

Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



Soon To Be Seen At Your Historical Street Corner

The City of Kirkland will soon be installing historical street name signs like the ones above. See story inside about George Harris' Dreams.



Kirkland Heritage Society

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by
Bob Burke

Thanks to **George Harris** for his contribution of \$1,000 for a bench to be located with historical markers. There is an adjacent story about his dreams for projects to enhance Kirkland's history. His donation will be the catalyst to make them happen!

This month's program is unique - it features each of us - sharing articles, objects and pictures of Kirkland - I really urge you to attend!. At our meetings people have often said they'd like to be able to have more time to share! We'll find out what KHS members are doing. **Shannon Harris**, Program Chair, has arranged a wonderful blackberry ice cream social. Please come to share with everyone!

Also, put October 27th at 7:00 p.m. on your calendar - We are having Goodwill's **Vintage Fashion Show** as our program. We've heard rave reviews that it is a really fun event! Plan to bring your friends!

Thanks to **Vic Newhard** and everyone who worked at the booth during Summerfest! It was great fun and very successful - the sarsaparilla sold out!

A second notice for membership dues will be going out. If you have not returned your renewal, please do it now. If you have questions about membership, please call **Melissa Thirloway** - (425) 889-9120.

An update of all KHS activities and projects is included in this issue - each of these is happening only because someone has volunteered to help! Thanks to each of you who keep all of these projects going!! I can't believe everything that we are doing - its Great!

GEORGE HARRIS' DREAMS

Over the past two years I've had the pleasure of working with George on the historical street sign project. He responded to a call for help, did research, met with City officials, had drawings made and doggedly pursued the idea. Last year the City responded by putting funds in the budget to start installing the historical street name on signs. George coordinated designs with Public Works and as you've seen we now have a very beautiful, distinctive design that everyone likes.

We talked a lot about Kirkland's history and people George has known. Much of it centered on the area around the Congregational Church with the Houghton Bell on the roof - George & JoAnn's church. Stories of a church being moved from west of Market Street; building and rebuilding; consolidation into a "community" church; the Newberry House, the former schools on the City Hall site; the Womans Club and how City Government met in these church buildings after incorporation.

George described two dreams:

- Having interpretive markers at the corner of First Street (Bold) and Fifth Avenue (Clarkson) - possibly on the corner of the City Hall site - that would tell the story of how important this area, the organizations and the people associated with them were to Kirkland in the early part of this century.

- Bringing the Houghton Bell down from the roof of the Church and relocating it where people could see it to better understand its importance to Houghton and Kirkland.

In July KHS got a card from George with a donation of \$1,000 for a bench to be placed with the markers when they are installed. George said the donation was to help "restore the balance" for all the thoughtful attentions from his friends in Church, Kiwanis and the Community.

THANK YOU GEORGE!!
For Everything you have done for all of us!

STATUS ON WHAT KHS IS DOING!!

Christian Science Church Building

Architectural drawings of foundation and site work are underway. We should know by the end of August if we are successful on the PACCAR grant. The lawsuit by the neighbors apparently is still pending.

Oral History Chair

Chris MacPherson is not able to continue as the chair of the committee and **Nancy Stephens** has agreed to do it. Thank you, Nancy! She is presently interviewing the Rose Hill Study Club.

Temporary Archives Taking Shape

We purchased the fire-proof cabinets, shelf units and archival storage materials. The temporary archives at **Bob Burke's** house will be functional in September. Thanks to **David Tucker** for helping us get the insurance required by King County.

Neighborhood Walking Tour Brochure

Cathy Smith is helping to do a layout of the text and photographs. Hopefully, it will be printed before the end of the year! We will hopefully get sponsors for one for Downtown and City-wide Brochures.

Mickelson Marker

The preliminary layout based on text and photos assembled by **Christina Brugman** is being reviewed by King County and we should begin the final design and manufacturing of the porcelain panel so it can be installed in a couple months.

Meetings on Historical Inventory Results

Meetings are being held on September 2nd and 7th to present the results of the historic property inventory to the property owners and neighborhood representatives. The Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing at the end of September. If you are interested in finding out about Kirkland's historic buildings, please feel free to attend. The two meetings will cover the same material and will be in the Peter Kirk Room at City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Street Signs with Historical Names

We are preparing a plan for installation of the signs at the first 100 intersections to discuss with the City. Hopefully installation will begin this Fall.

Booth at Chamber's Taste of Kirkland

Be sure to attend September 18th and 19th at Marina Park. Call Vic Newhard for information and to sign up to work the booth - (425) 820-5151 ext. 233

Bungalow on 132nd Street

We've been contacted that a private buyer for the bungalow wants to move it, but is having a hard time finding a lot. Anyone know of an available lot in Bridle Trails/ South Rose Hill or North Rose Hill? If you do, contact Bob Burke at 828-4095.

MEMBER NEWS

Corrine Hieb, Kirkland Womans Club, has ordered the fountain which will be placed in the historic half of the Kirkland Cemetery. KHS has supported this community-wide effort to provide a focal point for our historic cemetery. Donations for the Fountain Fund are still needed - Contact Corrine at (425) 822-5710.

Alan Stein is conducting free tours of the Kirkland Cemetery to raise public awareness and to continue the campaign to raise money for the Fountain. Join Alan on Sunday, August 22, at 1:00 or 3:00. Space is limited to 25 people so contact Corrine at (425) 822-5710 for reservations.

Barbara Loomis is one of 11 Nominees for the City's first Design Review Board. Her experience on the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission's Design Review Committee will be very valuable, if she is selected.



Kirkland in the Roaring 20's

by Alan J Stein

Unprecedented growth. A steady stream of home seekers. New businesses opening almost daily. Continual road construction. All of these phrases could easily describe the Kirkland of 1999. They can also be used to describe the Kirkland of 1922.

Kirkland's growth up to 1922 had been mostly gradual, along with one false start. The first settlers in the area had been the Popham family, who in 1871 bought land near what is now Houghton Beach Park. Soon after, they moved away and their land was bought by the Curtis families. Within a short time other tracts were being settled and cleared by other families such as the Frenches, Churches, and Demotts. In 1877, Andrew Nelson and his wife purchased property which extended from what is now Moss Bay to Juanita Bay. Their sons ended up buying eastward, towards Rose Hill.

Slow growth occurred throughout most of the 1880's. For those who wanted to live off of the land, the eastern shore of Lake Washington was ideal. Since the land was mostly timber, owners of many small plots were able to sell the felled trees as lumber. Once cleared, the land was ideal for berry and chicken farming. Soon a school and church were built. Roads were cut. Even a fledgling ferry service (basically a scow with a wheelhouse) to Seattle started up. Near the end of the decade, the area's population was around 100.

The growth was gradual, but by 1888 this all changed. Leigh Hunt, owner of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, purchased thousands of acres from these original homesteaders. He and Peter Kirk, a steel manufacturer from England, were looking to turn the area into a steel center that, they thought, would rival Pittsburgh. Kirkland's first boom had begun.

Land speculators went rampant. Large tracts of land were being sold at inflated prices, even if the land was nowhere near the soon-to-be-built mill/foundry on Lake Kirkland. The town was platted and buildings were erected at what was to be the city center at Market and 7th. The Northern Pacific Railroad built a spur line into town on what is now Slater Avenue.

But Kirkland's boom soon became a bust. Many problems plagued the steel venture, not the least of which was the Panic of '93, an economic collapse which affected the entire nation. As investors disappeared, Kirk and Hunt's dreams vanished also. The steel mill was never completed.

But homes had been built, a town had been platted and there was now plenty of cheap land available. Rather than being the industrial town it was intended to be, Kirkland reverted back to being a home for mostly berry and chicken farmers, along with a few folk who commuted to work across the lake. By the turn of the century regular ferry service to Seattle had begun.

Again, growth occurred gradually over the next few decades. A woolen mill had been built north of Moss Bay and provided many jobs for locals. Shipbuilding in Houghton was another boon to the local economy. In 1905, the town incorporated and in 1910 the rest of the land owned by the steel interest was sold to Burke & Farrar, local realtors who proudly proclaimed themselves as the "owners of Kirkland". By selling good land at reasonable prices, they opened the door for many residents looking to live in a bedroom community.

All of which brings us to the year 1922. The industrial age was in full swing, and most of the nation was looking towards the future. Prosperity reigned in many areas, one of which was Puget Sound. Seattle and her environs were doing quite well. Many Washington State residents were urging their friends back east to move out.

Oscar Knox, a Seattle resident and friend of the Mercer family, wrote to his hometown newspaper in Princeton, Illinois: To the readers of The Bureau County Republican, Knox described Seattle as a city of rapid growth: "...two million dollars for new buildings, then \$700,000 was spent for repairing First Avenue...A new tourist hotel to cost two million dollars is under way ... Ground is already broken for a \$700,000 business block...".

Growth in Seattle, meant growth in Kirkland. In the fall of 1922, Kirkland's small-town newspaper, The East Side Journal, published an "Historical and Industrial Edition"

which documented the boom that Kirkland was experiencing. Many local editors realized that special editions like this were a good thing for readers to send to the folks back home. Peppered throughout the paper were enticing quotes from famous people, like this one from Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans: "Why does anyone want to live in the East? Why don't they all come out and live in this delightful, prolific, magnificent country —"

For local commentary, R.H. Collins, the town's first mayor, provided a first-hand account of Kirkland's history. High praise was given to Peter Kirk for trying to achieve greatness, but instead laying the groundwork for a now-burgeoning community. Collins speculated that Kirk's failure probably led to his "shortened life", but that Kirk's dreams were finally reaching fruition.

The paper was filled with many photos of new buildings in the downtown area, most of which still stand today. J.P. McEvoy, local lumberman, called 1922 "the biggest year the East Side has ever seen in the way of development" and listed the names of every one who had built a new home, business or chicken farm that year. Also, plans were in the offing for a new High School.

One hundred feet of waterfront property in downtown Kirkland was selling for \$5000. On Rose Hill, 6 acres of arable land could be had for \$1250. Due to the opening of the new Lake Washington Boulevard, cars were also big sellers. The Buick dealer in town was selling five-passenger touring cars for around \$1500. A trip to Seattle in a car like this could be done in under 40 minutes.

Mrs. Glenn Johnson, president of the Kirkland Woman's Club wrote about the fine work being accomplished by local women. Better schools, medical clinics and a new library were just some of the community achievements that were brought about mostly through the efforts of Kirkland's women.

Although changes in Kirkland were happening quite fast, efforts were made to hold on to Kirkland's charm. A City Beautiful Commission was formed to plant trees, shrubs, fruits and flowers around every home and business. A plan was developed for the formation of city parks.

1922 was truly the beginning of a prosperous time in

Kirkland's history. Unprecedented development and a feeling of unbridled optimism would last well into the decade until a slowdown occurred by 1928. This was followed in 1929 by a nationwide economic collapse, which led to stagnation and gradual re-growth.

Many of the folks who had lived in Kirkland during the 1890's and who were still around in 1929 probably just shrugged their shoulders and went back to picking their berries and feeding their chickens. Besides, there were probably more booms to come.

ORAL HISTORY by Nancy Stevens

DANCES AT THE ROSE HILL CLUBHOUSE, flower shows at the old Civic Center, get-togethers at the Juanita Community Center....Were you there?

Were you around to see the Navy Bomber crash up by the Rose Hill Clubhouse back in 1944? Did you or someone you know work at the Shipyard?

We are eager to record memories of our Kirkland Community from it's "earlier days." If you would like to be involved in recording Kirkland's Oral History by telling your stories, stories handed down by your parents and others, please contact Nancy Stephens by telephone at 425-822-9475, or email at ns10208@yahoo.com to get involved.

If you would like to help us record these stories, transcribe histories already recorded, or just find out more about what we have to offer, feel free to come to our next meeting on August 30. See CALENDAR section for location and time.

MEMBERSHIP
by Melissa Thirloway

*Thank you for Renewing
Your Memberships!*

In late June we began our membership renewal drive by including the membership renewal letter in with the KHS Membership Update Letter, both printed in purple. Many thanks to those of you who have so promptly returned your membership renewal. We understand some people may have overlooked the membership renewal letter. If you find the purple mailer and return your membership renewal, that would be great. For those of you who have not responded in the next couple of weeks, we'll be sending out a second notice for renewal, so please keep your eyes open.

It's particularly important to renew this year as we have so much going on. As you know from Bob's messages, KHS is helping to restore the Christian Science Church where we hope to store our archives as well as hold meetings. Our members will be critical in supporting that effort as well as the many other exciting heritage projects currently in the works.

This is a great time to be a part of the preservation and restoration of Kirkland's history. The momentum is growing to honor Kirkland's unique history. But as always, keeping the ball rolling forward takes time and financial support from our members. We look forward to receiving your membership renewal.

If you have any questions or concerns about membership renewal, please contact me at the phone number listed below. Thank you.

Melissa Thirloway 425-889-9120

THANK YOU !

SHARON AND LLOYD POWELL

**FOR YOUR CONTINUED
CORPORATE SUPPORT**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jean Jayne
Gabrielle Hickling
Rick & Peggy Ostrander
Joe & Kathy Ornealas
Leona M Pinney
Jessica Schutte
Bill & Beata Seibold
Mike Vanderslice

**THANK YOU SUPPORTING
MEMBERS FOR YOUR RENEWALS**

Kelly Adam
Steve & Susan Bailey
Bill Ballantine
Bob Burke
Barbara Loomis
Vic Newhard
Michael Radcliff
Thomas Grismer & Paula Riggert
Jeff & Melissa Thirloway

**THANK YOU MEMBERS
FOR YOUR RENEWALS**

Charlotte Bates	Christina Brugman
Dale Christian	Sue & Sants Contreras
Ralph & Doris Cooper	Angie Eggers
Evie Florian	Ulrich & Nona Ganz
Bill & Judy Gehring	
Ken Nelson & Jessica Greenway	
J.V. Hawkings	
Loita & Dale Hawkinson	Corrine Hieb
Carolyn & Jim Hitter	Tom Hitzroth
Bev & Paul Hoerlein	Chet & Melissa Nelson
Pam Owens	Bonn & Beryl Owens
Frank Rosin	Dave & Hazel Russell
Eric & Deborah Shields	Cathy J. Smith
Alan Stein	Nancy Stephens
Larry Springer & Penny Sweet	
David & Patty Tucker	Laura Westlund

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
EXTRA CONTRIBUTIONS**

Carolyn & Jim Hitter
Laura Westlund

**K I R K L A N D
HERITAGE SOCIETY**

DIRECTORY

OFFICIAL ADDRESS:
304 - 8th Avenue West
Kirkland, WA 98033
Phone: (425) 827-7194

OFFICERS AND BOARD

President: Bob Burke
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Melissa Thirloway 889-9120
At Large Member:
Vic Newhard 820-5151 ext.233

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Don Winters 827-2650
Oral History
Nancy Stevens 822-9475
**Historic Buildings
and Planning**
Vic Newhard 820-5151 ext.233
Velda Wilson 641-0528
Membership and Funding
Melissa Thirloway 889-9120
Programs
Shannon Harris 822-2478

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Exhibits:
Vic Newhard 820-5151 ext.233
Web Site:
Stephanie Loomis 827-7194

CALENDAR

August 25

**KHS Board/Com-
mittee Chairs**
6:00 p.m.
KHS Program:
7:00 p.m.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Have a blackberry sundae and share your stories and photographs with everyone.

August 30

Oral History Meeting
7:30 p.m.

Nancy Stephens' house:
10208 126th Ave NE
Call Nancy @ 425-822-
9475 For more information.

August 31

AKCHO
9:30 a.m.

Annual Picnic

Center for Wooden Boats, South Lake Union, bring your own lunch.

September 18-19

Taste Kirkland

KHS Booth at Marina Park

September 29

KHS Program
7:00 p.m.

Alice Ito

Japanese History on the Eastside

October 27

KHS Program
7: p.m.

Goodwill

Vintage Clothing Fashion Show

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 1, 1998 - June 30, 2000

KHS now qualifies for tax exemption under 501(c)(3) and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. We now qualify for match contributions by those employers who offer this benefit.

- Individual \$20
- Family \$25
- Senior/Student \$15
- Supporting \$100
- Life Member \$1,000
- Organization/Government \$100
- Professional/Business \$125
- Corporate \$250

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

My Company Matches Contributions

Contact: _____

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
- _____ Membership and Funding
- _____ Monthly Programs
- _____ Oral History
- _____ Newsletter, Blackberry Preserves
- _____ KHS Web Site

Work on specific activity:

- _____ Christian Science Church Renovation
- _____ Funding: Pledge Drives, etc.
- _____ Volunteers: Carpentry, Painting
- _____ Community Events / Exhibits
- _____ Home Tour
- _____ Do Photography / Update Slides
- _____ Video on Kirkland History
- _____ School Education Program

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home# _____ Work # _____

E-Mail _____

Organization/Firm _____

Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
Kirkland Heritage Society, 235 - 10th Ave. W.,
Kirkland, WA 98033. Phone: (425) 889 - 9120



Blackberry Sundae Social

August 25th, 7:00 p.m. at the
Kirkland Congregational Church
106 - 5th Ave.



Bring old photographs and meet someone new

Share pictures and learn something new

Come enjoy hand-picked blackberries
on vanilla ice cream - YUM

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, Publisher, (425) 827-7194 or E-Mail: bloomis@msn.com



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