Blackberry Preserves
The Journal of the Kirkland Heritage Society

Peter Kirk's Dream -- Kirkland, Pittsburgh of the West!
Shown here the Great Western Iron & Steel Works on Rose Hill about 1891, never produced an ounce of steel.
SEPTEMBER PRESIDENT’S LETTER
by
BOB BURKE

August was a very eventful month in the life of the Kirkland Heritage Society:

1. We received our 501-c-3 designation from the IRS;
2. The first two historic interpretive markers were installed: one by Rotary Club of Kirkland at the Ferry Dock next to Marina Park and, of course, the one we sponsored for Peter Kirk on Waverly Way (3 more will be installed this month); and
3. Recommendations on historic preservation in the Community Character chapter of Kirkland’s Comprehensive Plan were adopted by the Planning Commission. These recommendations will provide a much stronger policy base for maintaining the character of Kirkland in all respects, not just historic preservation! I want to thank the Planning Staff and Planning Commission for their effort in placing these policies in the plan!

We are working to get back on a regular schedule of meetings now that Fall has arrived. Shannon Harris, Program Committee Chair, is working hard to line up an exciting and varied program for the next few months. I want to urge you to attend this month’s program with Lorraine McConaghy! Lorraine is a tremendous resource on the history of Kirkland and we are fortunate that she is as a member of KHS and assists us on programs and other efforts such as the interpretive markers.

We still need a Membership Committee Chair! Please call me - 828-4095 - if interested!

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS HISTORIC PRESERVATION POLICIES KIRKLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Over the past year and a half the Kirkland Planning Commission has been working on updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan. One of the major elements of the plan to be expanded was the Community Character Chapter. We have worked with the planning staff, particularly Angela Ruggeri, and have provided examples of historic preservation approaches from other jurisdictions, suggested draft language, and information from our survey of historic properties as well as sat through a lot of meetings and hearings.

The results are that the goals and policies on historic preservation are much more evident and stronger in the recommendations! Among the changes recommended to City Council by the Planning Commission are:

2. Strengthening and clarification of the present Goals and Policies on historic preservation in the Community Character chapter.
3. The inclusion of two new Policies:
   - When adjacent to recognized historic resources new or remodeled structures should consider and respect the historic building.
   - Providing regulatory and financial incentives to owners to retain historic structures.
4. Incorporating the current list of 21 historic structures and sites recognized by the City and adding 8 structures and 2 sites to that list. (We had recommended additional sites as community landmarks; however it was decided to evaluate these this fall when regulations will be proposed. This will provide more time to research these properties and to talk to owners.)
5. The list of 442 buildings and sites KHS has identified will be referenced in the plan as being available in the Planning Department.
6. Work Program on historic preservation regulations to be done this fall.
THANKS!!
NORTH ROSE HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

As part of our effort to inventory all of the historic properties in the City, we have sent the summary of buildings and sites by neighborhood to each of the Kirkland’s Neighborhood Associations. We have also offered to do presentations at their monthly programs. Last month Ray Hansen, Chair of the North Rose Hill Neighborhood Association; Dave Asher, Vice Chair; and Nancy Stephens, their representative to KHS, drove through their neighborhood and looked at each of the buildings and sites we had identified.

Through that process we were able to correct a couple addresses; noted a structure that had been demolished; deleted one due to the amount of remodeling; and actually added two structures for additional research. Because of their effort we now have a more accurate data base. They noted, that they now have a better understanding of what we are looking for in each neighborhood.

Thanks for your effort!!

We are now following through with the other Neighborhood Associations to urge them to designate a representative to work with us (they don’t have to be a member of KHS, although it would be nice) as well as to look at our inventory in the same comprehensive manner done by North Rose Hill. It assures that landmarks of importance to each neighborhood are included for additional consideration!!

When this project is completed we will be looking for a sponsor to print the entire inventory which will be between 800 to 1,000 pages in length with all of the photographs and documentation. Again thanks to Lynette Friberg and Velda Wilson for all their hours in the archives and to Barbara Loomis and Bob Burke for surveying the neighborhoods and compiling the data base.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

RAISE HELL AND SELL NEWSPAPERS

Lorraine McCoragh will tell us about the life and times of Alden J. Blethen as portrayed in her new book Raise Hell and Sell Newspapers, September 24, 7: p.m., at the Kirkland Congregational church.

As stated on the back of the book: Raise Hell and Sell Newspapers, the lively biography of Alden J. Blethen, traces the newspaperman’s life from his birth in 1845 to his death in 1915. Longtime editor-in-chief of The Seattle Times, Blethen became the most powerful and influential publisher in the Northwest and one of the foremost newspapermen of his generation. Authors Sharon A. Boswell and Lorraine McCoragh tell the compelling story of this self-made man during a period of dramatic change in American life.

Alden Blethen arrived in Seattle broke in 1896, after making and losing fortunes as a newspaper owner and publisher in Kansas City and Minneapolis. One year later, the Klondike gold rush transformed the muddy Puget Sound seaport into a magnificent boomtown. Using a loan from his brother-in-law, Blethen purchased a share in The Seattle Times. During the next two decades, as Seattle grew into the queen city of the Northwest, Blethen transformed The Times into the regions largest paper and reclaimed his family’s fortune.

Raise Hell and Sell Newspapers is the dramatic story of a man, his paper, and his city—meticulously researched, eminently readable, and filled with more than 270 exquisite illustrations.

KLONDIKE READERS THEATRE AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND INDUSTRY

The Klondike Readers Theatre will be forming a production of Voices of the Klondike Gold Rush 1897-1898, a multimedia stage presentation combining images and recitations of Gold rush letters and newspaper articles. Our own KHS Vice-President (and master thespian) Alan Stein will be providing his rich, stentorian voice to this production. Scheduled dates are September 20, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; September 28, 7:30 p.m.; September 29, 9:30 a.m. and October 27, 9:30 a.m. Call MOHAI at 324-1126 for more information.
TALES FROM THE EAST SIDE JOURNAL
BY ALAN STEIN

Here's an end-of-the-summer mini-adventure for you to undertake. The following article is taken from the November 11, 1937 issue of the East Side Journal and describes the beautification of "Beach Drive" or what is now called Lake Ave. West. This is the road that continues along the shoreline at the corner of Central and Market Street.

The article mentions and shows a photograph of a scenic path that was built just below the old High School. What happened to this path? I heard that some of the rock wall (shown in the photo) is still there, but most of it has been buried over time.

This path would have been in what is now a public park, which means that you're free to explore the site (don't go tearing things up, though). I haven't had the time to check this out myself, but if you're up for a little suburban archaeology, please go down to the park and poke around. Tell us if you find anything.

"Beach Drive" is Transformed into Wide, Beautiful Scenic Road

Beach Drive - once an unsightly strip of road running along the shore of Lake Washington from Market Street west to the property of the woolen mills - has become one of the most scenic drives in the residential district of Kirkland.

Through the cooperation of the Town of Kirkland, the W.P.A. and the property owners, Beach drive has been changed from a narrow road to one measuring 60 feet in width - well-graded and surfaced.

With its completion last week Mayor L. H. Jaycox announced that all the W.P.A. money which had been allotted for road improvement in Kirkland had been used up. Until another grant is made, the W.P.A. construction will be concluded here.

The Beach Drive project was sponsored by the Town of Kirkland. The labor was furnished by the Works Progress Administration and the materials, including gravel and tile, were furnished by the property owners. The drive, which required about three months of labor, has been under the direct supervision of Mayor Jaycox.

The accompanying pictures show a view of the road taken from the Market Street entrance and the other shows Mayor Jaycox standing on the scenic path which connects the road with the land adjoining the junior high school. This carefully constructed walkway has strong guardrails on the side.

This new construction project is considered a big asset to the Town of Kirkland. A drainage system to prevent frequent flooding in the basements of the homes has been installed and an artistic entrance to this residential district is being contemplated.
Let Us Count the Ways:
Demonstrating the Value of Heritage with Numbers
by Karen Luetjen

Since many of us work in the realm of collections that are "priceless" or irreplaceable," we find it difficult to place a value on the services we offer to the community. But to find the support we need for our projects, it helps to track our services and assign numbers and values whenever possible.

For example, how often in a week does your phone ring with a research inquiry, or request for photographs? It is important to keep a running tally of these inquiries. How many calls come in? Who calls? Are they calls from school children, the media, home owners, the City?

How many hours does it take for you to answer their questions? Your time has a value. When any volunteers give their time to an organization, the number of hours should be recorded. The numbers may surprise you. Dedicated volunteers often pile up hours by running errands, shopping, getting photos copied, making calls. Its important to record these tasks, because the organization may not function without them. Think about assigning a modest (not to modest), hypothetical salary rate to the total hours donated to your organization. How much does that add up to? Does it accurately reflect what your municipality or community might have to pay if they started this organization from scratch?

Reprinted with permission from Karen Luetjen, Executive Director of Marymoor Museum. Edited by Barbara Loomis.

Editors note: I think I put in an average of 15-20 hours a week. Now I'm going to keep track and see! I'll let you know.
KIRKLAND ROTARY CLUB INTERPRETIVE MARKER, BEFORE THERE WERE BRIDGES, DEDICATED AUGUST 22, 1997 AT THE OLD KIRKLAND FERRY DOCK SITE

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY INTERPRETIVE MARKER, PETER KIRK - FOUNDER OF KIRKLAND, DEDICATED AUGUST 27, 1997 AT THE WAVERLY SCHOOL SITE
MEMBERSHIP
by Barbara Loomis

Times running out!!
If you haven’t renewed your membership please do so right away. This is the last Blackberry Preserves that we can send to you without a current membership. Your support is very important to us and we would hate to loose touch with you.

We have had a very good response with new memberships.

Welcome and Thank you for your Corporate membership:
Richard Jamison of the Kirkland Rotary Club

Welcome and Thank you for your Professional/Business membership:
Jim Lauinger of Woods Lakeshore Pharmacy

Welcome new members:
Dale Christian
Roger & Joyce Kirk
Bob & Carolyn Norman
John Stenhouse &
Mary-Alyce Burleigh
David & Patty Tucker

Thank you for your renewal:
Lynette Friberg
Ulrich & Nona Ganz

MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

☐ Individual $20
☐ Family $25
☐ Senior/Student $15
☐ Supporting $100
☐ Life Member $1,000
☐ Organization/Government $100
☐ Professional/Business $125
☐ Corporate $250

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Your membership is the first important step in helping achieve our goals. Interested in helping on other projects? Please indicate the areas in which you would be able to volunteer.

Serve on a Standing Committee:
☐ Archives and Collections
☐ Education and Research
☐ Membership and Funding
☐ Planning and Historic Sites
☐ Monthly Programs

Work on specific activity:
☐ Exhibit at Community Events
☐ Home Tour
☐ Do Photography/Update Slides
☐ Install Original Street Name Signs
☐ Video on Kirkland History
☐ School Education Program

Name__________________________
Address________________________
City________________ State Zip______
Home#________________ Work#________
Organization/Firm________________

Checks should be made payable and mailed to: Kirkland Heritage Society, 304 – 8th Ave. W., Kirkland, WA 98033. Phone: (425) 827-7194

Kirkland Heritage Society
September 1997
A small but dedicated group of Kirkland Heritage Society members who attended the dedication of the KHS interpretive marker:
L-R Back Row: Tom Hitzroth, Joyce & Roger Kirk, Bob Burke, Vic Newhard, Lynette Friberg, Christina Brugman, Front Row: Tom’s guest, Sue Carter, Angie Eggers, Alan Stein

Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, 304 - 8th Ave. West, Kirkland, WA 98033, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland’s past. To contribute articles or for more information on KHS, please call Barbara Loomis, Editor, (425) 827-7194.