

BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



Five year old Frankie Rosin and the “wave whisperer” Wiggles at age 10. Miles Studio photo.

See history on pages 4 and 5.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

GLENN LANDGUTH

KHS at Summerfest 2015

For Kirkland's Summerfest 2015, the Kirkland Heritage Society set up a booth on Lake Street in downtown Kirkland. I would like to share a little bit about what we did, and thank everyone who contributed to the effort.

The main attractions at our booth were the historic pictures posted on the inside walls of the booth. We had a steady stream of visitors coming into the booth to look at the pictures. Many people were on a quest to find "their house" on one of the aerial pictures.

Others commented on the businesses and schools that they remembered from past years, that are now gone. Many commented that they thought the opportunity was here for another ferry service to Seattle, possibly a passenger-only service, linking up with light rail in Seattle. They fondly remembered the old ferry service shown in the historic pictures on display. The "before" and "after" pictures, showing the changed level of Lake Washington after 1916, also attracted attention.

But the thing that I found most rewarding was the number of people who stopped to talk about how much they liked Kirkland. Even though many people missed the "hometown" atmosphere they remembered from their days growing up in Kirkland, they were still liking Kirkland. There is something special about the common bond that people feel towards their schools. Everyone seems to remember where they went to school and what happened to the building after they left. This was the case for people who remembered the old High School formerly located where Heritage Park is today.

I encouraged people who came by the booth to take a short "Fun Quiz" to see what they knew about Kirkland history. Some people took the printed quiz with them, but others went through the questions while still at the booth. That way they could compare their answers with ours. The last question on the written quiz was "Do you know where Heritage Hall is located." Many people started to describe in detail where it was located. But that is not what the question asked. I would then encourage them to "Just answer the question." There were two

possibly correct answers, either "yes" or "no". They either knew or they didn't know. For those who didn't know, I pointed them in the general direction. (I can bring copies of the quiz to the next membership meeting if anyone is interested.)

Everyone who helped with the booth was wonderful. Dave Sherbrooke arrived at the KHS Resource Center promptly at 8:00 AM with his van, which Dave, Loita, Fred, Vic, and I loaded with stuff for the booth. Then we all met at the designated booth site on Lake Street to set up the booth.

Eleven people had signed up to staff the booth in two-hour shifts during the day. They were Wayne and Linda Jaton; Janeen Ryseff; Tori Dennis and Josh; Dave Sherbrooke; Pam Owens, Karen Schickling; and Glenn and Judy Landguth. Janeen later had to deal with a medical emergency, but we thank her for her willingness to help, and wish her a speedy recovery.

Each year we sell bottles of cold Sarsaparilla from Loita's vintage Coca-Cola cooler, charging \$2 per bottle. Sometimes I asked people, when they bought our featured soft drink, "Can you spell Sas-pa-rella". Which of course is actually spelled "sarsaparilla", but you already knew that, didn't you! But Sarsaparilla sales were down this year, probably because of the cooler weather, although for the day we had at various times overcast skies, warm sunshine, and very light rain. In spite of the reduced Sarsaparilla sales, it could hardly have been better weather overall for a day at Summerfest.

But even more significant, we talked to many, maybe hundreds, of people about Kirkland history and KHS. We handed out many membership applications/brochures. We will see what comes of that. We cannot help but think that it was important for KHS to "be there" for this much publicized and worthwhile Kirkland event.

At 7:00 PM the set-up team became the take-down team and everything was brought back to the resource center.

For the day, we signed up one new member, took an order for one new paver donation for the Heritage Hall walkway, sold several prints and a couple of books, and sold over a case of Sarsaparilla.

We thank The City of Kirkland, 4Culture, and our wonderful members for their continuing support of KHS.

KHS Monthly Program

7:00 p.m.
Heritage Hall

September 30, 2015

This is our annual Blackberry Social. Wayne and Linda Jatton have picked the berries that will be served over ice cream. Always plenty of decaf to complete the evening. Glenn Landguth will provide our program with some fun childhood memories. Hopefully you will have memories to share as well.

October 28, 2015

Once again Frank Rosin has organized the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound to provide a live radio rebroadcast of something spooky for the season. Frank will provide the sound effects. Always fun and nostalgic for those of us who remember those pre-television days. Just close your eyes and let your mind and Frank fill in the action.



Radio show from October 2014.



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.



facebook
Kirkland Heritage Society and Museum

Karen Schickling edits our Facebook account named:

Kirkland Heritage Society and Museum.



If you use Facebook, please give us a look and a like.

September 28, 2015

Kirkland's Mid-Century Modern Architecture Revealed Part II

Please join the City on Monday, September 28, 7:00 p.m. at Heritage Hall for the announcement of the top 50 properties chosen to represent Kirkland's Mid-Century Modern architecture. Noted architectural historian Mimi Sheridan will be presenting her survey results based on the 3,750 properties built between 1946 and 1965 in the combined City and Annexation areas including homes in the major subdivisions. A recap of Part I will be given if you missed the May presentation where we learned about typical styles and features of ranch houses and split levels as well as more upscale designs. The Mid-Century Modern Movement has come to Kirkland! Several KHS volunteers drove and walked the neighborhoods providing photos and history to Mimi and the City.



Part I in May of 2015. Most of us are older than the newly designated historic properties.



Vic Newhard samples the wares. All Summerfest photos by Glenn Landguth

219 Lake Street

by Frank Rosin

My grandmother purchased the first portion of our property at 219 Lake Street in 1923. In the next years by additional purchases we owned 400 front footage of virgin property on Lake Washington in downtown Kirkland. Parts of it were sold in the 1940s, buildings built, torn down and new ones built. Our original paint factory building still exists as does a redwood tree I planted from a cutting in 1949 that is now possibly 6 feet in diameter at the lower part of the trunk. The only things that had disturbed the property were the building of Lake Street itself and the lowering of the lake level. There was evidence of several different ancient shorelines and blue clay deposits from several ancient Mt Rainier eruptions. There was even a small layer of coal several feet down.

There were two irregulars on the property left by the last glacier. One was about the size of a pickup truck, the other about the size of a coffee table. The largest stone was in the way of our building in 1932 so a hole was dug along side it to let it slide a bit deeper. It still is in place in that slightly moved position under the building. The smaller became part of a rock garden and is probably circled by roots of the redwood. Neither irregular can be seen today.

I was born in our living quarters on the lower floor of our paint factory in 1936. My grandparents moved into a second separate living quarters we built for them in 1937. With two families living there and one person from each working in Seattle the ferry was important. My mother, Marge Rosin, worked the night shift at Western Union on 2nd and Cherry in Seattle. My grandmother, Lizzie Rosin, worked in a laundry at the south end of Lake Union in Seattle.

The ferry slip for the Lincoln and later the Leschi was only about a block north of us, very handy, and the service was hourly. One of my early memories was sitting on the drain board in my grandmother's kitchen, probably in 1939 looking out the window

watching raindrops hitting the still water of the lake. Big bubbles were forming from the drops. My grandmother told me, "Look at the bubbles the drops are making, that means it will rain again tomorrow." About then the steam whistle on the Lincoln let off its warning that it was about to land. There was clinking of safety chains being moved and then silence for a few moments until the steam engine was reversed. There was a swishing noise as the propeller stirred up the water stopping the ferry. The ramp was lowered and the cars started to leave the ferry one at a time. They made a kerchunk sound as the tires hit the metal edge of the ramp now on the ferry deck as they drove off the ferry. We could see it all from the kitchen window but the one block distance over the water made the sounds come a second later, they didn't match up exactly with the movements of the cars.

"One of these days," she said, "You and I will walk down town and get the ferry to Seattle." Well, we did, and many times. This was to a small child an ocean liner to the rest of the world that opened up to me. Up until then my world ended at the reeds growing in the lake in front of Sand's Lumber to the south and the Columbia Lumber mill at the foot of Market Street when my mother took me out in our small rowboat. Of course we walked to downtown Kirkland and the stores. I recall going with my mother to purchase an electric refrigerator to replace our wood ice box in 1938 when I was about 2 1/2 years old. I don't recall what store it was but I still have that refrigerator and I am still using it.

A big part of my life was our dog, Wiggles, he was 5 years old when I was born and my constant companion. He came from a litter of pups born on a houseboat at Madison Park on the Seattle side. I am 5 years old in the photo of me and Wiggles so he would be about 10 years old in the image. Every hour when the ferry came into Kirkland a few minutes after the warning landing whistle blew about 3 of the bow

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4.

wakes washed against our shore if it was a calm day. Wiggles would hear the whistle and if outside would run to the shore and chase those bow waves barking at them, daring them to come ashore. Just the words, “go chase the waves!” would send him off to the shore and be on guard ready to bark.



Our shore and lake bottom was sandy. The stones and pebbles you see in the photograph were a result of the building of Lake Street. There were no stones past the shoreline, under the water it was all sand. When I was old enough with the help of my mother and father we raked all the stones to under our building which was built out over the water giving us an all sandy beach.

Mother Nature was still adjusting to Lake Washington being lowered in 1916. The prevailing winds from the Southwest moved sand and gravel our way. The shoreline showing in the photo has moved and the actual water’s edge is well out beyond what is showing here. There was a gravel ledge formed by a glacier that had sand covering it about 200 feet out from shore. In the lake’s pre-lowering level the wave action did not disturb the ledge. Lowered, there was wave action there. I could swim out that 200 feet and stand on the bottom, it was only about 4 1/2 feet deep in 1944. Gradually the sand washed away and then the gravel of the ledge

itself. In that area which was so shallow it is now at least 20 feet deep. The last time I could see any evidence of the ridge was in the late 1950s. The last time salmon spawned on our beach was in the early 1940s. The lowering of the lake was a horrible thing to our environment, it never should have been done and probably couldn’t be done today.

Photos from the Frank Rosin family albums.



The Booth goes up on schedule



Wayne and Linda Johnson Jatton



Dave Sherbrooke and Pam Gates Owens
The Sherbrooke and Gates family histories in Kirkland add up to over 200 years.

SEATTLE'S
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Do you want to buy a home? Do you want the most that your dollars will get? Do you want certainty of increased value? Do you want to invest in a district that is sure to grow bigger and better, and not retrograde? Do you want ideal location and surroundings, easy of access, with fine transportation facilities? Do you want to buy a lot or garden tract on which to build? Do you want to make a safe investment—one that will be profitable? If you want any of these things come in and talk to us. All of them are to be found in Kirkland.

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.

LITTLE STORIES OF KIRKLAND
No. 30.

October 10, 1915



Tori Dennis and Josh Markham
They plan to spend their lives in Kirkland.



Karen LeBrun Schickling
and a booth full of Kirkland lovers.



And what went up at 8 a.m. came down at 7 p.m. Went slick as a whistle and it all fit back in Dave's SUV.

President:	Glenn Landguth	425 821-4172
Vice-president	Karen Schickling *	425.827-3446
Secretary:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827-1950
Treasurer:	Frank Rosin *	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Janeen Ryseff *	425 827-3446
At-Large	Tori Dennis	425 827-3446
At-Large		
At-Large:	Linda Jatton *	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Vic Newhard	425 892-8388

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 Marjorie Denton	425 827-1950
Pavers	Glenn Landguth	825 827-3446
Grants/Funding	Glenn Landguth*	425 827-3446
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatton*	425 827-3446
	Cathy Radcliff	
	Corrine Hieb	
	Margie Denton	
	Marilyn Johnson	
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson Guest Writers	425 827-1950
Programs:	Linda Jatton*	425 827-3446
	Karen Schickling	425 827-3446
Time Keepers	Marin Harris* Shannon Harris	425-827-3446
Membership	Janeen Ryseff*	425-827-3446
Oral History:	Loita Hawkinson Clarence Stone	425 827-1950
Planning and Historic Sites:	Lynette Weber*	425 890-9058
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.

* Kirkland Natives or deep roots serving on the KHS Board.

Webmaster: The late Dale W. Hawkinson.

Kirkland Heritage Society

www.kirklandheritage.org

425-827-3446

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



2015 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

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 Kevin Ball at Kirkland Parks

425 587-3398



The Lincoln of Kirkland as seen from the Rosin kitchen window at 219 Lake Street.
The black ball over the rear of the ferry means she is out of service. See page 4.

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,
or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.

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Kirkland Heritage Society

Kirkland Heritage Society, est 1977
Heritage Hall
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Kirkland, WA 98033



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