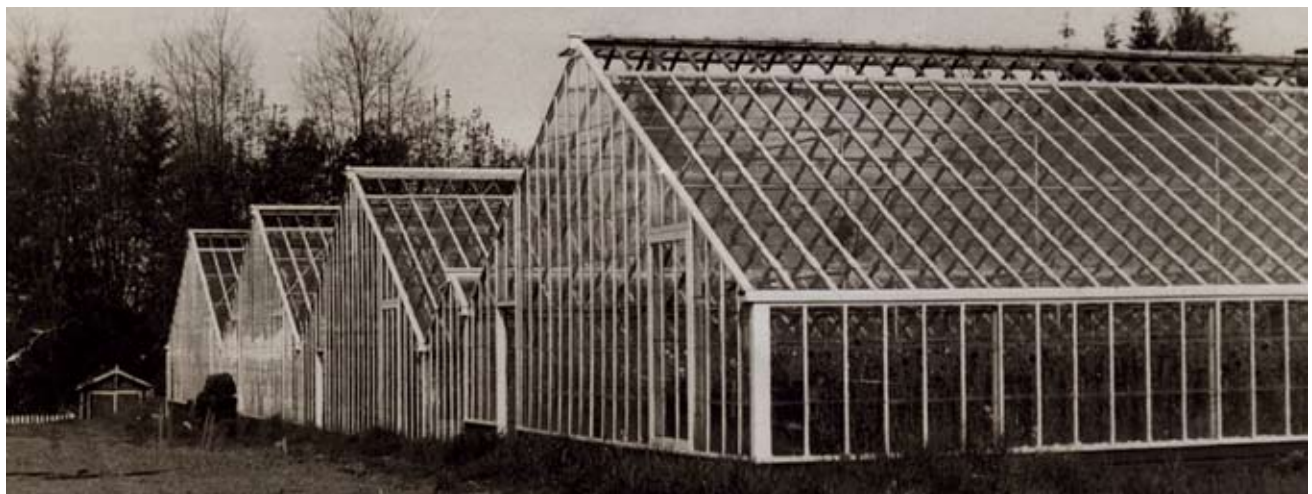


# BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

## KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



### **The Benson Greenhouse Company of Rose Hill. Inside and Out.**

See story page 4. Thank you Benson Family and Yvonne Grossrieder. Yvonne is the current owner of the Benson home.

Volume XX, Issue 6

Nov/Dec 2013

[www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org)



**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

**LOITA HAWKINSON**

Another year is coming to an end. Because of an active Board of Directors and a supportive membership, it has been a good year. The Board voted to keep membership dues the same as in the past. We can only do this because so many give an extra donation. The dues pay for the newsletter printing and mailing. Even without any paid staff, we do have expenses. But thanks to your donations, book sales and grants, we are doing fine.

A home was found for the Annual Cookie Exchange and right after that KHS received an offer of another historic home. So let us all hope that that offer will be good for next year.

Collections are coming in. KHS had over 20 new donors this year and that does not reflect those who added to established collections. Keeps me hopping but it is a joy.

The paver order has been placed and now it is more waiting. The quarry is looking for stone that will match the pavers already installed. Once they are cut, they will go to the engraver and then be delivered. The City has agreed to place them. That is a huge relief.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.



This summer's Summerfest went off without a hitch. Many had to give their regrets because of the short notice and prior plans but there were still enough members to work the both in 2 hour shifts. The one glitch was that putting up the booth does take a little more energy than taking it down. Lynette's cousin was visiting so she enlisted Gary Friberg to help. He and David Sherbrooke provided the "man" power we needed. Sorry that this thank you is so late...ran out of room in the last issue.

**King County and the  
City of Kirkland**  
present  
**Land Mark Nominations for the  
Loomis House  
and  
Landry/Benson House**  
**December 17, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Heritage Hall**  
Hosted by Kirkland Heritage  
Society  
Public and KHS Members  
Welcome



**The Landmarking begins**



Current owner of the Benson home, Yvonne Grossrieder has spent hours on research getting her home ready for Landmark designation.



King County Preservation Officer, Julie Koler and Finn Hill resident, Nona Ganz discuss the benefits of landmarking.

# KHS Monthly Meeting

November  
No meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving.

December 15, 2013  
Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange  
Sunday, 1 to 4

Watch for a seperate mailing giving the address of this historic home. Will be included with the Membership Renewal letter.



Historian Anne Paine presented a wonderful program about St. John's Church in Sept.



These girls are growing up. This was the third year the Girl Scouts have served the sundaes.



facebook  
Kirkland Heritage Society and Museum



Karen Schickling started a Facebook account named Kirkland Heritage Society and Museum. If you use Facebook, please give us a look and offer suggestions. You can go directly from the KHS website.

## Kirkland Historic Property Inventory Lynette Friberg Weber

Thank you to all the historic homeowners who attended the September Ice Cream Social and Historic Properties meeting. It was a great turnout with many people giving as well as wanting more information on their homes.

We have had many calls and emails of concerned property owners whose house is on the final comprehensive City list from Phase 1. The foremost concern is that they think they cannot make any changes to their homes since they are on the recognized list. Being on the final survey list has no restrictions whatsoever. Being on the final survey list is honorary only. Being on the final survey list only indicates that the building has to date retained its original architectural value and is significant in an architectural style of it time built. I hope this clears up any misconceptions.

Next Spring, date to be determined, the homeowners of 50 hand selected properties from the newly annexed areas will be receiving an invitation to the same type of meeting. This was uncharted territory to survey and no small task. The volunteers together with the project consultant had successfully found every property (totaling several hundred to choose from) by the first week in October. Our consultant, Mimi Sheridan, is in the process of compiling historic data on the individual properties and the people who formed the historic context of the neighboring areas. For instance, did you know that the person who owned most of the land in Champagne Point was also the developer of Magnolia in Seattle? The connections of the people here and the City Fathers of Seattle are amazing.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to work on this incredible project!

KHS receives 100% commission from the sales of Bob Neir's *A City Comes of Age* and Steve Lamson's *The Power of a Dream*. Both are available at Parkplace Books.

## Benson Greenhouse Company

The Carl and Eva Benson family has seen many changes in Kirkland. They had the Benson Greenhouse Company on Rose Hill. Their retail store, Pines Floral, was in Kirkland. At one time, Pines Floral was the only FTD shop on the eastside.

Carl Benson was born in Sweden and like many Scandinavians, found that America offered opportunity. Carl worked in greenhouses in New York City and eventually found his way to Seattle. There he was given the opportunity to take a position as foreman of the US Horticulture Experimental Station in Sitka, Alaska. It was in Sitka, that Carl met Eva Belts. They married and started their family.

In 1920, the small family moved to Seattle, living in a hotel as they searched for land to have their own floral business. In 1920, they purchased nine acres on Rose Hill. The land already had a home and two greenhouses. This started the Benson Greenhouse Company. In 1924 three more greenhouses were added. Three more children were born to Carl and Eva. Hester and Elizabeth had been born in Sitka, Douglas was born in Kirkland in 1921 and then followed the twins Jo Ann and Janet in 1928.

The Benson's had a family business with the children working the Kirkland shop and making deliveries, often to the estates in Medina, Yarrow and Hunts Point. When Carl suddenly died in 1940, Doug was a student of horticulture at the University of Washington. He came home to help his mother run the business. After the start of WWII, Doug was in the Army and without his help, Eva decided to move the Pines Floral Shop to Rose Hill. The new floral shop was connected to one of the greenhouses. Following the war, Doug returned to take over the business and again opened Pines Floral in Kirkland on Commercial Street. The business had missed the walk in traffic.

The Benson's were innovative. The family does not know where Carl got the

idea, but he planted acres of Baby Breath, even buying more land in Redmond for this one crop. Baby Breath was cut and then dried and shipped all over the country. The cutting and bundling provided much needed jobs for women and older boys during the Great Depression. After the start of WWII, labor was hard to find because the women were working in the Shipyard. The orders also stopped coming in. So ended the Baby Breath business for a time.

After the War, Douglas started the Baby Breath business again and learned how to color it. He also figured a way to flock Christmas Trees. His first order was from Frederick & Nelson in Seattle. The flocked trees were so popular that Doug purchased a tree farm in Port Gamble to supply the trees. Douglas did not patent his flocking idea and soon other florists around the country were getting into the market. The family believes that Douglas Benson was the first to flock a live tree. (Editors note: after searching the digitized newspapers from around the world, this appears to be true. Small artificial trees were available and "snow" to dust a tree was available. But not flocking of a freshly cut tree. In December of 1949 both Illinois and Wisconsin were advertizing a flocked tree...this is after Douglas Benson. While Carl Benson did not discover Baby Breath or Gypsophila, he may have been the first to raise it as a crop for harvest.

The Benson's floral business was closed after California growers started

flooding the market with cheaper flowers. Thank you Benson family for writing a short history about your family. Much of the history provided here was taken from that family history. Loita Hawkinson., editor



**Benson family in 1929**

This is 18 in the series that teased readers in 1915. Burke & Farrar have been said to have purchased the entire town site of Kirkland in 1910. This is not true. Burke & Farrar purchased the holdings held by the Kirkland Land Company which included only half of Kirkland. J. Montgomery Sears owned the other half. Mr. Sears died in 1905 but his estate held firm with the plan that Kirkland was going to develop into something special. The Sears estate did sell small parcels to be developed and a large parcel to Wilbur Wester, a local builder. It was not until the ship canal was opened (Ballard Locks) and Lake Washington was lowered that the estate sold most of its Kirkland and Seattle land. Almost all of the Kirkland property owned by the estate at last was purchased by Burke & Farrar. The Sears estate was still paying taxes on the Market Street Sears brick building in 1920. There is still mystery as to why they kept that building plus a few Market Street lots.



History repeating itself on Kirkland Way: c1950 - 2013

SEATTLE'S  
MOST

KIRKLAND

IMPORTANT  
SUBURB

The properties of the Kirkland Development Company acquired, the next step in this modern feat in city building was to buy the holdings of the Joshua Sears estate, comprising some 1,600 lots in the heart of Kirkland. This it was found would be hard to do, as it had been one of the dreams of the great Boston financier of 20 years ago to make of Kirkland the industrial center of the Pacific Northwest, and during his lifetime, even after the failure of the steel works project, he would never listen to a proposition to sell. How it was accomplished will be told Friday evening.

Every day in the classified section of The Times you can find some property in Kirkland described.

**BURKE & FARRAR, Inc.**  
 Owners of Kirkland Townsite.  
 CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$1,000,000.  
 2d Floor N. Y. Block, Over Dexter  
 Horton National Bank.

Seattle Times-- Sept. 9, 1915

## THANK YOU TO:

**Elliott Paul Fletcher** donated a stack of Ellis Postcards that had been stock at Colman's Drug. Many of you know Elliott Fletcher as Paul Fletcher because Elliott was also his father's name. He started using Elliott when he went to the UW. Mr. Fletcher also donated the four volume set of the History of King County which was written by Clarence Bagley in 1929. These are a true treasure. I had purchased Vol III on eBay several years ago and have always wanted a complete set for the research shelves. Thank you so very much.

**Keith Tharaldson** grew up on 132 Avenue NE near the old Blacktop. Keith has now started a collection with KHS and donated family photos and a 1950 Washington World, the LWHS newspaper. The Tharaldson's were neighbors of the McClintick's.



**Armond Tharaldson & son Keith  
Strong family genes.**

**Pamela Bartholomew Myers** mailed in her completed "Born in Kirkland" record along with a brief family history and family photos. They have been added to the PastPerfect database. This is such a wonderful way to guarantee that some Kirkland family history will be record. And I have to thank my brother-in-law who is a retired Montana farmer. Elmer Hawkinson identified the farm equipment in Pam's photos.



**Pam & her father Clarence Bartholomew  
More family genes.**



2010

2013

The Lake Washington School District was good for their word when they promised to save the War Memorial that had been at the High School. Public outcry called attention to this historic memorial after it was learned there had been no plans to save it.



**Frank Rosin** treated KHS to the history of the *War of the Worlds* radio program before the **Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound** began their live performance of *The Man Who Dreamed Too Much*. It was great Halloween Eve fun.

To be continued.....

President:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
Vice President:	Lynette Weber	425 890-9058
Secretary:	Vic Newhard	425 522-4082
Treasurer:	Janeen Ryseff	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Clarence Stone	425 827-3446
At-Large	Glenn Landguth	425-827-3446
At-Large	Karen Schickling	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Linda Jatton	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Sally Jo Bechtel	425 827-3446

### Committee Chairs & members

Archives & Collections:	Loita Hawkinson*	425 827-1950
	Karen Schickling	425-827-3446
Controller	Hazel Russell	425-827-3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
	Marjorie Denton	
Funding:	Lynette Weber*	425 828-4095
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatton*	425 827-3446
	Cathy Radcliff	
	Corrine Hieb	
	Margie Denton	
	Marilyn Johnson	
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
	Guest Writers	
Programs:	Linda Jatton*	425 827-3446
	Karen Schickling*	425 827-3446
	Vic Newhard	425 522-4082
Media	Karen Schlicking	425-827-3446
Time Keepers	Marin Harris*	425-827-3446
	Shannon Harris	
Membership	Janeen Ryseff*	425-827-3446
Oral History:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
	Clarence Stone	
Planning and Historic Sites:	Lynette Weber*	425 890-9058
	Tom Hitzroth	425 823-2981
Scholarship Committee	Jim Neir*	206 478-3173
	Kris Woods	425 827-3446

\* Chair or Co-chairs

\*\* During WWI, the Hello Girls were ladies who served as telephone operators. For KHS, these sweet ladies call and remind you of the next meeting or event.  
Webmaster: The late Dale W. Hawkinson.

## Kirkland Heritage Society

[www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org)

**425-827-3446**

**KHS is 100% volunteer with no paid staff.  
Your memberships make it happen.**



### 2013 MEMBERSHIP

**Kirkland Heritage Society**

**January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013**

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

#### Membership Category

_____ Senior / Student	\$20
_____ Individual	\$25
_____ Family	\$30
_____ Supporting	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$1,000
_____ Organization/Government	\$100
_____ Professional Business	\$125
_____ Corporate	\$250

I would like to make a contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

**If your company matches contributions, please  
provide the signed Matching Gift Form!**

Name

Address:

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

Phone:

E-mail:

Checks should be made payable to and mailed to:

Kirkland Heritage Society  
Heritage Hall, Lower Level  
203 Market Street  
Kirkland, WA 98033.



## TO RENT HERITAGE HALL

**Call Nicci Osborn at Kirkland Parks**

**425 587-3342**



In 1947, Europe was still suffering shortages brought about because of WWII. The Kirkland Chamber of Commerce voted to send money to Europe rather than spend money to decorate the streets of Kirkland.

**Blackberry Preserves** is produced by the **Kirkland Heritage Society**, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. **Loita Hawkinson, Editor.**  
For information on KHS - visit our website: [www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org),  
or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.

**First  
Class  
Stamp  
Box**



Kirkland Heritage Society

Kirkland Heritage Society, est 1977  
Heritage Hall  
203 Market Street, Lower Level  
Kirkland, WA 98033



**CULTURE**  
KING COUNTY | DODGING TAX

