

BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



Kirkland had its very own Georgia O'Keeffe. Thanks to eBay, one is now at the KHS Museum. See back page for more.

Volume XXIX, Issue III

May/June 2022

www.kirklandheritage.org

From the Vice-president

Chris Neir

When I was a teenager, I hadn't given much thought about the history of the city where I was born.

That changed with my grandfather's book on the political history of Kirkland and hearing his many stories about his time on the city council, from 1970 through 1991.

When I was 12, I began filming family gatherings to capture, and preserve, those hilarious and precious moments. So, as my grandfather was finishing up his book in 2005, he enlisted my help in photographing areas and certain buildings within the city. Those images were later donated to the Kirkland Heritage Society. It was this passion for recording history, that inspired me to interview my grandparents in 2007 about their life story. I captured hours of footage, and was so happy that I did, because a year later my grandmother passed away.

My interest in recording history, and at the suggestion of my grandfather, I began volunteering for the Kirkland Heritage Society and the City of Kirkland in 2017. I assisted the city's video lead, Mike Connor, with videography and video editing. In 2018, I had the privilege of photographing and editing the city's video of the 50th anniversary of Houghton merging with Kirkland. My grandfather's attendance, as well as his instrumental role in getting the merger done, made this an unforgettable moment for me.

As a volunteer for the Heritage Society, I redesigned and update the KHS website, post to their YouTube channel, their Facebook page, and digitize photographs, VHS and mini-DV tapes. In September 2021, Loita invited me to a KHS board meeting, where I was voted on the board as Vice President. My name is Christopher Neir, the proud grandson of Bob and Christine Neir. My goal is to continue to record and preserve the legacy of my grandparents, and all those who have impacted this community, and the city of Kirkland.



2022 Kirkland Cemetery Tour

Matt McCauley will guide his popular Kirkland Cemetery Tour on May 21, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Covid forced Matt to cancel the tour in 2020 and 2021. Now that masking and social distancing are a way of life, the tour is back on schedule.

This year's tour will feature some of the Civil War Veterans that rest in our historic cemetery. So mark your calendars and hope for some great weather.

Robert and Christine Neir Memorial Scholarship announced

By James Neir



This year's winning essay is *"The Valor of My Parents"* by Christina Lewis. Christina will receive \$3,000 towards her college expenses next fall.

Christina is on the varsity LWHS Cross Country and Track teams, member of the National Honor Society, volunteers with CEF, her church's hospitality team and as a tutor with Student Connections. She was also a former Kirkland Police Explorer for 3 years, interned at the Gillaspay & Rhode law firm, worked at Chipotle, and is a substitute preschool teacher. She has not yet decided on the university she will attend next year.



Japanese Americans annually hold a **Day of Remembrance** on February 19th to remember the day Executive Order 9066 was announced. This was the order that sent more than 120,000 Japanese Americans to U.S. prison camps in 1943 during World War II. Sixty eastside families totally 443 individuals left Kirkland on May 20, 1943. Local families had three months to dispose of a lifetime of memories and goods.

In the mail

Dear KHS,

I was the backup newspaper carrier for Jim Wick when we were both in high school. If Jim couldn't do his route, I took it for the time. The route was between Juanita and Kirkland. We either walked or rode our bicycles.

During the war, it was cannons with no missiles. The Juanita site was to protect Sandpoint and Lake Washington. After the war – for about 5 years – the Juanita site had missiles to protect the area from Cold War Era enemy aircraft.

I did track with Luther Davis. I was never First Team with Luther but remember him well.

I played French horn in high school. Ray Lincoln played 1st chair and I played 2nd. I was amused that Ray drove a Cadillac but his name was Lincoln.

Elliot "Paul" Fletcher
LWHS class of 1951

Yearbook photo
provided by KHS



Ray & Elliott in April of 2022



Memorials for 2 lovely ladies

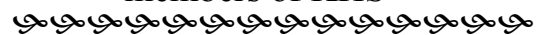
Margie Kolesar Denton

1930 – 2022
June 25, 2022
1 – 4 p.m.
Heritage Hall
203 Market Street

Jerry Schillreff Rutherford

1922 – 2022
July 16, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Congregation Church
106 Fifth Avenue

Both Margie & Jerry were charter
members of KHS



A bit of history

On May 2, 2022 Seattle acknowledged the 100 year anniversary of electing women to the Seattle City Council.

In 1912, Kirkland elected Carrie Shumway to the Town Council. Miss Shumway was the first woman council member in the state.

It is not Woman's History Month but it's still nice to acknowledge how progressive Kirkland has always been.



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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

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



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, Larry Miller, Laura May Mosing, Jim & Cathy Neir, Tom & Sally J. Neir, Richard and Kathy Nelson, Timothy & Mary Ord, Michael and Cathy Radcliff, Larry Springer/Penny Sweet, Sandi Stone, Laura Westlund.

Corporate Members:

Hallmark Realty, Madison House.

THE NORTH SEATTLE AIR PARK has a landing strip on the Juanita Cut-Off Road and recently completed an office building and hangar.



THE SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES ROTOGRAVURE

July 4, 1948

Big Finn Hill's Small Airport gone (but not forgotten) but very hard to find

By Loita Hawkinson

Local historians have frequently written about the small airport on Big Finn Hill. Many people remember it and often post their questions on Social Media or call KHS for information. Finding information about this airport is made difficult because of its name: **North Seattle Air Park**. Who would remember that?

Rather than rewrite history, your volunteer editor will let the professionals that worked for the Seattle newspapers report the history of the Finn Hill Airport.

Seattle Post Intelligencer

By Robert N. Ward
August 23, 1948

Out of the nicest small air-fields the F-by-N Editor has seen in a long time is the recently completed North Seattle Air Park, between Kenmore and Juanita on top of the hill. And it was just about all a "home-made Job." Partners Morry Proctor, a former Navy fighter pilot and Al Menard wanted an airfield to operate. But they didn't exactly desire to give all their money to a contractor.

Result: they bought a bull-dozer and a carryall from war surplus stocks, and Proctor learned to operate same. For 16 months he worked with only desultory help, at the job of clearing and grading 77 acres. Gradually a runway, 2200 feet long, ramp and parking area emerged.

Now the field has a concrete hangar, a pumice block administration building, 17 planes based there, and its first G. I. student.

The field is eight and one-half miles from the University district, and similarly near to other north end parts of the city. Its real potential, though, Proctor thinks, is to the booming area north of Seattle proper, which is building up more all the time.

The Seattle Times

March 13, 1955
By Alice Staples

Acquisition by the Lovell Construction Co. of a large tract of property adjacent to the Inglewood Golf and Country Club near Kenmore has cleared the way for a \$4,000,000 housing development. Picture Floor Plans announced yesterday. The North Seattle Air Park formerly occupied the property.

Construction has begun on the first of 216 homes which are platted. Platting still is to be completed for 84 more homes. The development will be known as Inglewood Hills. Most of the land was acquired from Lar Gill Corp., Bellingham, a theater chain. Other smaller tracts raised the total outlay to more than \$100,000 said K. A. Sanwick, Jr., of Picture Floor Plans who negotiated the sale. The real-estate company will be the exclusive sales agent for the homes.

Seattle Post Intelligencer

March 14, 1955

Dr. Wally Flynn, flying veterinarian, reports he flew the last plane to use North Seattle Air Park, which closed recently to become a residential area.

A bit more of page 5

In the mail

Here is another story about the Hunter Mock era. Ref: Luther Davis story in Jan/Feb *Blackberry*. In the fall of 1946 I was in Mr. Mock's Biology class. Mr. Mock was also the football coach, and Fridays were football days. All home games were played in the afternoon, as there were no lights at Kirkland. The games were played on the field between the High School and the Jr. High.

This particular Friday during Biology class, Bill Baker (one of the football players) came into class and sat in a chair by Mr. Mocks desk. COACH Mock then proceeded to tape up Bill's injured shoulder so he could play that afternoon. I thought it was a unique situation as I had never heard of it before in my 30 years of teaching and coaching.

Ray Lincoln
class of '48



Yearbook photo
provided by KHS



Great story on the Parks. I wonder if Barbara Parks, class of 1947, is the daughter born in Juanita. The dates seem about right. I knew Barbara really well even though she was a year older.



Ray Lincoln
Class of '48

Editor: The answer is "yes", Barbara Parks Gay is the daughter.

Barbara Parks
1947 Yearbook photo
provided by KHS

KHS Monthly Programs Heritage Hall 203 Market Street

Programs will now return as soon as they can be scheduled. We will continue to follow the current City & State guidelines.



Golden Grads is back on!!!

Ray Lincoln informed KHS that Golden Grads is scheduled for:

Saturday, October 1, 2022.

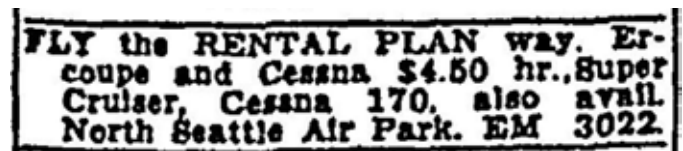
**Lake Washington High School
12033 80th Street NE
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**



Air Park continued from page 4

From the editor:

The articles have been digitized so that a 2022 media search will find the information. Morry Proctor's name was Maurice, sometimes spelled Morrie, Morry, or Maurie. The Flying Veterinarian serviced Alaska and our local remote islands. The WWII Carryall was a Dodge $\frac{3}{4}$ Ton Truck.



Programs

Karen would like suggestions for future programs:

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



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*.



Frank and Libbi. Our ever faithful newsletter folding crew.



Jelli does her part by sleeping away the hours.



KHS Website

Many of our members and visitors have mentioned the KHS website that was re-organized and is maintained by Chris Neir. Chris has digitized many of our past programs and oral histories and put them on the website. There are phonebooks dating from 1914 and into the 1950's. There are school newspapers from Kirkland High School and Lake Washington High School. Every issue of Blackberry Preserves is there. If you have a computer and have some time, please visit

www.kirklandheritage.org

Chris also maintains the KHS Facebook page...

Kirkland Heritage Society and Museum.

Facebook has a wide viewing audience and it is wonderful to see the feedback. Thank you Chris.

Kirkland Heritage Society office
and museum is now open

Monday from 10 to noon
Wednesday from 2 to 5



Frank patiently glued the 1870's (or older) china plate from Peter and Mary Kirk's home in England. It made the voyage around the horn and up the Pacific Coast to what had become Kirkland, King County, Washington Territory.

Sadly it was badly broken in 2021 on its way to the KHS Museum. Two other plates arrived safely. This plate is a treasure, damaged or not and the cracks do not show. Just took 21st Century glue, patience and Frank's steady hand.

Blackberry Preserves

President:	Frank Rosin	425.827.3446
Vice-president	Chris Neir	425.827.3446
Secretary:	Janice Gerrish	425.827.3446
Treasurer:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950
At-Large	Linda Jatton	425.827.3446
At-Large	Vic Newhard	425.892.8388
At-Large	Libbi Wright	425.827.3446
At-Large:	Andrea Kyralla	425.827.3446
At-Large:	Kim Hartman	810.599.1754

Committee Chairs & members

Archives & Collections:	Loita Hawkinson* Libbi Wright	425.827.1950 425.827.3446
Bookkeeping	Andrea Kyralla	425.827.3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827.1950 425.827.3446
Cemetery Tour & Memorial	Matt McCauley* Sue Contreras Frank Rosin Loita Hawkinson Janice Gerrish	425.827.3446
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatton* Cathy Radcliff Marilyn Johnson	425.827.3446
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson Frank Rosin Guest writers	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*	810.599.1754
Scholarship Committee	Jim Neir*	206.478.3173 425.827.3446

* Chair or Co-chairs

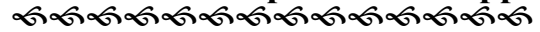
** During WWI, the Hello Girls were ladies who served as telephone operators. For KHS, these sweet ladies call and remind you of the next meeting or event.

Kirkland Heritage Society

www.kirklandheritage.org

425-827-3446

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



2022 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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**



Myrtle C. Robertson (1869-1958) began teaching at the age of 14. She received her art education at the San Francisco Art Institute from 1903 to 1906. The San Francisco earthquake and fires destroyed the Art Institute so Miss Robertson returned to teaching. She taught at Central School from 1920 until her retirement when she took up her brushes and started her second career. See front page for a sample of her art.

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

