

BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



Bill Kilgore

1922 - 1940

Volume XXIV, Issue VI

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www.kirklandheritage.org

From the President

Loita Hawkinson

This newsletter is a bit tardy. This tends to happen at the end of the year when we have no programs scheduled. The renewal notices with the Cookie Exchange information are in the mail and you should have received it days ago.

As you will read from the notice from Linda and Karen, there may not be as many programs in the future. After over 25 years of programs, fresh ideas are hard to come by. And as our membership has aged, it is harder to entice people to come out on dark and damp evenings. We tried the Saturday afternoon idea at the Kirkland Community Center but that was not popular at all. Membership wants to meet at Heritage Hall.. our home for 17 years.

If you have ideas...either new or a repeat, let Linda and Karen know. Hope you all have a wonderful Holiday Season. See in the New Year.



The KHS Collection

The Collections of KHS have continued to grow in 2017. As of this writing, 29 new donors have given objects or photos or both. During 2017, hundreds more objects and photos have been added to existing collections. A new donor number is not issued to established donors. This way, all your photos are together in one binder and your objects...if not displayed...are in one box. Every single item has a unique number...much like our social security number. We are all a number and so is our "historic stuff".

KHS is running out of display space for larger items. We can still find many nooks and crannies but the floor is pretty much full. If anyone has ideas on how to find and use our existing space, please let us know.

17th Annual John D. Spellman Awards

Kirkland Heritage Society was honored to help host the 2017 King County Executive's 17th Annual John D. Spellman Awards for Achievement in Historic Preservation. The event was held at the historic 1925 Kirkland Woman's Club. KHS was well represented and everyone brought a homemade treat. Store bought treats were available but you can guess what attendees wanted.

The City of Kirkland was one of the award recipients. Kirkland was recognized for Preservation Planning: For exemplary achievement in identifying and planning for the protection of Kirkland's historic resources.

All areas of the NW are experiencing growth with the loss of historic properties. We can be proud that Kirkland was recognized for its desire to preserve our local history.

The first John D. Spellman Award for historic preservation was award in 2000 to Kirkland Heritage Society/City of Kirkland for the preservation of what we now call Heritage Hall, our home.



History Month

Kirkland's History Month will be celebrated during February, the birth month of our founder, Peter Kirk.

Over 100 historic signs have been made and used for years now. Eighteen more will be added this year. Please call if you have suggestions of what people might want to see on these signs. Newcomers seem to like the older photos. Others tend to like what they remember from their youth. If up to me (Loita) they would all be from 1920 and before. That is why we need your input. I did not grow up here as many of you did.

The KHS phone is: **425-827-3446.**

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*.

KHS Monthly Programs

7:00 p.m.

Heritage Hall

203 Market Street

🌀🌀 **November 2017** 🌀🌀

No Membership Meeting
Happy Thanksgiving

🌀🌀 **December 2017** 🌀🌀

No Membership Meeting
Have a wonderful warm
Holiday.

🌀🌀 **December 3, 2017** 🌀🌀

Cookie Exchange
Mark your calendars
and watch the mail for address.
Invitation and renewal will
be mailed together to save
on postage.

🌀🌀 **January 2018** 🌀🌀

No Membership Meeting

🌀🌀 **February 22, 2018** 🌀🌀

Author Dick Blumenthal
will share some early history of
Lake Washington



AmazonSmile

Kirkland Heritage is registered with
AmazonSmile.

When you purchase from Amazon, .5% of
your total purchase can be donated to KHS.
Amazon pays this .5%, not the buyer. The
link to our AmazonSmile account is on our
website @

Kirklandheritage.org

.5% does not amount to much but every
penny helps support Kirkland's history.

Meetings and Programs

By Linda and Karen

We won't have a meeting in January for
several reasons: we could have snow, it is
dark and turn out is always low. If it often
hard to find a January speaker for all the
same reasons. We will have our February
meeting with a wonderful speaker and
author, so please come! Remember the last
Wednesday of the month. Please call us
if you have any ideas for future programs.
Thanks.

Linda Jatton @ 425-898-4853,

Karen Schickling @ 425-273-6299 or
kschic1965@gmail.com.



Now whether you are a believer or skeptic of
paranormal, this was a fun evening so close
to Halloween.



Paranormal investigator,
June Nixon with AGHOST.

Bill Kilgore

by Frank Rosin

John William Kilgore was born to William Kilgore and Valerie Willett Kilgore. He was known to his friends and family as Billy and Bill. He died on July 1, 1940 of a ruptured appendix and was buried out of Holy Family Catholic Church on 6th Avenue in Kirkland by Father Ryan in the Kirkland Cemetery on July 5, 1940 at age 17.

We find him in the 1940 *Reveille*, the Kirkland High School Annual which became Lake Washington High School in 1945. The only three photos we have of Bill are from this 1940 *Reveille*. Our copy of the *Reveille* at Kirkland Heritage was given to us by Jeanette McClintick Makela. He had signed the places where his photos appear and we are fortunate to have these signatures by his own hand with a real ink pens in those days, other permanent writing instruments didn't exist yet. He is on the page with the individual sophomores, the page with the football team individual photos, and the group page with the football team. He is mentioned again as belonging to the Letter man's Club and being on the basketball team. He was a good athlete and won his 'K' for a school sweater as a starting player on football wearing jersey number 5 as a halfback.



My memory remembers the Billy that worked after school for my father and grandfather in our paint factory in downtown Kirkland. Over the years we had several high school young men including Cully Solon, and Jack Stalhammer working for us. Since our mother worked a night shift at the Western Union in Seattle these boys would watch over me and my twin brother after school hours or Saturdays if my father and grandfather had a big workload going on upstairs where the paint was made and could not be watching us boys. I remember him being very kind to us and help us with the things that five year boys would be interested in or supposed to be doing. He helped Michael and I make our weekly supply of kindling for the kitchen stove and carry in a day or two of the firewood, our job. We weren't supposed to get in the lake without an adult or use the rowboat without an adult. He would get in the water and swim a bit with us and then still in swim suits get in the rowboat to row us over to the ferry slip to watch the ferry come in. We would walk up to Halverson's Rexall Drug Store and have a one, sometimes a two, scoop ice cream cone to eat on the row back home. He couldn't row and eat a cone at the same time, we always got to divide his cone between us.

My mother took us to the high school football games when the Kirkland High School football field was along Waverly Way between the High School and the Junior High School buildings to watch Bill and the others play the other schools. We always sat at the Kirkland end of the bleachers near the goal line because it was the closest to get in and out of from our home. Unfortunately it was where the opposing school rooters sat and a long way from where the most part of the game was going on. For a couple little twins not completely understanding what football was all about, we didn't have all that much interest in the game or even the half time School Band performance. Besides even with the big '5' on the back of his jersey it was difficult to tell which one he was so far away most of the time.



Bill's parents had divorced and remarried others. Bill was living with his grandparents, Henry and Audelie Willett, on the Hollywood Hill Road about half way out. That would now be 132nd Avenue NE between John Muir Elementary and Kamiakin Junior High. I remember going out that way one time to deliver some paint to the Willett home. As little kids my brother and I wanted to walk in the woods a bit when we were there, we didn't have woods in downtown Kirkland and this was something new for us. My father was busy with the paint and boring adult conversation so Bill took us for a short walk out and back where a few trees were on the ground in fresh dirt and mud, exciting for us.

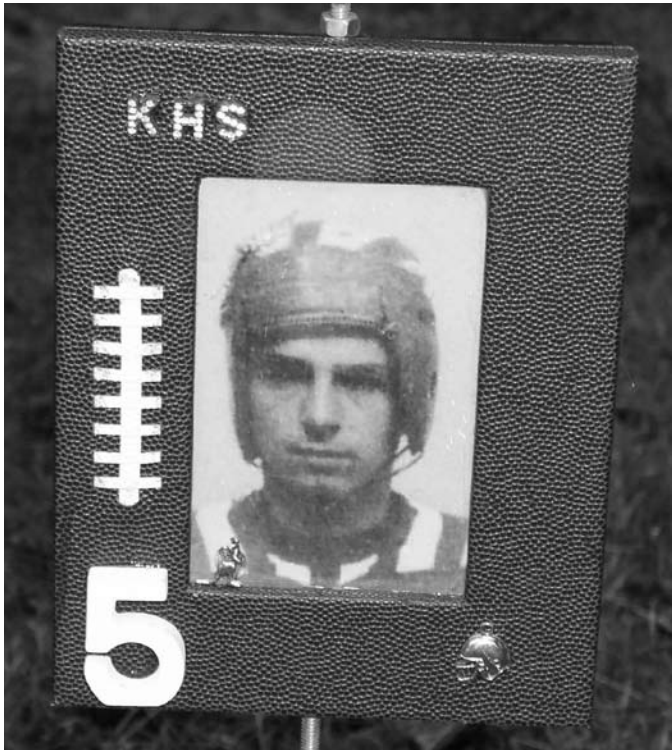
Bill would have graduated with his fellow students in the Class of 1942. Louise Forthoffer Wolfrom lived along 124th very near Totem Lake, presently the location of a car dealer, and was in the Class of 1943. She was in the 9th grade at Kirkland Junior High School and Bill was in the 10th grade, a sophomore, in the other building, the High School that 1939-1940 school year. As an under classmate it would have been unthinkable for her to have talked to him but she did see he was a really handsome guy and she was going to have to check him out the first time she saw him get on the school bus. There was only one school bus route out that way putting them both on the same school bus. Martha Burr Millar was in Bill's class and remembered him as being a really cute boy.

The School District owned two about ten year old 1931 Model A school buses. They were smaller busses for use in the sparsely settled Juanita and other more remote areas of the District. Those buses were still in use in the late 1940s and early 1950s, my twin and I rode on those same busses ourselves for some special school activities to the former Redmond High School. There was no Mac Field at Lake Washington High School until the mid 1950s, the football fields in Redmond and Kirkland were used for practice and the baseball field in downtown Kirkland was used for the football games because it was the only field within Lake Washington School District that had lights for evening games.

In the 1949 Student Handbook of mine, under the Student Activities the Constitution of the Associated Students of Kirkland/Lake Washington High School says in Article VIII, the very last one says, "Bill Kilgore Memorial Article. This provides that Football Jersey No. 5 shall not be worn in the future by any Lake Washington athlete." No athlete has indeed worn a '5' for the 77 years since Bill died. It has now been decided that the '5' may now be worn by a deserving athlete in honor of Bill Kilgore and will be seen again on the field.

Bill is buried in the south east edge of the Kirkland Cemetery alongside his grandparents directly across the street from the 50 yard line of the Lake Washington High School's Mac Field. A fitting location for a young man that was admired by us all that died at age 17, way too young.





As Frank and Loita researched Bill Kilgore, we grieved for him. Bill may have a living grand-nephew from his half-sister but at this date, he has not been located. LWHS wanted to contact family when it was decided to put his jersey #5 back in service. That request put KHS on the trail. My first call was to Martha Burr Millar. Martha was in his class and learned of his death when he did not return to school in the fall and his jersey was retired. This is the decoration we made and placed at his grave.



The Kalakala Art Committee met at City Hall to select 4 artists from the 20 that applied to design an art piece in remembrance of the Kalakala. Pieces of the original Kalakala will be used in the art. Once the art is selected from these 4 artists, funds will be raised and the art will be placed along the Cross Kirkland Corridor or in a Kirkland park.

Big thank you to the City Parks Department



Before & After

The still unfinished display case at the resource center now has lights. It had been wired for lights back in 2001. This fall the City was emailed a wish list. Within weeks the City had installed the new pavers and the cabinet now has lights. Overhead lighting is next. Compact fluorescents will be replaced with bright LED's.



The last two orders of pavers are now installed...again thank you City Parks Department.

The next order of pavers will be submitted sometime in March of 2018. That gives people an opportunity to buy for a holiday gift or Valentine's Day gift. There is still plenty of room but the supply of Wilkeson Stone is dwindling. So if you have been thinking about a paver, either large or small, it might be a good time to order. The order forms can be found on the KHS website:

www.kirklandheritage.org

Blackberry Preserves

President:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
Vice-president	Karen Schickling *	425.827-3446
Secretary:	Janice Gerrish	425.827-3446
Treasurer:	Frank Rosin *	425 827-3446
Past-president	Glenn Landguth	425 821-4172
At-Large	OPEN	425 827-1950
At-Large	OPEN	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Linda Jatton *	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Vic Newhard	425 892-8388

Committee Chairs & members

Archives & Collections:	Loita Hawkinson* Karen Schickling	425 827-1950 425-827-3446
Bookkeeping	Hazel Russell	425-827-3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson Marjorie Denton	425 827-1950
Pavers	Loita Hawkinson	825 827-1950
Cemetery Tour & Memorial	Matt McCauley* Sue Contreras Frank Rosin Loita Hawkinson	425.827.3446
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatton* Cathy Radcliff Corrine Hieb Margie Denton Marilyn Johnson	425 827-3446
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson Guest Writers	425 827-1950
Programs:	Linda Jatton* Karen Schickling	425 827-3446 425 827-3446
Time Keepers	Marin Harris* Shannon Harris	425-827-3446
Membership	Frank Rosin*	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* Kris Woods	206 478-3173 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 KHS.

Webmaster: Loita Hawkinson

Kirkland Heritage Society

www.kirklandheritage.org

425-827-3446

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



2017 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

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 and mailed to:

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



TO RENT HERITAGE HALL

**Call the City of Kirkland's
Customer Service Division at:
425-587-3300**



Frank Rosin
at the grave of Billy Kilgore in November of 2017

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.

**First
Class
Stamp
Box**



Kirkland Heritage Society

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



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