

# BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

THE JOURNAL OF THE  
KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY

## THIS MONTH:

*FEBRUARY MEETING*

*PROGRAM:*

### **CHUCK MORGAN SPEAKS!**

FORMER LONGTIME *EAST  
SIDE JOURNAL* PUBLISHER  
WILL SHARE 60 YEARS OF  
WATCHING KIRKLAND  
GROW—DON'T MISS IT!

### *HERITAGE HALL UPDATE*

ITS GETTING CLOSER...

### **KIRKLAND IS TURNING 100!**

FIND OUT HOW TO GET  
INVOLVED IN THE KIRKLAND  
CENTENNIAL...AND PARTY  
LIKE IT IS 1905!

LAKE WASHINGTON

191

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FEBRUARY, 2004



### STATUS ON HERITAGE HALL: 2004 Bob Burke

We received a grant from the King County Cultural Development Authority for \$17,000 and the Kirkland City Council put \$12,000 in the final 2004 budget to help us complete the Heritage Resource Center!

These grants have allowed us to:

- Buy and install the rest of the trim - windows, doors, ceiling, etc.;
- Install the special cork panel flooring (R. L. Shular Flooring); and
- Purchase and install the lighting fixtures (Charles Loomis Design).

We had two grants pending: One with the Totem Lake Garden Club to complete the landscaping for which we were not selected - we were one of 400 requests nationally; and a second request to The Seattle Foundation, which, if funded would complete a lot of the last items allowing KHS to start to be operational in the space. The City will be installing an irrigation system this spring.

**Heidi Tucker** who works for the Bank of America alerted us to the opportunity to obtain free furniture and equipment. In addition to prior furniture donations we now have a wood conference table, six conference chairs, a four-drawer file cabinet, two shelf units and an AV Cart with TV for use upstairs.

Thanks to the two work parties who finished the painting and got the Heritage Resource Center cleaned up and ready to install the cork floor and also

moved furniture stored upstairs and in the archives. We had a lot of complaints the Saturday morning Barbara Loomis was out of town and didn't prepare fresh baked muffins. Thanks to: **Eric Shields, Nancy Stephens, Sue & Sants Contreras, Dave Ramsay, Dale & Loita Hawkinson, Vic Newhard, Rod Graham, Lee Beard and Barbara Loomis.** Light fixtures will be delivered and hopefully installed the week of February 9th. Also, the bulbs we planted are starting to come up! All the rest of the plants are looking healthy!

Our goal is to complete the Heritage Resource Center, get our occupancy permit and set up the files, computers, etc. by the end of the month. We will probably hold an open house with the Community Heritage Day in May! Anyone with expertise in library and filing systems? Call 828-4095.

### KIRKLAND CENTENNIAL 2005

The Members of the Kirkland Heritage Society will play a major role in the Kirkland Centennial Celebration of Incorporation in 2005. **Bob Burke, Merrily Dicks** and **Alan Stein** have been working with the Committee during the organizational phase of this effort. A Community Open House was held January 12th at City Hall. It included a video featuring Peter Kirk who handed the stories of Kirkland's more recent history off to storyteller - Alan Stein. The Committee will be meeting in February to finalize a proposal to the City Council.

Kirkland was officially incorporated as a City on October 12th, 1905. The present plan is to begin the celebration next year starting with **Founder's Week / Peter Kirk's Birthday** in February with displays and events. In addition to Heritage Hall they will be held at the Peter Kirk Building / Kirkland Arts Center and other locations. Obviously, the **4th of July** will be an even more super spectacular event; and in October there will be a **Kirkland Gala** culminating the year. Ideas have included preparing a timeline history of Kirkland, a Centennial Calendar, street banners, and many more great ideas. We are looking to involve neighborhoods, schools and service groups in the celebration.

In May 2003 we are planning to have a Community-wide Heritage Weekend. It will include events to celebrate the opening of the Heritage Resource Center, as well as efforts to obtain historic photographs, conduct oral histories and copy and preserve documents related to Kirkland's history.

One of the suggestions made at the Open House for a legacy from this celebration was that we should develop a "Centennial Garden" north of Heritage Hall. A garden with a water feature / fountain is already in the Waverly Park Plan. It has been suggested that a garden structure would complement the garden and Heritage Hall for use for weddings and meetings.

The Centennial Committee is also proposing that neighborhoods, business and service organizations be involved in sponsoring events. KHS has proposed that each neighborhood should work on researching and preparing a neighborhood history including collection of photographs and documents and conducting oral histories.

### **WILKESON STONE PAVERS STILL AVAILABLE**

We will be installing the next group of Wilkeson Stone Pavers in early March. At the present time there are only 3 large pavers at \$350 left and less than 300 of the 6-inch square pavers at \$50 to \$60 each depending on the number of lines. You can obtain an order form from our website: [www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org), pick one up at Heritage Hall or call 828-4095.

### **FEBRUARY PROGRAM February 25, 2004, 7:00 pm Heritage Hall, 203 Market Street**

### **CHUCK MORGAN REMINISCES ABOUT KIRKLAND**

**Chuck has been in Kirkland for nearly 60 years. He has been actively involved in and a major contributor to our community! He donated the bound copies of the East Side Journal published between 1918 to 1976 to KHS. He was the former owner and publisher of the East Side Journal.**

**Chuck is in the process of writing his memoirs! He will share stories of his life here, the growth of Kirkland and his perspective of the importance of our history to our community's development and character.**



## **KIRKLAND HOSPITAL**

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## **MIDWAY TAVERN**

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on the Highway

MR. and MRS. DON KRASETH  
Proprietors

## Kirkland Heritage Society's 2004 Programs

**KHS meets the last Wednesday of  
each month**

**Location: Heritage Hall in Kirkland**

**Time: 7:00 pm.**

**February 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Chuck Morgan—Resident History**

Chuck will talk about his life in Kirkland and his memoirs.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> Matt McCauley—Resident History**

Matt will talk about the history of McAuliffe Park.

**April 28<sup>th</sup> Antique Clocks – TBC**

**May No meeting. TBC-  
Centennial Heritage Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**June 30<sup>th</sup> Refinishing Antique  
Furniture**

Norkirk neighborhood businessman, Jan Zoltowski, from Old World Antique Restoration, will give a presentation on restoration, refinishing, and a review of your SMALL antique piece.

**July No meeting. Kirkland's  
Summerfest. Come see us at the booth!**

**August 25<sup>th</sup> KHS Annual Blackberry Sundae  
Social**

Taste the berries and delicious vanilla ice cream. Bring in a favorite item to share or be ready to tell your favorite Kirkland story.

**September 29<sup>th</sup> Nancy Stephens—Resident History**

Nancy will share her family history from the Rose Hill Neighborhood.

**October 27<sup>th</sup> Kirkland Ghost Stories.  
Program to be formalized.**

**November  
Thanksgiving**

**No meeting due to**

**December TBD  
& Cookie Exchange**

**KHS Annual Holiday Home**

## Who Murdered Letitia Whitehall?

**Tom Hitzroth** has been researching a local murder mystery for seven years.

Letitia was a 14 year-old school girl who was last seen in downtown Kirkland about 5:35 pm on October 30, 1926. Her body was found two weeks later in the Sammamish River just west of the Kenmore bridge.

In January 1927, a Kirkland dentist was charged with the murder but was acquitted three months later. The Whitehall's lived in the Kirkland area on Rose Hill from April 1926 to sometime in 1930/31. Among Kirkland families who knew Letitia Whitehall's family were the Davis's, the Fisk's, the Jacobson's, the Bette's, and well as several others. She was a member of the Holy Family Catholic Church when it was located closer to downtown Kirkland. If you have any memories of this crime, or recall information/opinions expressed by others of that era please contact Tom at [thitzroth@email.msn.com](mailto:thitzroth@email.msn.com) or call him after 6 PM at (425) 823-2981 or 820-9984.



*Kirkland Cannery, probably during WWII*

## WHERE HAS THE HISTORY GONE?

By *Loita Hawkinson*

Many family histories are being lost. They are not being lost because people are careless. They are being lost because of our modern life style.

Most family history was preserved because people were thrifty and they had attics. Chests and trunks could be packed and forgotten, gathering dust in the attic. People did not move so the useless items, toys, letters, and photos could slowly mature from clutter to treasure.

Today our homes are built without attics. Our limited storage is full of plastic containers with our current clutter and treasures. Many people frequently weed out the less desired making room for the new. We cannot keep it all and because we no longer have attics, we cannot pack it up and forget it. So our history goes to thrift stores, garage sales, trash cans, to eBay.

Our oral history is being lost because of modern times as well. People used to do the dishes by hand and we did not do them in silence. Daily dishes for many years allowed families to share memories. It was the repeating of this history over the years that allowed details to sink in and be understood. The dishwashers took care of that. At least we talked in cars. Walkmans took care of that.

I think people treasure their family history. If not, scrap booking would not be so popular. An entire industry is dependent on the sentimental collecting of photos and memories. EBay allows folks to buy back what they tossed out years ago. Data bases are full of genealogy and folks sharing what they have found.

We lose history because everything goes through a time when it is simply old. Kirkland residents often ask what ever happened to Peter Kirks house...the one illustrated in KHS's logo. It was torn down when it was huge and gaudy. The materials from that home helped build three other houses. This too is history. But many of us wish we had the original building.

Collectors are always thinking on what to buy and save, hoping it will become collectible and they can turn a profit. Families should think like a collector. We will not turn a financial profit by the carefully preservation of our history, but the results will be priceless.

*Loita Hawkinson is KHC/KHS founding member and currently serves as Board Secretary*



### The Captains K

Cap'n Kangaroo was my idol. I really loved that show when I was a kid. The photo was taken back in '96, when he was in Seattle promoting his autobiography, which I bought and he signed. The photo was taken at the old Tower Books that used to be near Seattle Center.

Mr. Rogers was a little after my childhood, but when I was in high school and college, I actually liked watching him now and then. There was something refreshing about his calmness and the simple ways he would explain things. I found his show very soothing and relaxing, a rarity amongst kid shows. Even Captain Kangaroo was kind of frenetic, what with all those ping-pong balls hitting him on the head and stuff.

When I met Bob Keeshan at the book signing he was exactly like you'd expect. Very affable and sweet. His book is very cool. Lots of photos, and a very entertaining narrative. Very sad to see him go.

@lam

*Alan Stein is a KHS founding member and serves as Board Vice President*

# From the Archives...

By David Cantrill

*Dave serves At-Large on the KHS Board and chairs the Archives and Collections Committee*

*Dave recently received the following email and thought he'd pass it on to the KHS membership:*

Dave—I picked up your card at the new museum. Good work! I still have original clipping of the following poem. Can you use it? Will mail if you wish.

O.W.Jensen, Issaquah.

The following was clipped from a copy of the December 7, 1944 Kirkland East Side Journal which I received during WWII when in Patton's 3rd Army. I carried it through the fighting in France, the Battle of the Bulge, across the Rhine and into Czechoslovakia, prior to returning to my home in Kirkland. Oscar Jensen, Kirkland High School, Class of 1942



*Unfortunately, we don't have a photograph of Mr. Jensen during the war. For flavor, these shots are of my late, great-uncle, Juanita resident, Walter Winchell, pictured here in front of a Nazi pillbox the men had recently cleared . France. June, 1944.—Ed.*

By Erie Gregory  
206 7th Ave.

*The little town of Kirkland may not seem like much to some,  
With its lack of larger buildings and factories to hum.*

*It may not have the parks and other things to see,*

*But the little town of Kirkland is very dear to me.*

*I wonder if the critics who like to run us down,*

*and talk about our shortcomings can show us another town.*

*With a setting so exquisite, like a jewel in a core—*

*Foothills for a background, and a lake for its front door.*

*We are nestled in the hills, yet before us there is spread*

*a scene that has no equal— nothing truer e'er was said:*

*A lake of wondrous beauty, beyond which a city lies;*

*A lake for swimming, boating, and a fisher's paradise*

*The people are so friendly, they make one feel at home.*

*And cause us to forget the past, and wish no more to roam.*

*Others may want to travel, strange mysteries to see.*

*But the little town of Kirkland is Good enough for me.*



*The following appeared in the August, 1945 Directory of Kirkland...*

## A Brief History of Kirkland

...AND A LOOK INTO ITS FUTURE

The history of Kirkland—a community which had a tragic industrial beginning but has since grown into one of the most substantial residential communities of King county (sic)—reads like a fairy tale. A few “old-timers” are well acquainted with Kirkland’s background, but most new residents know little or nothing about it.

The east shore of Lake Washington boasted only a few scattered settlers in 1897 (sic)\* when L.S.J. Hunt, then owner of the Seattle Post Intelligencer, conceived the idea of making this community a great industrial city—“The Pittsburgh of the West.” Great quantities of iron ore had been discovered in the Cascade Mountains near Snoqualmie. To utilize this ore, a huge iron and steel works, with a smelting plant and shops for the fabrication of rails and other steel products was planned for Kirkland.

Peter Kirk, a wealthy English steel man, was interested in the project and came to the community to take over the actual management. He and the other members of the Great Western Iron and Steel Company and the Kirkland Land and Development company bought all the land around the present site of Kirkland, leased the mines for 45 years, erected several brick buildings on Market street which are still standing, and purchased tons of heavy machinery.

But, the project was destined to fail. The expected high-grade iron ore was too expensive to mine and haul. The Panic of 1893 occurred at a critical time and some of the members of the company couldn’t pay their assessment. Consequently, the project was abandoned and Kirkland lay idle, with only a few settlers, for several years.

Since that time, however, Kirkland has steadily grown as a residential community. Ferry service has always made it readily accessible to Seattle and many of the people who live here work in Seattle. Hundreds of poultry farmers, dairymen, and truck gardeners, who have their farms near Kirkland, make this—the natural center of East Side business—their headquarters. Kirkland has always been a “good business town.” Even during the depression>

Kirkland’s population was very small when the town was incorporated in 1905 with Dr. H.E. Bradley as the first mayor and Ollis Patty as treasurer. In the census of 1940, however, the town was officially listed as having 2,084 residents. In 1944, with the wartime boom at the local

CLASSIFIED BUSINESS DIRECTORY

PAGE 75

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- ★ Make your calls as brief as possible.
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- ★ We have great plans for the future on the East Side and when materials are available, we'll provide phones for all who need them. Our present facilities are almost 100 per cent in use.
- ★ We ask your complete cooperation.

## Kirkland Telephone Co.

shipyears and other war industries increasing the population greatly, the number of residents within the city limits was estimated at 3,750.

Now that the war is over, Kirkland can expect a slight decrease in population because the work at the shipyards and other manufacturing plants will undoubtedly drop off. However, other industries will likely take up the slack and provide jobs for hundreds of our newcomers from other parts of the United States who have come to the Pacific Northwest, like it here and

want to stay.

Kirkland welcomes new residents and hope (sic) they will make their permanent home here. The Commercial club and city government are busy planning improvements for the town which make it an even more attractive place in which to live. New industries, more complete bus service to Seattle will mean more payrolls here.



*This is a neat shot facing east at the foot of Market Street. It was from a postcard that was up for sale on eBay recently. The old telephone building, left, started out as the offices of Peter Kirk's steel mill and the Kirkland Land and Improvement Company. In 1911 it housed the Kirkland State Bank and by 1914 David Burr's Lake Washington Telephone Company was upstairs. It was called The Bank Building.*

**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. Matthew W. McCauley, Editor. For more information email: [matt@mccauleycoffee.com](mailto:matt@mccauleycoffee.com) or call: 425-828-4095**

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