Blackberry Preserves
The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society

May Meeting: Issaquah Historical Society and its Pioneer Reunion

Volume IV, Issue 5
May, 1996
May 12th to 18th was Preservation Week!! The theme is Preserve Community!! This is very appropriate for KHS considering our efforts over the past few years. The objective is to encourage communities to retain their unique character and to preserve their historic identity for future generations.

Every time our members go out into the Kirkland community we seem to make more contacts which help us achieve our mission! At a Chamber of Commerce function at the office of one of members - Myron Lewis - Barbara Loomis and I met a professional photographer who is willing to help on the Historic Tour Brochure; a member of a nationally recognized landscape architecture firm who may donate the design a new base for interpretive markers and re-established ties with the firm that made our initial historic signs - who thinks they still have the design on file.

At our presentation to the Kirkland Rotary we had discussion with representatives of the Lake Washington School District who are interested in having a display on the history of Kirkland and encouraged us to use high school students in doing our oral interviews.

Alan Stein carried the KHS banner at the Lakeview Mother's Day Walk. Paula Riggert is expanding our publicity effort on meetings and other activities! Thanks!!

Exciting programs coming up!!
May - Issaquah Pioneer Days presentation
June - Meet Saturday the 29th at 5:15 on the Virginia V at the Downtown Marina Park.
July - Arts and Crafts Festival - 13th & 14th
August - Tour of Marsh Mansion on the 4th.

We still need someone to help arrange the monthly programs starting this Fall - The Board will help! Are you willing? Please call me - 827-6550 (o) or 828-4095 (h).
MAY PRESIDENT'S LETTER
by Bob Burke

May 12th to 18th was Preservation Week!! The theme is Preserve Community!! This is very appropriate for KHS considering our efforts over the past few years. The objective is to encourage communities to retain their unique character and to preserve their historic identity for future generations.

Every time our members go out into the Kirkland community we seem to make more contacts which help us achieve our mission! At a Chamber of Commerce function at the office of one of members - Myron Lewis - Barbara Loomis and I met a professional photographer who is willing to help on the Historic Tour Brochure; a member of a nationally recognized landscape architecture firm who may donate the design a new base for interpretive markers and re-established ties with the firm that made our initial historic signs - who thinks they still have the design on file.

At our presentation to the Kirkland Rotary we had discussion with representatives of the Lake Washington School District who are interested in having a display on the history of Kirkland and encouraged us to use high school students in doing our oral interviews.

Alan Stein carried the KHS banner at the Lakeview Mother's Day Walk. Paula Riggert is expanding our publicity effort on meetings and other activities! Thanks!!

Exciting programs coming up!!
May - Issaquah Pioneer Days presentation
June - Meet Saturday the 29th at 5:15 on the Virginia V at the Downtown Marina Park.
July - Arts and Crafts Festival - 13th & 14th
August - Tour of Marsh Mansion on the 4th.

We still need someone to help arrange the monthly programs starting this Fall - The Board will help! Are you willing? Please call me - 827-6550 (o) or 828-4095 (h).

MAY PROGRAM
ISSAQUAH'S PIONEER REUNION
May 29, 1997
7:00 p.m.
Kirkland Congregational Church

The Issaquah Historical Society hosts an extremely interesting annual Pioneer Reunion. It received an AKCHO Award two years ago! This fun community event brings people together to learn about Issaquah's history. Nancy Horrocks, President of the Society, and other members will present their video, scrapbook and other stories of the event.

Rides to KHS Meetings
If you need rides to our meetings, George Harris has offered to arrange them for members. Please call him at 822-7141.

FUTURE KHS PROGRAMS
JULY 13th and 14th
Kirkland Arts and Crafts Fair
Sign up to help at the Booth!
Call Bob Burke - 827-6550

AUGUST 11
Marsh Mansion Home Tour!!

OTHER HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

Archives Management in Museums and Historical Societies
June 15th, 1996
Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle
Call Heritage Resource Center, Olympia 360 - 586-0219

AKCHO
June 25th, 9:30 to Noon
Sno-Valley Center, Carnation
Historic Landscapes in King County

King County Heritage Festival
July 6 and 7th
Marymoor Museum

Great Northern Railway Historical Convention
July 7-10, Bellingham
Includes an excursion on a steam train!
Write John Thomas, 328 E Roselawn Ave.
Maplewood, MN. 55117
HISTORIC VIRGINIA V
VISITS KIRKLAND MARINA PARK
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - FREE!
JUNE 29th and 30th

The historic wooden steamboat, Virginia V, will visit Kirkland the last weekend in June to be open to the public - FREE! It will be open Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

This is the only remaining ship of the famous "Mosquito Fleet" which was once the lifeline and lifeblood of Puget Sound. This fleet of ships called at over 215 stops from Olympia to Clallam Bay. The Virginia V Foundation is in the process of raising funds to do the necessary maintenance and repairs which will again allow it to carry passengers! Information on the ship, its rich history and this ambitious restoration effort will be available! Tell your friends! Bring the family to see this fascinating vessel on June 29th and 30th!!

JUNE KHS PROGRAM
ABOARD THE VIRGINIA V
5:15 p.m.
Saturday, June 29th, 1996

Our June meeting on the Virginia V is on Saturday, not Wednesday! Members will be able to board the ship after it closes to the public for a special presentation and tours by Capt. Don Moss and members of the crew.

Put this event on your calender now!

THANKS !!!!
BELLEVUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The meeting at the Winters House in Bellevue was a real treat!! In addition to the presentation by the Society, seeing the restoration of the Winters House and the Archives which they have in it was very inspiring. Their membership commitment to keep the house open 3 days a week is very commendable. I think everyone came away thinking how nice it would be to have a "home" like that for the Kirkland Heritage Society! Again, thanks for the great program!

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

As our membership becomes more involved, we thought we would publish periodically a list of the officers and committee chairs so you know who to contact if you have an idea about an event or want to work on a specific project.

Board of Directors
Bob Burke, President 827-6550/828-4095
Alan Stein, Vice President 821-0164
Barbara Loomis, Secretary 827-7194
Laura Westlund, Treasurer 827-6676/8278114
Matt McCauley, Comm. Officer 823-6838
Loita Hawkins, At-Large 827-1950
Corey Kahler, Past President 823-6232

Committee Chairs
Archives and Collections
Sue Carter, Co-Chair 822-5486
Don Winters, Co-Chair 827-2650
Education and Research
Christina Brugman, Co-Chair 821-3605
Lorraine McConaghy, Co-Chair 827-2927
Membership
Barbara Loomis, Chair 827-7194
Planning and Historic Sites
Lynette Friberg, Co-Chair 827-2936
Velda Wilson, Co-Chair 641-0528
Programs
Bob Burke, Acting Chair 827-6550
George Harris, Rides to Meetings 822-7141
Loita Hawkins, Refreshments 827-1950
Paula Riggert, Publicity 828-6103
Special Committees
Marsh Mansion Tour - L. Friberg 827-2936
Historic Tour Brochure - Bob Burke 827-6550
Alvin Curtis has had a colorful life. He spent a semester at Stanford University; later attended the University of Oregon and concluded his education at the University of Washington just before the school was moved from Seattle's metropolitan center to the present campus. During most of his 81 years he's been around boats. Needless to say, the end of boat transportation on the Lake is a nostalgic matter to Alvin Curtis. But time marches on.

Boy, wouldn't it be interesting to have a look at Mr. Curtis' old scrapbook-diary? Does anyone have any idea what ever happened to it? If you know, call Matt McCauley at 823-6838.

The Cover: Virginia V

Since we'll be holding our June meeting aboard this vessel, it is worth taking a look back over her career.

The Virginia V was constructed in 1922 by Matthew Anderson at Maplewood near Olalla for the Seattle-Tacoma route of the West Pass Transportation Company. A wooden steamer of 122 tons, her dimensions at construction were 115.9 x 24.1 x 7.1 and she was equipped with a 400 horsepower triple-expansion steam engine. She was one of only two wooden passenger steamers built on Puget Sound after 1920.

She operated on this run until 1940, finding new employment when the federalization of the Washington National Guard artillery batteries and later induction of draftees swelled the garrison at the Harbor Defenses of Puget Sound. She was added to the regular government tenders stationed at Port Townsend, plying between Seattle and the forts--Worden, Casey and Flagler--with military personnel and supplies.

In 1942 she was transferred to the Columbia River, operating briefly on the Portland-Astoria route. Later that year she was libeled for debt and sold before the end of the year to the Freemont Boat Co. of Seattle. Although her stint in Oregon, the little steam boat was earned the distinction of being the last scheduled passenger steamboat to operate on both Puget Sound (Seattle-Tacoma route) and the Columbia River (Portland-Astoria route).

In 1944 she was sold again, this time to J.S. Katz and Capt. Howell Parker. For a time she carried war workers between Poulsbo and the Keyport Naval Torpedo

---

1 The other was the Vashona, whose name was later changed to Sightseer and Columbia Queen. She moved to perform excursion service on the Columbia River in 1964.
Station and later that year resumed service on the Seattle-Tacoma route, making two daily round trips via the East Pass. In this service she was commanded by Capt Parker, with his wife, Mary, as purser. The cover photo might have been taken around this time; it shows her with the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in the background.

By 1947 she was operating between Bainbridge Island and the downtown Seattle ferry terminal. Labor troubles in 1948 prompted the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce to charter her for summer excursion service through the San Juan Islands.

In 1954 the Seattle Maritime Day tugboat races offered a non-towing commercial vessel category, which drew an interesting assortment of vessels including the Virginia V and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' stern-wheel steamer W.T. Preston and coastal motor steamer Dispatch, as well as several others. The smoothly running 400-horsepower triple-expansion engine of the Virginia V and the skilled hand of her master—then Capt. Phil Luther who had purchased her that year from the Howells—at her helm won her the victory in the event.

I'll end things there, since I suspect our June guests will give us a more in-depth explanation of the vessels past thirty or so years.

The thing to remember about the Virginia V is that she is the last of a vessel type that was a part of early Puget Sound and Lake Washington residents' everyday lives. Seeing her on the lake allows one to visualize the classic lake excursion boats, like the Atlanta, Fortuna and Urania.

—Matt McCauley

2 That same season, Vashon Island Residents secured the 35-car Houghton-built Lake Washington steam ferry Lincoln from the King County Commissioners for their cross-Sound route.

In his memoir of the war, "Goodbye, Darkness," Mr. Manchester wrote: "Rip's body absorbed most of the shock. It disintegrated, and his flesh, blood, brains, and intestines encompassed me. . . My back and left side were pierced by chunks of shrapnel and fragments of Rick's bones. I also suffered brain injury."

Mr. Manchester was evacuated. Two months later the war was over.

Fast forward nearly 50 years to January 1994. Mr. Manchester, now 72, feels chest pains. He has suffered, in his words, a "small heart attack, which was relieved by angioplasty."

As his doctors are studying X-rays of his heart, they discover a foreign object some two centimeters long in the right ventricle.

It is a bullet.

William Manchester apparently had been shot as he lay on the ground, unconscious, after being blown up on Okinawa. Memories may fade and interest may wane, but history doesn't get more real than a bullet in the heart.

At one time or another during World War II there were 16 million of us in uniform," said Mr. Manchester. He noted that there were a million American casualties, and 400,000 "didn't come back."

"We were a special generation," he said. "After the war we got married and had children and we were America. You get used to that. And then, very, very slowly, over a period of half a century, it eroded."

The men who fought in World War II are "now just the fringe," he said, a tiny percentage of the nation's population, "and that's shrinking every year. In a few years we'll be completely gone."

It was not said sourly, but there was disappointment in his voice. Disappointment that the experiences and, yes, the wisdom of the elders are treated so cavalierly in a society that worships the young.

"There are certain experiences that everyone goes through," he said. "And if you're elderly you know some of the pitfalls because you've fallen into them, and this is advice you can pass on."

Mr. Manchester is still in pain, and the bullet is still lodged in his heart, but the doctors say he is healing nicely. He will be 74 on April Fool's Day.
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. E-mail: mccaule@seattleu.edu

Kirkland Heritage Society
10635 NE 120th
Kirkland, WA 98034