**KHS BOARD/COMMITTEE RETREAT  
MARCH 8, 1997  
by  
Lynette Friberg**

The following summarizes the issues discussed, conclusions reached and actions taken at the retreat.

Opening statements regarding the public perception of KHS over the last year were given by all Committee & Board persons attending. The overall view was very favorable; 1996 was a year of growth & exposure.

**The following motions were approved:**

Review and acceptance of Income and Expense Statements for 1994, 1995 and 1996.

Membership dues will be kept the same for 1997/98.

The Board approved a list of historic sites and structures in Downtown Kirkland to be presented to the City for inclusion in the Design Guidelines as an essential element of character of Downtown Kirkland as presented in the comprehensive Plan's Vision Statement.

To move forward regarding the preservation and potential purchase of the American Legion building and property by KHS.

The Board authorized funds to purchase a new exhibit booth.

KHS will purchase an Interpretive Marker for the Peter Kirk property across from the original home site on Waverly Way.

A grant proposal will be made for a Historical Marker at Mickelson's "Hour Glass Pond" situated on the homestead property in Juanita.

Additional funds were authorized for the new Historic Tour Brochure in a larger size.

Authorization to negotiate for temporary archival storage at Marymoor Museum, with the understanding of KHS access and ownership.

May election Board positions will be stated in Blackberry Preserves. Barbara Loomis, Nancy Stephens and Velda Wilson will comprise the Nominating Committee.

**Ideas for the remainder of 1997:**

- For the purpose of membership; the possibility of obtaining the National Trust's mailing list for zip codes 98033 & 98034. There are 7,500 members in Washington State.
- To develop a list and designate 20 Historic buildings for KHS plaques. Contact the owners and offer them the privilege of purchasing the wooden designation plaques.
- A new "Kirkland Merchants Group" under the Chamber of Commerce umbrella has been formed. Velda Wilson will work with that group on developing the idea of a "History Walk" week or month. The merchants would participate with historic window displays, etc., possibly to tie in with the new Downtown "Summer Festival" in July.

Archive News: KHS has received a donation of the original paste-ups and photographic plates from Arline Ely's book *Our Foundering Fathers!*

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## GHOSTS?

Is your historic home "haunted"?



Do you have unexplained happenings such as repeated invisible noises, missing or moved items, perfumed fragrances wafting through thin air, either shadows or small areas of light (or dark!) that move about quickly, or possibly just a vague feeling of not

being done when you really are? Then you may have a friendly (or not so friendly!) "spirit" attached to your home or land. KHS is interested in your story! Call Lynette at 827-2936. (May be anonymous if you like!)

# KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rick & Lisa Altig         | Lorraine McConaghy           |
| Lilly May Anderson        | Dr. Ernest McKibben          |
| Bill Ballantine           | Helen Mickelson              |
| Jeanne & Hilbert Bartels  | Chuck Morgan                 |
| Chuck & Marti Bartlett    | Michaele & Rob Muse          |
| Charlotte Bates           | Chet & Melissa Nelson        |
| Galen C. Page & Lee Beard | Rich & Kathy Nelson          |
| Dorris Forbes Beecher     | Vic Newhard                  |
| Christina Brugman         | Cassandra Noble              |
| Bob Burke                 | John & Teddy Overleese       |
| Glen Carter               | Robert Pantley               |
| Sue Carter                | Bernard Peach                |
| Sue & Sants Contreras     | Bill Petter                  |
| Chet & Susie Creger       | Mary Ellen Piro              |
| Charlotte DeVore          | Sharon & Lloyd Powell        |
| Scott & Shelly Douglas    | Betsy Pringle                |
| Angie Eggers              | Michael & Anne Radcliff      |
| Terry Ellis               | Barbara Radford              |
| Evie Florian              | Thomas Grismer &             |
| Lynette Friberg           | Paula Riggert                |
| Myra Gamburg              | Greg Crafts & Nancy Roach    |
| Krystal & Gary Gannaway   | Fred & Courtney Romano       |
| Nona Ganz                 | Dave & Hazel Russell         |
| Bill & Judy Gehring       | Curt Cooper & Susan Schwartz |
| Curtis Gelotte            | Mike & Kit Seaman            |
| Coleen Granger            | Eric & Deborah Shields       |
| Clarice & Wallace Hall    | Richard W. Shinstrom         |
| Amy Hamblin               | Cathy J. Smith               |
| George & Joann Harris     | Betty & Jim Spieth           |
| Patrick & Shannon Harris  | Alan Stein                   |
| Loita & Dale Hawkinson    | Nancy Stephens               |
| Marcy Heath               | Patricia Stupfel             |
| Corrine Hieb              | Pat Priebe & Brian Swanson   |
| Thomas Hitzroth           | Inge Theisen                 |
| Bev Hoerlein              | Donovan Tracy                |
| Darby & Scott Johnson     | Laura Westlund               |
| Hazel & Edgar Kelly       | Sally Wheadon                |
| Myron & Marlene Lewis     | Velda & Stan Wilson          |
| Barbara Loomis            | Don & Roseanne Winters       |
| Karen Luetjen             | Bellevue Historical Society  |
| L.G. (Jerry) Marsh        | Kalakala Foundation          |
| C.R. Mathewson            | Kirkland Art Center          |
| Joan McBride              | Kirkland Woman's Club        |
| Matt & Ashley McCauley    | Marymoor Museum              |

## MEMBERSHIP

Thank you Sharon & Lloyd Powell for your continued support and generous contribution of \$100.

We have new half price, self mailing Membership Forms. Please pick some up at the next meeting or I can mail some to you. If everyone recruited just one new member we would have 170 members, and so on, and so on !!!

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Special Half Year Rate  
Now - June 30, 1997

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual              | \$10    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family                  | \$13    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student          | \$5     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining/Supporting   | \$50    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member             | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization/Government | \$50    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional/Business   | \$63    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate               | \$125   |

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Your membership is the first important step in helping achieve our goals. Interested in helping on other projects? Please indicate the areas in which you would be able to volunteer.

#### Serve on a Standing Committee:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Archives and Collections
- \_\_\_\_\_ Education and Research
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership and Funding
- \_\_\_\_\_ Planning and Historic Sites
- \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Programs

#### Work on specific activity:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit at Community Events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tour
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do Photography/Update Slides
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install Original Street Name Signs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Video on Kirkland History
- \_\_\_\_\_ School Education Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

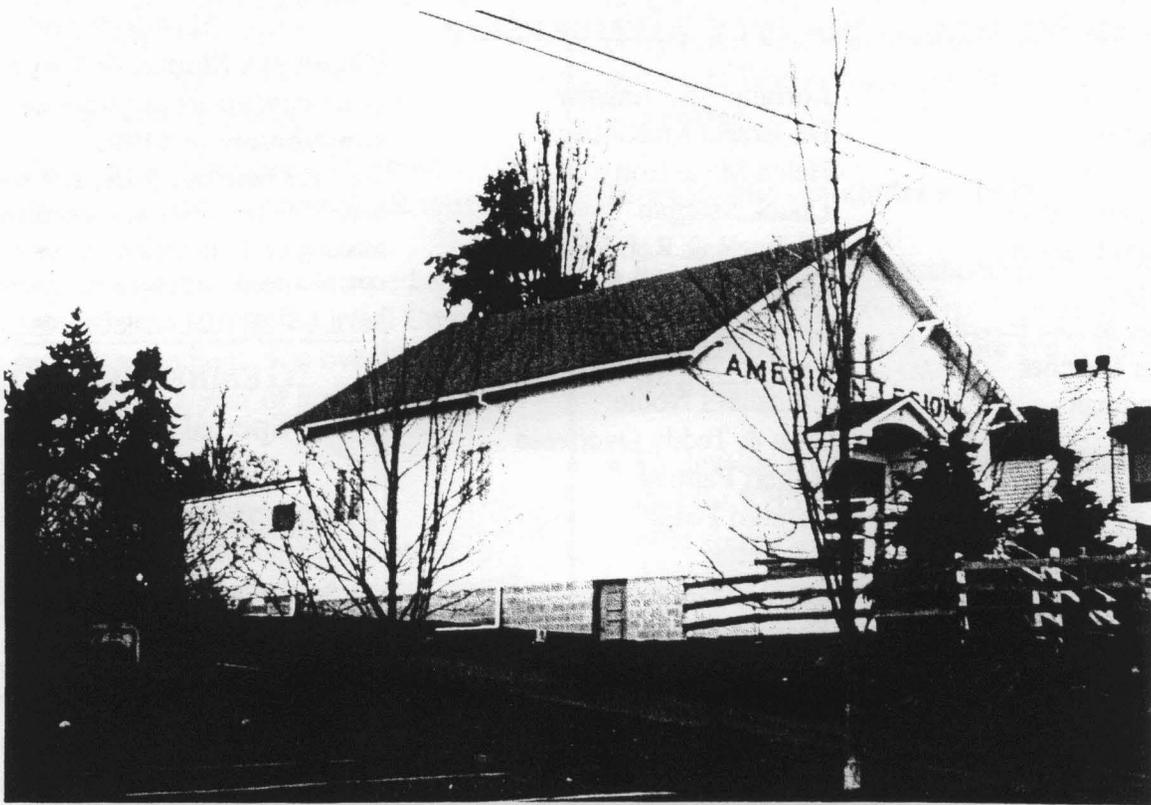
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home# \_\_\_\_\_ Work# \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Firm \_\_\_\_\_

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





**Blackberry Preserves** is produced by the **Kirkland Heritage Society**, 304 - 8th Ave. West, Kirkland, WA 98033, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. To contribute articles or for more information on KHS, please call Barbara Loomis, Editor, 827-7194.



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