

# BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

## KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



90 pound Anchor shackle from the Fort Jackson  
Don Schmitz Collection

## From the President

Loita Hawkinson

KHS is plugging along and continuing to open by appointment so that donations can be dropped off. There have been 9 new donors this year plus many donors have added to their collections.

Now that vaccines are easier to get, KHS hopes to open on Monday and Wednesday starting this summer. Masks will be required and there will be a limit of one family or small group at a time.

The board elections will be in May. This will be a bit tricky since we will not be having membership meetings at that time. So what is planned is that the slate of volunteers will be announced in this issue of Blackberry Preserves. Anyone who wishes to run for a position must apply in writing by May 1, 2021. No nominations can be made by anyone but the person seeking a position on the board. The final nominations will be announced in the May/June 2021 issue of *Blackberry Preserves*.

Then on Saturday, May 29, 2021 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. members can drive by the museum on Market Street. Volunteers will be out on Market Street so we can continue our social distancing. Members will vote yeah or nay for the entire slate of nominees or leave a ballot if there are any contested positions. If a position is contested a ballot will be included in the May/June 2021 issue of *BP*.

By having our elections this way, we are complying with our bylaws. The bylaws state that a member must be present to vote, a member must be current in their dues, the slate must be postmarked 10 days before the election and there are no nominations allowed after the slate is mailed.

We thank Shannon Harris and Lynnette Weber for their time on the board. Both Shannon and Lynnette have asked to be replaced. And since we have term limits for the position of President, I am stepping down and Frank Rosin has volunteered to take the position. Thank you Frank.

Happy Spring to all. Loita

## Elections for 2021/2022

Term starts July 1, 2021

President: Frank Rosin  
Vice President: Karen Schickling  
Secretary: Janice Gerrish  
Treasurer: Loita Hawkinson  
At Large: Linda Jatton  
At Large: Dave Sherbrooke  
At Large: Vic Newhard  
At Large: Libbi Wright  
At Large: Kim Hartman

Elections will be held by "drive by voting". Volunteers will be outside on Market Street on Saturday, May 29, 2021 from Noon to 1:00.



The pavers are in. Thank you City of Kirkland. Photo by Jason Filan.



## KHS Monthly Programs Heritage Hall 203 Market Street

Programs will return when we are told it is safe. We will then follow the current guidelines.

2021

Jan and Jock McLaughlin  
and Randy Morelli

## In the mail

A final few words from Ted Tillman who died March 3, 2021. Ted was one of Kirkland's last close connection to the founders of Kirkland. His grandparents built the first grocery store near the Steel Mill. Ted was the last known Cub Scout who actually knew Mrs. Esty, the world's first Cub Scout Mistress.

From Ted in February --- another bit of trivia:

While married and going to school at the U of W in the Architecture Dept., I took any and all jobs to earn a few dollars. I believe the government gave us \$107 a month on the GI Bill. I learned a lot doing odd jobs plus my Uncle Wesley Cline (married to Etta Brooks) and brother-in-law Jack Spiers (married to my sister Lauretta Tillman) were both contractors. Jack, especially, saved for me the jobs nobody wanted. One was out at a job where there was a pile of shingles on the ground. Jack said "those gotta be on the roof by Monday morning".

They were wooden split shingles – 4 bundles to the square and I've forgotten but I recall 35 squares. That's up a ladder 140 times. Those shingles were on the roof Monday morning. Believe me; this made me a good student with my books!

At my age you know I've got many many memories that are fun to me but just trash to anybody else. It will be just fine to throw it away. Okay!

Regards, Ted T.

Ted Tillman, KHS class of 1941

Ted wanted his obituary to say "I was born, and since, have never had a dull or boring day in my life. I have had more fun, for more years, than anyone I know. My life has been wonderful. I hope I've left everywhere I've been a little nicer for having been there. Do not be sad when I am gone."

(I will miss this gentle and kind Penpal. Loita)

## More Mail

What I remember:

Oban's Hatchery on Market Street changed to Heisdorf & Nelson and moved out of town to Houghton. I would walk home from school and stop at Daniel's small grocery store and then go

by Oban's hatchery and look at the baby chicks. I did bring home a couple and put them in my closet with a blanket and light for warmth. I think Donna and Judy Hjorth's mother worked there.

I remember Younger's Mints as being in Houghton on Lake Washington Blvd in a nice store and having the mints. For a fancy party they were there for treats. The store is still there and is a small convenience store.



Tot Lines – on Lake Washington Blvd in Houghton. A manufacturing plant of plastic merchandise with special table and ribbons and ties. There were several items made: bibs, clothes, PJ's and were for younger children. They shipped all over. You could go in there and get some seconds for a reasonable price.

I did email Sally Hardenbrook Kelly about writing about her dad's bottling plant by the RR tracks on 7th. Danny Stapleton took it over.

I think Ann Oban was Jock McLaughlin's Aunt. (that's correct)  
I am Gates Owens,  
Born 1943 in Kirkland Hospital



## Life Members:

Richard and Lisa Altig, Maureen Baskin, Laura Bradley-Pierucci, Bob and Valerie Burmester, David and Tasha Davis, Steve Lamson, Ray & Clare Lincoln, Matt McCauley, Laura May Mosing, Richard and Kathy Nelson, Michael and Cathy Radcliff, Larry Springer/Penny Sweet, Sandi Stone, Laura Westlund.

## Corporate Members:

Hallmark Realty, Madison House.



**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*.**

## **Fort Jackson**

by Frank Rosin

By 1917 the Ship Canal made travel by ship from Puget Sound open to Lake Washington. Lake Union was an ideal freshwater waterway to store wooden ships that were no longer in use. There were 32 wooden unfinished freight steamers surplus in 1919 from World War One a part of 'The Emergency Fleet' lined up in Lake Union. The government had spent around \$350,000 on each freighter hull.

These hulls were offered for sale at the end of the Great War. The price was \$3500 and with renovations to make one suitable it amounted to about \$5000 overall for the Kirkland American Legion. After World War One the various Chapters of the American Legion grew in numbers of returning veterans, Kirkland included. The Warren O Grimm Post here in Kirkland needed a meeting place. A decision was made to purchase one of the unfinished WW One freighters in Lake Union from the Barde Company that had obtained the vessels for resale.

By custom, all vessels have names, 'Titanic', 'Arizona', 'Sovereign of the Seas', 'Fort Jackson'. Us boys named our 12 foot rowboat 'Maggie' in 1944.

The freighter the Legion chose was the 'Fort Jackson'. Its namesake was Fort Jackson, a fort built in 1812 about 1 mile east of Savannah Georgia on the Savannah River. This hull may have been selected because it was to be moored at the foot of Jackson Street (Second Ave South now).

The big day came on May 13, 1922 when the 'Fort Jackson' was towed out of Lake Union, taken through the Montlake Cut of the Ship Canal to Kirkland. It took about three hours and was followed by the two lake steamers, 'Aquila' and 'Atlanta' with a seventy foot scow between by Captain John Anderson. There was quite a delegation on board the scow including two bands. H. P. Everest, Post Commander of the Kirkland American Legion, rode on board the 'Fort Jackson'.

It was a festive event, two U.S. Navy Destroyers, 'Selfridge' and 'Marcus' arrived in the lake and most of the crew was given 'liberty' for the occasion. There were rowing races between the Destroyer Crews while new 1922 seaplanes hovered over all the water events. There was diving, swimming, log rolling, canoe-tilting and crew races from the University of Washington. Cars lined up all the way into Juanita coming into Kirkland, the ferry made double runs all day to serve the people coming into town. Folks lined up on the ferry slip and the surrounding shorelines to see the free activities.

It was in the evening that the American Legion charged a one dollar admission to the dances that started at about 8:00 and lasted until about 1:00 in the morning on the shore in front of the Fort Jackson and on board the Fort Jackson. That just about paid off the amount to purchase, refurbish, and to bring the ship to Kirkland.

The dance floor in the former cargo holds was said to be the largest west of the 'mountains'. There was a fairly large banquet room and smaller meeting rooms, all available to the other organizations in Kirkland. The newspaper columns said there were to be two billiard rooms. Billiard on a boat? Billiard has to remain perfectly level so those plans were abandoned. By removing a bulkhead in the cargo hold and the hatch covers on the deck a new roof was built over that area. There was room for a library, lounging room, gymnasium, and an auditorium in other parts..

This was truly the unique floating meeting place anywhere in the country for an American Legion or any other type of similar organization. A wood vessel this size would have a fairly long lifespan of use but wood does decay in use or out of use for its intended purpose. The Fort Jackson was now without complex and expensive upkeep. The five pilings used with steel cables probably would not have been enough to hold it in place if one of the Southwest Storms with 70

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plus miles per hour winter storms blew in. It is unlikely any storms of that size occurred during the seven years it was in Kirkland.

In the late part of 1929 when the 'Fort Jackson' had been in Kirkland for those seven years, the Union Oil Company contemplated other plans for the property. Several oil firms had built bulk facilities in the south of Kirkland, Standard Oil, Texaco, and other competitors. Union Oil was going to build a service station on its property in Kirkland where the 'Fort Jackson' was moored. The storage tanks for heating oil and gasoline distribution were across the street. A pier to service the barges that brought the oil products across the lake was to be constructed. The barge loads of oil and gasoline, the way bulk petroleum products were delivered could then be pumped to those tanks across the street for sale on the 'East Side'. The 'Fort Jackson' had to move.

As it was too expensive in 1929 to find a new location for the 'Fort Jackson' for the American Legion, it was sold to some 'ship wreckers'.

In October of 1929 the 'Fort Jackson' was taken from Kirkland to Richmond Beach on the sound north of Seattle for its ultimate destination but not without a struggle. Lake Washington even though controlled, the lake level does vary by seasons, about four and a

half feet, falling in the winter when the lake level is low, to summer at the highest.

It took some effort for two tugs to get it away from the sand that had locked it in place but it did make a final trip out the 'Ship Canal' to Richmond Beach. Along with two wood square rigged sailing ships, the 'Oriental' built in 1874 and the 'Abner Coburn' built in 1882 the 'Fort Jackson' were burned on the beach to salvage the metal in their hulls.

My twin brother and I were born a half block from where the Fort Jackson had been moored. In the late 1960's we could take our rowboat, 'Maggie', out and still see abandoned cables that had moored the Fort Jackson.

Ernie Fortescue saved the name plate for the 'Fort Jackson' that was on the front of the pilot house of the ship. We have that on display at Kirkland Heritage. Don Schmidt, a retired King County Marine Patrol Sheriff, found one of the 'Fort Jackson' anchor shackles. The shackle is also on display at Kirkland Heritage.

Unless someone knows of other mementos of the seven year stay of the 'Fort Jackson' nothing but photographs and memories remain.



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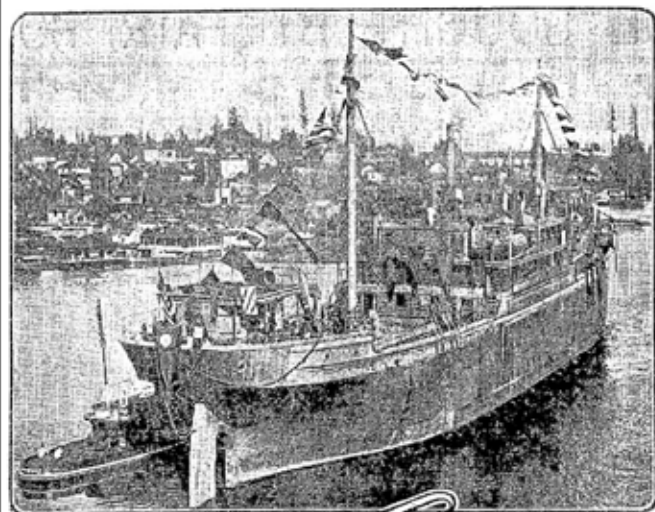


Insert shows the Fort Jackson name plate.



Photo taken by Ernie Fortescue's father. Mr. Fortescue thankfully salvaged the name plate before the ship was towed away.

**Kirkland Veterans Take Home Their Ship**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Wooden Hull Soon to Become Clubhouse**



Towing Fort Jackson to Kirkland.

1922 Seattle Times

Kirkland Heritage Society office  
and museum will re-open:  
Monday from 10 to noon  
Wednesday from 2 to 5 when  
recommended by the City.



## Programs

Karen would like suggestions for future programs:

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



## 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 @

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

.5% may not seem like much but every  
penny helps support Kirkland's history.



# 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
At-Large	Linda Jatton	425 827-3446
At-Large	Vic Newhard	425 892-8388
At-Large	Lynette Weber	425 890-9058
At-Large:	Dave Sherbrooke	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Shannon Harris	425-827-3446

## Committee Chairs & members

Archives & Collections:	Loita Hawkinson* Libbi Wright	425 827-1950 425-827-3446
Bookkeeping	Andrea Kyrala	425-827-3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson Marjorie Denton	425 827-1950
Cemetery Tour & Memorial	Matt McCauley* Sue Contreras Frank Rosin Loita Hawkinson	425.827.3446
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatton* Cathy Radcliff Margie Denton Marilyn Johnson	425 827-3446
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson Frank Rosin Guest writer	425 827-1950
Programs:	Karen Schickling	425 827-3446
Time Keepers	Marin Harris* Shannon Harris	425-827-3446
Membership	Bob Gerrish	425-827-3446
Oral History:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
Planning and Historic Sites:	Kim Hartman* Lynette Weber	810.599.1754 425 890-9058
Scholarship Committee	Jim Neir*	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.

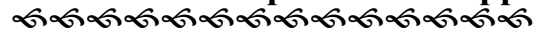
Webmaster: Christopher Neir

## 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.**



### 2020 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

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**



**Fort Jackson American Legion clubhouse**  
1922 - 1929

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

