Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the Kirkland Heritage Society

Volume IV, Issue 6  June, 1996
JUNE PRESIDENT'S LETTER
by BOB BURKE

We have a lot of exciting things to look forward to and participate in the next three months!!

Meeting on the Virginia V
Saturday, June 29, 5:15 p.m.
Arts and Crafts Festival Booth
July 13 & 14, Parkplace
Marsh Mansion Tour
August 11, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Plan now to attend all of these - be sure to RSVP for the Virginia V so we can arrange enough ice cream and sarsaparilla! Call 827-7194 or 828-4095 - leave messages!

We still need lots of help at the exhibit booth at the Arts and Crafts Festival on both days! We also need someone to help arrange monthly programs. Please give me a call at 828-4095.

Alan Stein spoke at the Greater Kirkland Chamber of Commerce luncheon this month looking back at Kirkland's colorful waterfront and maritime history. Paula Riggert made posters for the Virginia V and has them distributed in the schools and all around Kirkland. Lynette Friberg has been very busy making arrangements for the Marsh Mansion Tour on August 11th. The Committee will be meeting on June 26th. Don Winters, Corrine Hieb and Dr. Ernest McKibben are working to identify the archival needs of KHS and to see what options are open for us to find a place to secure our growing photo and document collection.

Work on the new Historic Tour Brochure is continuing and we are working to see if we can get someone to help fund the printing of a larger brochure or a second brochure.

We're getting a good early response to the membership renewal! Thank You!!
TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!

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! It will be open to the public - FREE! It is 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. 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. We have invited City Officials and Officers and Boards of the Community Organizations with which we have worked over the past year! A thank you for their help and support! We will also have an old fashioned ice cream social!

Please RSVP - 827-7194 or 828-4095
We need a count for the refreshments.
Thanks! See you there!!

Rides to KHS Meetings

If you need a ride to our meetings, George Harris has offered to arrange them for members. Please call him a few days in advance 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
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Marsh Mansion Home Tour!!

This committee will meet at the Kirkland Congregational Church at 7:00 p.m., June 26, 1996. For information contact Lynette Frigberg, 827-2936.

TRAINING TO CONDUCT SURVEYS OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES

We are arranging for a training session on conducting surveys of historic structures to be given by Clo Copass, Preservation Planner, King County Landmarks staff. The objective is to understand the critical elements which are necessary for a structure to be considered historic. These are currently scheduled in July during the week of the 15th and the 22nd. For information contact Velda Wilson, 641-0528 CoChair, Planning and Historic Sites Committee. We hope to get a representative from each of the Neighborhood Associations to attend.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The special committee of the Archives and Collection Committee met last month - an extremely dedicated group - it was during a Sonics/Bulls game. Members are Corrine Hieb, Dr. Ernest McKibben and Don Winters. The purpose of the group is to define what KHS archival needs are and to prepare a program of how we can achieve it. As our collection of photographs and other documents grows, it is imperative that we have appropriate space in which to safely store them and to allow accessibility for our own projects and those of the citizens of Kirkland.

King County Heritage Festival
July 6th and 7th
Marymoor Museum
MEMBERSHIP
by Barbara Loomis

We are off to a great start in membership renewals, especially in sustaining memberships and additional contributions!! Thank you. We have very ambitious plans for which we need your support monetarily and on committees. Please let us know if you can help! We also need help at the Kirkland Festival of the Arts in July and the Marsh Mansion Tour in August.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Susan Schwartz & Curt Cooper
Auggie Kempf and Bob Pantley, Chamber of Commerce Auction winners!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RENEWAL OF A SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP
Bob Burke
Barbara Loomis
Bill Petter
Thomas Grismer & Paula Riggert

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
Christina Brugman       Nona Ganz
L.G. (Jerry) Marsh      Bernard Peach
Richard Shinnstrom
Rick & Lisa Altig
Krystal & Gary Gannaway
Dale & Loita Hawkinson
John & Teddy Overleese
Michael & Anne Radcliff
Michael & Kit Seaman

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADDITIONAL DONATION
Bernard Peach
Dale & Loita Hawkinson

Rediscovering Ray Bishop’s Me & Kirkland During the Depression 1930-1940

Working to chronicle Kirkland’s past is a rewarding hobby, but does have its frustrations. One is that, unlike some communities, there has not been a continuous effort to record historical data here; instead there were several different efforts over the decades and an unfortunate byproduct of this fact has been the loss of data. Photos, diaries and transcribed memories all painfully collected by individuals hoping to preserve them for posterity have subsequently been lost, stolen or simply tossed out with the trash.

Thankfully, KHS’ permanent archive committee is working hard to end that problem by obtaining for KHS something Kirkland badly needs: an historical archive facility of some sort. In the meantime, those of us who collect data often end up duplicating predecessors’ efforts by re-collecting items that had been previously available.

Enter Ray Bishop’s 1978 (revised 1979) compilation of depression-era Kirkland recollections. This typewriter-written, indexed, 33 page document seems to have been distributed in very limited numbers by its author nearly 20 years ago. The copy I read was a photocopy, perhaps of another photocopy, that was donated recently to KHS. When first released, Mr. Bishop’s work received some local media attention; well-remembered local historical journalist Lucile McDonald wrote of it in the Journal-American on August 23 and September, 1980 and those columns were reproduced in Lucile McDonald’s Eastside Notebook: 101 Historical Vignettes.

Bishop, who came to Kirkland in 1927, wrote in his forward:

“The generations of the 1960s probably wouldn’t understand what the people of the
1930s went through to just merely exist. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was President of the United States during those years, brought us out of the depression, but it cost us plenty in lives lost during World War II.”

He continues in his dedication: “This booklet is dedicated to my wife, Evelyn, who stood by me through the depression even though the cupboards were bare on several occasions during that decade.”

The rest of the work is divided among ten short chapters and an index. Bishop sets the stage nationally, interweaving national and worldwide events and individuals with his experiences while living in Kirkland.

He follows through with considerable detail by mentioning the names of people with whom he came into contact, where dwellings and businesses were located, prices and the like.

Bishop begins the book in 1932, when he worked as a meatcutter for Bosworth’s Market, located in the south part of Joe Martin’s Grocery. He adds that the store stood “where J.C. Penny is now located. (1978).” [J.C. Penny was then located on Lake St. S. between Kirkland Ave. and Central Wy.] This kind of detail is helpful and is provided throughout the work.

After losing his job, Bishop and his wife cashed in their insurance policies—he mentions Ray Gardner was his insurance man—and bought some raw land on (south) Rose Hill, on the northeast corner of 116th Ave. NE and NE 73 St. There, the two built a 20 X 20 foot dwelling and moved in with their infant.

“Harry borrowed a Model A Ford truck from Chuck Morford (Donnie Boyce’s brother-in-law) and we drove to Redmond where, right across the street from the Redmond Golf Course, someone was tearing down a large old store and selling the lumber. We loaded on such a large load (for $15) that I had to ride the hood of the truck to hold the front end down while going up the hill from Redmond to Kirkland.”

“Harry and I started at once getting enough brush cleared to lay the timbers for our 20 X 20 foot house. I worked by a man by the name of Walker in exchange for some chimney blocks and some kitchen cupboards... I gave Donnie Boyce a 16 gauge shotgun for moving us in to the new house... We had no windows... We did have a door, but I’d rather not say where I got that.”

Bishop also provides a glimpse into areas often neglected by more conventional local history books. For example:

“There were also the Brown Shirts and Nazis on Rose Hill. They used to meet at a house near Evelyn’s [Mrs. Bishop’s] folks. They would fly the Nazi flag and play the old German music on a piano accordion. Harry and I were going to shoot the flag down one afternoon, but Evelyn’s mother talked us out of it. It was rumored that the butcher, Mr. Goldab, who had a meat market in Kirkland was one of the ring leaders of the Nazi party here, and he was asked to leave town. Anyway, he departed for parts unknown.”

Bishop later worked as a laborer for the Civilian Conservation Corps and surveying for the Works Progress Administration.

Bishop’s account proves that one needn’t have been rich, a town leader or socially prominent to have valuable memories.

I have a challenge for our senior members who lived here during WWII, the Depression or before: Write your memories down, as Mr. Bishop did. Name names, mention what was located where and what you thought about things at the time. This information is far more valuable than you may think, since it is human nature, I suspect, to de-value one’s own experiences.
Editorial

This photograph of a U.S. Marine is the strongest editorial on the war we have yet seen.

No words yet written, no amount of flag waving, no dramatic program on the air can compare with the potency of this picture. It tells its story with searing clarity.

What does this photo do to you? On the Ways would like to know. Letters received will be published in the next issue.
Blackberry Preserves

Instead of looking at the *Eastside Journal* this month, here are items from another well-remembered Kirkland paper that was published or the Lake Washington Shipyards from 1942-45.

*We Nominate for Distinguished Service...*

Sherm Stuart saw the Indians paddle by in their canoes.

"I may be seventy-five years old, but I'm young enough to kick that hat off your head." In that one sentence you have a picture of Roger Sherman Stuart, who has been in the Lake Washington Shipyards since the time "Indians used to paddle by in their canoes."

There is more genuine "shipbuilding blood" in "Sherm" Stuart's veins than you will find in just about all the Pacific Northwest combined. Sherm's grandfather owned a shipyard at Machiasport, Maine, and built some of the finest clippers and coastal traders that ever flew the flag of the thirteen colonies Sherm's father learned the shipbuilding trade in that yard and so did the subject of this sketch.

"Well, I've been fifty-two years in Seattle. I came to LWS in 1905. At that time there was but one 10x12 shanty with a shake lean-to at the shipyard and a marine cradle that didn't work. Tools? We didn't have any except our own.

"Yes, sir, those were great old days. The lake steamer "Atlanta" was the first ship built at Houghton and we launched her in 1906.

"How well I remember, the muddy old road that ran from Kirkland to the yard. Bill Coffman was the drayman who brought our freight and machinery from the ferry. Time and again his team would get stuck in the mud and our whole crew of perhaps a dozen would knock off work, hike through the woods and boost the wagon out of the chuck holes," Sherm Stuart reminisced.

"We built two steamers for the A.Y. P. Exposition trade, the yacht "Rainer" for Andrew Hemrick, a tug boat for Adolph Anderson and barges and scows. We built four ships for the first World War. You know, as a matter of fact, last year I was ready to retire, kinda take things easy after all these years. Then came this war, and gosh, I knew that I had to come back to help you young fellows build ships and lick the Japs."

When you first meet Sherm, you'd swear he is fifteen years younger. He moves fast. He thinks fast. His conversation sparkles like his eyes.

Out on the Ferry Leschi where he and his gang were putting down new decking, Sherm was proud of the work of his men. "Just look what a fine job those men are doing. There isn't another gang of ship carpenters in this part of the country can do as good work on Sunday as they do every day of the week."

Sherm Stuart, who can trace his family tree back to Mary, Queen of Scots, is that rare type of man who knows his business thoroughly, directs well and gives the credit to the men who work with him.

Roger Sherman Stuart well deserves this recognition of his distinguished service throughout the years.
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. E-mail: mccaule@seattleu.edu

Kirkland Heritage Society
10635 NE 120th
Kirkland, WA 98034

Sue Carter
120 -3rd Ave.
Kirkland, WA 98033