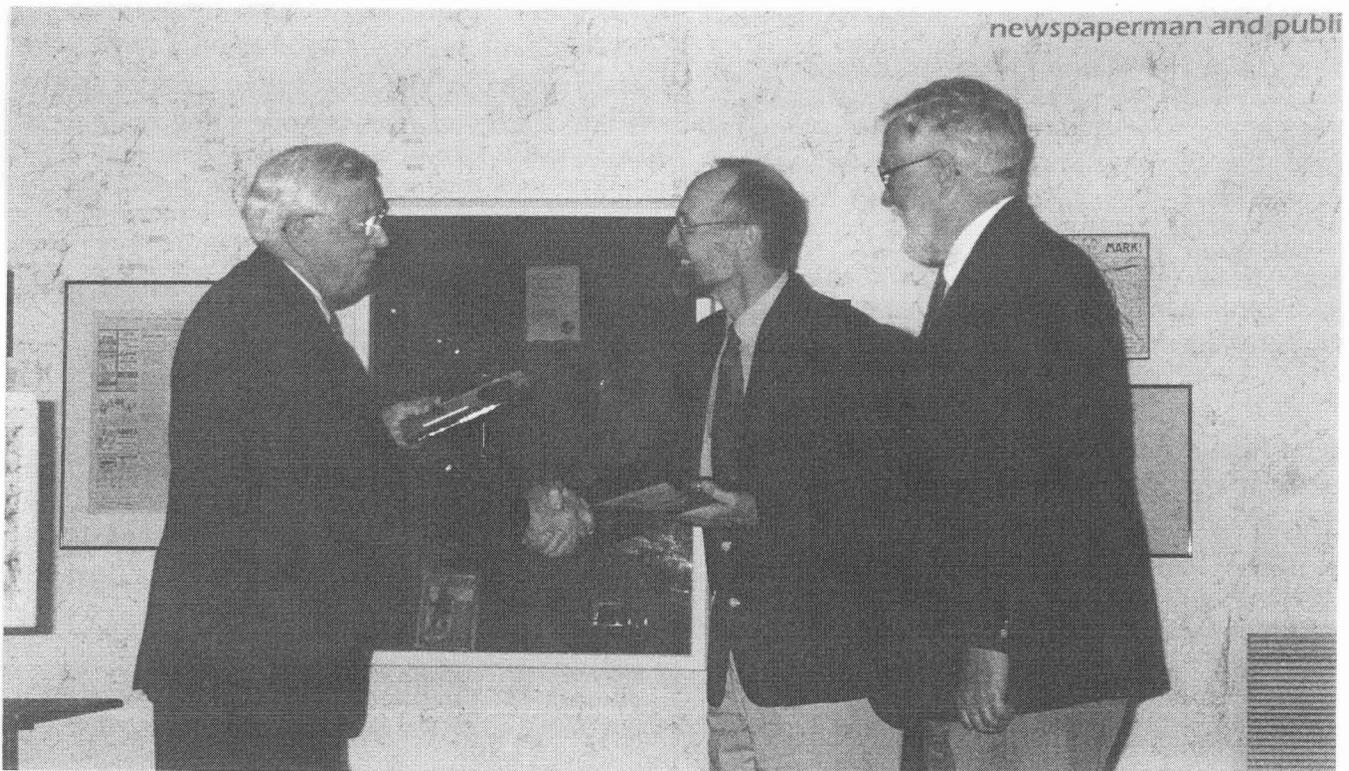


Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



KIRKLAND MAYOR LARRY SPRINGER AND
KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY PRESIDENT BOB BURKE
RECEIVING THE FIRST KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S
JOHN D. SPELLMAN AWARD FOR
EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION
FROM GOVERNOR JOHN D. SPELLMAN
MAY 30, 2000



Kirkland Heritage Society

JULY PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bob Burke

Thank You! to Gary Lanksbury for his wonderful donation of photographs and other memorabilia of the pre-and post-years of World War II in Kirkland. As you will see in this issue, there were wonderful articles in *The East Side of Lake Washington* magazine which started publication in 1946 by Robert H. Frank. We now know a lot more of the background on the pig races at the 1946 summer festival. An article on George Bartsch contains colorful insights into a major figure in Kirkland's history as well as one of only three public photographs taken of him.

This generous donation is an excellent example of how important those old family photographs and memorabilia tucked away in a drawer or closet are to understanding Kirkland's past.

Thanks to **Frank Rosin** for allowing KHS to use his 1930 Model A Ford as our "entry" in the 4th of July Parade. **Loita Hawkinson** and **Barbara Loomis** looked elegant in their period dresses. The **Central Houghton Neighborhood Association's** float featured the first Church at Pleasant Bay and the Houghton Bell. The parade and fireworks were wonderful - thanks to **Penny Sweet** who chaired the event and to the many, many people who helped to make it such a success. Watching the fireworks seated on the historic "terraces" overlooking Moss Bay and the church at its new site was really special!!

Summerfest sponsored by the Kirkland Arts Center is on July 15th and 16th. KHS will have it's booth on Kirkland Avenue as usual. Plan to attend, its another great community event!

With the approval of the bylaw revisions we now have a Communication Committee responsible for putting out *Blackberry Preserves* and submitting articles to the Kirkland Courier and City Update. If you would like to be on that committee, please contact me - 828-4095. It is one of KHS's most important functions. Lots of people contributing articles.

JUNE PROGRAM

The June Program on the Bellevue Botanical Garden by **Jerry Nissley** was great fun!! We have good attendance at our meetings, but the variety and quality of the programs arranged by **Shannon Harris** really is outstanding, and frankly, it is too bad that more of our members and others in the community don't attend. If you have suggestions for programs or thoughts on ways to get more people involved, please call Shannon at 822-2478.

BYLAWS APPROVED & STEIN ELECTED

At the June Membership Meeting the proposed changes to the Bylaws were approved and **Alan Stein** was officially elected as Vice President of KHS for another two years. Thank you, Alan, for your willingness to continue to serve KHS!

SUMMERFEST - KHS BOOTH

Vic Newhard, 820-5151, ext. 233, is coordinating the booth on July 15th and 16th. If you would like to help, please contact him. Come visit the booth. This year we will also have an exhibit on the plans for the renovation of the Christian Science Church Building. Plan to attend Summerfest - it is a lot of fun and another of our community events that contributes so much to Kirkland's quality of life.

MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL

Membership dues renewal notices are going out for the 2000 / 2001 year. The dues are the same as last year. We're a little late this year since so much has been going on with the Church and other business!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Merrily Dicks
Bette M. Johnson
Jack, Billie and Barbara Lynch
Leita and Kent McCormick
Bonnie Robb
Bill and Beata Seibold
Norma Warner

THANKS FOR RENEWING

Paul and Bev Hoerlein

KIRKLAND SUMMER FESTIVAL AND PIG RACES?!!

by Barbara Loomis

In looking through the "EAST SIDE of Lake Washington" magazines that KHS just acquired from the generous donation of Mr. Gary Lanksbury, (see story by David Cantrill), the June, July, August 1946 issue features a story about the Kirkland Summer Festival. Since Kirkland just had an absolutely fantastic 4th of July, with a hugely successful parade, family picnic and fabulous fireworks, and, with our present day SummerFest next weekend, July 15 and 16, I thought it would be fun to see what they did in 1946. The article which follows also clears up the reason Kirkland had a pig race in the first place and why all the national attention. KHS did an interpretive marker that includes newspaper articles about the pig races, but, they didn't explain why!

Kirkland Invites You!

...TO THEIR BIG ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL AUGUST 17 AND 18, 1946

You wouldn't believe that the atom bomb had anything to do with the Kirkland Summer Festival, would you?

Well, it has. And, it all started this way...

When the atom bomb was dropped on the ships in the harbor at Bikini Atoll several weeks ago, various kinds of animals were placed on the vessels so that scientists could determine whether they could live through the blast and consequently radioactivity which followed. One reporter, giving an eye-witness account of the scene, said he saw pigs swimming away from the ships.

A furor of international proportions followed. Certain experts claimed pigs couldn't swim. Others stoutly maintained that they could. Even Henry Wallace, former Secretary of Agriculture and Vice President of the United States, gave his official opinion. The pigs could swim, all right, he said, but because of their sharp hoofs, they were likely to cut their own throats.

To decide the question, the Summer Festival committee, in cooperation with Ray Daughters, swimming coach of the Washington Athletic Club, and Dick Keplinger, Seattle radio announcer and publicity man, decided to stage a pig swimming contest as part of the Festival. It is scheduled at 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, at the Kirkland City Park.

The idea captured the public imagination. News photographers invaded Kirkland, demanded preview shots of the pigs swimming. Even the newsreel men came over and shot up reels of films showing the porkers racing against beautiful girls and dogs.

Editors in the East wired, "Send more pig swimming pictures." The home offices of the newsreel companies said, "Get additional shots. We need more pictures!" And so they came back again to Kirkland and got more pictures and more stories.

Meanwhile, Ray Daughters has been touring Oregon and

California getting famous people and athletic clubs to enter their favorite porkers in the contest. There promises to be a big list of entries, including some of those sponsored by Lana Turner, Rita Hayworth, and other Hollywood celebrities.

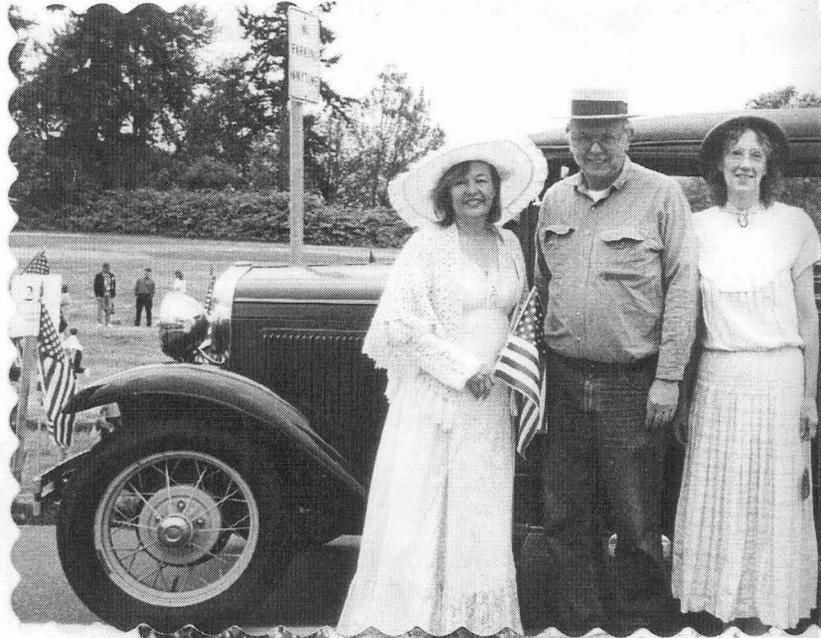
This pig swimming contest will indeed be a big affair. But that isn't all there is to the Kirkland Summer Festival. No, not by a long shot. The committee, headed by Art Needham, general chairman, Cliff Johns and Fred Brockman, assistant chairmen, have planned two full days of entertainment for the public. Thousands of people are expected to crowd Kirkland streets Saturday, August 17, and Sunday, August 18, for the big affair.

Festivities will get under way at 1 p.m. on Saturday with the beginning of sailboat races in Lake Washington at Kirkland City Park. A large group of entries are expected in this regatta. Swimming and diving events will follow at 2 p.m. and the hog swimming races will come at 3 p.m....

The rest of the article goes on to describe the other events; however, the final paragraphs reflects the spirit of our recent 4th of July event.

...It's going to be a big show - biggest ever staged on the East Side. Everyone is invited to come and join in the fun. And that means you - and your friends.

Chairman Needham and his committee, along with the Kirkland businessmen who have sponsored it and worked so hard to put it across, hope to make the summer festival an annual affair - a time and place for people to come to Kirkland to enjoy themselves in a good old-fashioned way. Everything possible will be done to furnish enjoyment for everyone - young and old. All the events are free, except the carnival, of course, which always costs something.





KIRKLAND & KHS CELEBRATE THE 4TH OF JULY 2000



LANKSBURY COLLECTION
by David Cantrill
Co-Chair Archives Committee

Mr. Gary Lanksbury recently attended one of our monthly meetings and gave to KHS a new collection of photographs and memorabilia. It provides a rare glimpse of Kirkland life from the late 1930's to the early 1960's.

He donated photos from his life growing up in Kirkland. We have a view of the Kirkland Central School May Day Parade of 1939, with him dressed up in costume when he was about six years old. Other photos include elementary school group photos from the Central School up to his Junior High times. These are especially important as he gave us names we can place with faces. So often this information is lacking in photos from the past.

There are photos of Dr. McKibben, Senior and Junior, and William Seidell, (Project Manager Lakeview Terrace) and of people who worked and lived in Kirkland around that time. Mr. Lanksbury also donated many pieces of memorabilia from the war years including rare stamp ration books and newspapers from the Kirkland Shipyards in 1943. This material has been treated to stop the aging process and preserved for the Society for reference and research in to those times. There are four issues of a new magazine started in 1946 called "EAST SIDE of Lake Washington".

We are fortunate that Mr. Lanksbury decided to come to our meeting to donate this collection even though he now lives in Bellevue! So often people move away and their past life becomes lost. The Heritage Society is deeply grateful for all of the item he donated. Do any of you out there have items you would like to see preserved for the future? Please let us know, for no item is insignificant when it comes to our past!!



Gary Lanksbury
Dressed Up For The May Day Parade of 1939
Gary Lanksbury Collection, Kirkland Heritage Society

SECOND DONATION FOR CHURCH

Bob Burke, KHS President, has given a donation of \$2,500 toward the renovation of the Church. He stated that he felt it is extremely important to get the building secure by this Fall with a new roof, gutters, paint and preliminary landscaping. He is hopeful that his gift will encourage other members to make a donation now to help in these initial efforts! It is anticipated that a fund raising campaign will be held later this year, but this is an early effort to raise between \$12,500 to \$15,000. We're half way there with the Powell's previous gift.

Checks should be made out to:
Kirkland Heritage Society Church Fund
Mail to: Nancy Stephens, Treasurer
10208 - 126th Ave. NE, Kirkland, WA 98033



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

DIRECTORY

OFFICIAL ADDRESS:

1032 - 4th Street
Kirkland, WA 98033
Phone: (425) 828 - 4095

OFFICERS AND BOARD

President: Bob Burke
827-6550 (o) 828-4095(h)
Vice President: Alan Stein
821-0164
Secretary: Loita Hawkinson
827-1950
Treasurer: Nancy Stephens
822-9475
At Large Member
David Cantrill 821-4021
At Large Member:
Melissa Thirloway 889-9120
At Large Member:
Vic Newhard 820-5151 ext.233

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives
David Cantrill 821-4021
Melissa Thirloway 889-9120

Communications
To Be Filled

Oral History
Erika Kahler 823-6232

**Historic Buildings
and Planning**
Vic Newhard 820-5151 ext.233

Membership and Funding
To Be Filled

Programs
Shannon Harris 822-2478

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
Church Renovation
Bob Burke 828-4095
Exhibits:
Vic Newhard 820-5151 ext 233
Web Site:
Stephanie Loomis 827-5670

CALENDAR

July 15 - 16

SummerFest Booth
We'll be on Kirkland Avenue again so stop by or call Vic Newhard 820-5151 ext. 233 if you want to help at the booth.

July 25, 7: p.m.

Archives Committee
1032 - 4th Street, Kirkland

July 26

NO KHS PROGRAM OR BOARD MEETING

August 6, 10:30 a.m.

**120th Anniversary
Celebration of the Kirkland
Congregational Church**
See story on page 3

August 30

KHS Board/Comm.
6:00 p.m.
KHS Program
7:00 p.m.
**Blackberry Sundae Social
and Sharing**

September 16 - 17

**Booth at TASTE
KIRKLAND**

September 27

KHS Board/Comm.
6:00 p.m.
KHS Program
7:00 p.m.
To be announced

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, 2000 - June 30, 2001

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 / Education
- _____ 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 _____

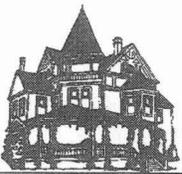
Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
Kirkland Heritage Society, 1032 - 10th Street
Kirkland, WA 98033. Phone: (425) 828-4095



**Kirkland Central Elementary School May Day Parade 1939
(If you don't have real horses cut them out of cardboard! Giddy-up!!)**

Gary Lanksbury Collection, Kirkland Heritage Society

Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, 1032 4th Street, 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



Kirkland Heritage Society

**Kirkland Heritage Society
304 - 8th Avenue West
Kirkland, WA 98033**