Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the Kirkland Heritage Society

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September, 1995
President's Letter
by
Bob Burke

September -- for me a month of mixed emotions!! It means that summer is almost gone and I still have all those unfinished projects. It also means the beginning of lots of new activities and events, including those of the Kirkland Heritage Society!

Over the past two months the KHS Board has been preparing the work program and budget for 1995-1996 (See article). This exercise has been very interesting for me since it has highlighted how much the members of KHS have achieved over the past three years! It is very impressive!

As I've contacted members to help on the various committees and projects, the response has been very positive. We can look forward to more people being involved this year -- but this certainly does not mean that if you are interested that there isn't a need for more help! There is plenty for everyone to do! It is the strength of KHS.

Have you noticed? We again have articles in the Kirkland Courier. Thank you to Christina Brugman for making the arrangements. Articles will be written by Christina and Lorraine McConaghy from the oral history project; Alan will draw from his newspaper research, I will contribute on sites and buildings; and hopefully Matt's schedule will allow him to contribute.

Thanks to each of you who support KHS with your membership, your time, your ideas, and your effort!

FUNDRAISING
by Barbara Loomis

At our August Board Meeting we approved a fundraising proposal to sell entertainment books. It is an easy and risk-free way to make money for our organization. entertainment books offer savings for: restaurants, services for the home, car, health & beauty, gifts; weddings & special occasions, cleaning, clothes, sports, activities, events, airline tickets, hotels and much more.

- Books sell for $40. we earn $8.
- These are on consignment, no cost to KHS.
- Free sales materials are provided
- Unsold books in original condition may be returned for full credit.

These books are coming out the end of September so let everyone know that will be selling them. They will start off with 24 books so call me: Barbara Loomis, 827-7194 with your orders.

Remember we make $8.00 per book.
A good deal for KHS and for everyone who buys them.

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NEEDED!!

FIREPROOF TWO DRAWER FILE

In order to safely store our expanding collection of photographs, oral history tapes and other donated items, we need a good two drawer fireproof file cabinet which can be locked. If you have one which you’d be willing to donate, please call: Barbara Loomis, 827-7194. Thanks for your help!
Tales from the East Side Journal
By
Alan Stein

Last month, Christina Brugman and I were able to attend the Golden Grads reunion and talk to the attendees. Members of the Golden Grads are those people who graduated from Kirkland High School more than 50 years ago. Christina was able to find many candidates to interview for the Oral History committee, and I was able to share a lot of information that I have found in my research.

This article is from the 12/19/70 issue of The East Side Journal, and details the very first reunion of the class of 1920. It was written by Dorothy Brown.

Reunion First for Kirkland Class of ’20

“Now I’ll get to collect the kiss I didn’t get when I took you home that time,” he said, and sure enough he did. She laughed and said, “Yes, we were quite proper, weren’t we.”

The class had gathered for its first reunion.

Nine members of the Kirkland Union A High School class of 1920, husbands, wives, school friends and two former teachers held the reunion Dec 6 at the Happy Clam restaurant. There had been 13 students in the class, with 12 graduating after one moved away.

Those attending had been asked to bring pictures, diplomas, souvenirs, and memories to share. Although the school had no annual, there were plenty of pictures at the reunion and memories were as sharp as yesterday.

Clearly recalling names and events was Mrs Fred W Saxe of Seattle, who as Miss Genevieve Parker had taught many of the students in third and fourth grade at the old two-story Central School.

Actually, it wasn’t called Central School then; it was the Kirkland School. Later when other schools were built in the area, it became Central School. Primary students attended classes on the main floor of the building, with high school classes being held upstairs and in the gymnasium behind the building.

Kirkland High School, now part of the Kirkland Junior High campus, was built in 1924.

Mrs Saxe, a vivacious 81, recalled that A R Terpening was principal at that time. “I was surprised to see a picture of his University of Washington graduation class when I toured Seattle Underground recently,” she said.

Mrs Waldo Mather of Seattle, the former Miss Geneva Erikson, taught history and English in the high school from 1919 to 1924. She recalled that “the students certainly kept me on my toes because they were 19 and I was only 24.”

She also coached girl’s basketball and track. “Yes, the girls had regular teams in those days,” she said. She and her girls vividly recalled practicing in the gymnasium, which was also used for home economics, manual training and agriculture classes, as well as an auditorium.

“This meant moving the chairs out before every practice and putting them back again afterward,” they moaned in remembrance. “We hated that. But we beat Bothell to win the basketball championship.”

One memory sparked another as the graduates renewed acquaintances
and for a time were back again in Kirkland Union A High School.

Senior class president, Margaret Tronarud of Juanita, now Mrs Lu Myllenbeck, was a member of that basketball team. Now she and her husband raise Black Angus cattle on their ranch in Snohomish.

Mrs Max Hennen (Marjorie Coman) of Kirkland had the unusual distinction of being Girl’s Club president three years, then was vice-president in her senior year. She worked in the library four years, was chief librarian one year and a member of the basketball team.

“And I remember that Vern Churchill and I won the double mixed tennis championship at a field day in Fall City,” she added.

The debate team was represented by two members, Mrs Ed Wold (Dorothy Griswold) of Kirkland and Chester Tompkins of Grants Pass, Ore.

Her classmates recalled that Mrs Wold had been their valedictorian at graduation, but she wasn’t certain about that. “In fact, I’m not even sure we had a valedictorian,” she said.

However, there was no doubt that decorations for the reunion were the handiwork of the Wold family: Christmas-red flower arrangements by Mrs Wold and the golden anniversary 1920 sign, made by the Wolds’ grandchildren.

Tompkins also won honors for traveling the greatest distance, from Grants Pass where he has a garden store, to attend the reunion. In school he played football and basketball, and noted, “In those small classes it took most of the boys to make up a team.” Classmates remembered him that he was also their treasurer.

“I was called ‘Fat’ Farmer in our senior year,” George Farmer of Seattle admitted. He, too, was on the football team and recalled working part-time for McIntyre Buick in Kirkland and later drove a truck for Columbia Valley Lumber Company.

Following graduation from college, he was in public school work for 42 years. For 16 years prior to his retirement in 1967, he was principal of Queen Anne High School in Seattle.

“But I’ve kept my contacts in Kirkland as a member of Kirkland Masonic Lodge, where I worked as master in 1943,” he added.

Mrs Elizabeth Nelson of Juanita and her sister-in-law Miss Ethel Nelson of Kirkland, also joined classmates at the reunion. After graduation, Mrs Nelson went to work at the Shinstrom Bank and continued in banking until her recent retirement. She now is employed with local attorneys. Girls in the sewing class recalled that Ethel Nelson was the finest seamstress in their class.

Another football player was Lawrence Simpson of Kirkland. One classmate remembered “an excellent paper he did for biology class on the water system in Paris.” After graduation he became a seafaring man and now is owner of Simpson Nursing Home.

Mrs Norman de Soucy (Eleanor Galley) of Everett was the classmate who moved away before graduation. Even though she graduated from another school, her school memories are of this class.

Unable to attend the reunion were Paul Reine of Seattle and Maurice Curtis of Ocala Fla.; and the class wasn’t able to contact Mary Jane Williams.

One member, Gladys Feroe Teutsch, is deceased.
Although the coach, Russell Boyd of Redmond, couldn't be present, he is well-remembered by his boys, as his wife, who did attend, can attest.

Other Kirkland Union A High School graduates in attendance were Mrs Margaret Farmer Buckley of Redmond and Ed Wold of Kirkland, class of 1917; Miss Ruth Huntington of Kirkland, 1918; Dwight Farmer of Seattle, 1919; Mrs Grace Erickson Thomas of Redmond and Miss Ruth Nelson of Kirkland, 1922; and Mrs Dorothea Farmer Akishim of Seattle, 1925.

With their first class reunion such a success, everyone enthusiastically agreed they wouldn't wait another 50 years for the next one.

Note: I was able to meet Mrs Dorothy Griswold Wold at the reunion last month. She and her family enjoyed the census data from 1910 that I had with me, because she was listed on it.

September Meeting
Our September meeting will be at 7 pm, September 27, at the Kirkland Library. Alan will show us the East Side Journal database, so if you want to look up information in the old papers bring your questions and dimes for the microfilm copier. We will also look at other historic resources held by the library such as scrapbooks, old Kirkland High School yearbooks from the 1920s and 1930s, and other materials.

As to future meetings, we are currently scheduling our October program and our November speaker will be Norm Blye, who will share his knowledge of the old Lake Washington ferries with us.
Blackberry Preserves

1995-1996 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET
by Bob Burke, President

The KHS Bylaws require that the Board submit a Work Program and Budget in September - copies will be available at the next meeting. In summary, it is structured with the following priorities:

1. Basic Membership Services
2. Continuing Projects
3. New Initiatives, and
4. Long Term Goals.

Basic Membership Services include the Blackberry Preserves monthly programs and general operations of KHS. These are the primary cost of each membership. We have assumed membership growth to 100 and increased emphasis on getting more professional/business members.

Continuing Projects include efforts which we now normally do or for which we have funding: exhibit booth at Arts Festival; City Hall display; newspaper research; oral history interviews; preserving photographs and tapes; and publishing a new historic tour brochure. These are either volunteer efforts which are supported by the funds from the City for the display or from King County for the tour brochure.

New Initiatives will depend on interested members working on each of these projects and finding funding where it is required. These include: establishing an awards/recognition program which will hopefully result in plaques on historic buildings; conducting a community event to celebrate Kirkland's rich history, hopefully next spring; have an annual home tour/tea; place more interpretive markers (i.e. Juanita) on historic sites; work with the City to install the original street names in historic neighborhoods; and work with neighborhood associations to preserve our historic resources.

In the category of Achieving Long Term Goals are projects which need significant community support, funding and effort. Among these are: obtaining a permanent archives and museum in Kirkland; publishing a book of our historic photographs; preparing a video and education program on Kirkland's history and celebrating the centennial of the Incorporation of the City of Kirkland in 2005.

This is an ambitious program for a small historic society so we are working with other organizations where we have mutual goals and objectives. We are also very fortunate to have a dedicated core of volunteers; however, we can always use more help! If you would like to work on any of these efforts please call me: office - 827-6550 or home - 828-4095.
MEMBERSHIP
by Barbara Loomis

Over half of you have already renewed and we 'Thank you. I'm sure for the rest of you it has just been an oversight, what with summer vacations and getting kids back to school. I'm sure you don't want to miss any of our award winning issues of Blackberry Preserves, or programs so renew now!

Kirkland is such a special, and unique community. We know a lot about our history and have some great tangible evidence (built environment, oral history tapes, and photographs) of the people who built and lived in this town. We have an ambitious work program lined up for this year (see Bob Burkes' column), but we need your help and support. So if you haven't renewed, please take a minute to send it in.

Membership Categories

☐ Individual $20
☐ Family $25
☐ Senior/Student $10
☐ Sustaining/Supporting $100
☐ Life Member $1000
☐ Organization/Government $100
☐ Professional/Business $125
☐ Corporate $250
☐ I would like to make an additional contribution of: $____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $____

Please make checks payable to:
Kirkland Heritage Society
304 - 8th Ave. West
Kirkland, WA 98033
If questions, call: 827-7194

HELP ACHIEVE OUR GOALS
Serve on a Standing Committee:
☐ Archives and Collections Committee
☐ Education and Research Committee
☐ Membership and Funding
☐ Planning and Historic Sites Committee
☐ Programs Committee
Work on specific activity:
☐ Exhibit at Community Events
☐ Home Tour
☐ Do Photography/Update Slices
☐ Annual Recognition Program/Banquet
☐ Install Original Street Name Signs
☐ Video on Kirkland History
☐ Public Relations for KHS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT!
Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, 10635 NE 120th, Kirkland, WA 98034, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland’s past. Matthew W. McCauley, Editor. For more information call: 823-6838 or 827-7194.