LOOKING NORTH ACROSS JUANITA BEFORE THE LAKE WAS LOWERED IN 1916. THE BUILDING IS THE FORBES’ ESTABLISHMENT AND STEAM SHIP LANDING. HARRY LANGDON’S STORE CAN BE SEEN TO THE RIGHT OF THE BRIDGE ON THE FAR SHORE.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JOSTEN FAMILY, KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY COLLECTION
FEBRUARY PRESIDENTS LETTER
by
Bob Burke

Inserted in this issue of *Blackberry Preserves* is a one page summary of the highlights of 1997!! Its difficult getting everything on one page. On the back of that is a draft of the 5 year goals the Board and Committee Chairs discussed at our recent workshop. If you have comments or suggestions, please call me - 828-4095.

Last Month I put out a call for volunteers with a long list of needs! Darby Johnson responded saying she would help on research for the inventory and assist in accounting. We have volunteers to help set up the KHS Web Page. Kelli Adam volunteered her services last year. Others who will be involved are: Cathy Smith, Alan Stein, and Loita Hawkinson. We also need a person with technical expertise.

Lynette Friberg has resigned as co-chair of the Planning and Historic Sites Committee because of her move to Orcas Island; however Vic Newhard has agreed to become co-chair. I want to thank Lynette for all her effort on the research to identify buildings and sites with historic potential in Kirkland. She and Velda spent hours at the State Archives. Fortunately, she will remain as the KHS Secretary!

The Board / Committee Chairs workshop was very lively and productive. Thanks to Hazel and Edgar Kelly for letting us meet in their historic home - French House - and for the wonderful goodies to eat!

Thanks again and again to everyone who helps KHS do all that it does!!

BOARD / COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Board / Committee Workshop on February 7th was attended by 15 people who gave up a sunny Saturday morning. Thanks to everyone for your dedication to KHS.

The results of the morning are summarized in the six goals on the insert to this issue of *Blackberry Preserves*. As you can see, this is an ambitious vision for the next five years, but think what has occurred since Barbara Loomis restarted the organization in 1992. Quite Amazing!

The major thrust of the next 2 to 3 years will be on the Oral History Program. We have made great strides on preserving our physical historic resources; it is important that we complete the interviews of the people who have made significant contributions to our history. We have over 50 people on the list who need to be interviewed, and we discover more each month. Through these interviews we have also gained extremely valuable contributions to our collection of photographs as well as the tape and transcriptions.

We will be doing programs and providing training on the Oral History Program during the next few months. We will be looking for ways to expand our efforts to complete this important work! If you are interested, come to the February meeting on the First Families of Juanita. It is a fascinating history of Juanita drawn largely from the oral histories and research conducted by Christina Brugman, Chair of the Oral History Program.

Bathers at Juanita beach. The high-and-dry pilings would indicate this was after the lake was lowered, probably in the 20's. Photo courtesy of the Barrie Family. KHS Collection.
Listen to Your Elders
Christina Brugman

Learning to do historic research, even in my novice sort of way, has lead me to a lot of interesting places. The National Archives in Seattle contain census data since the country began, except for the locally critical 1890 census which somehow burned up in a fire. At the archives one can find out where a family lived, who their neighbors were, if they had boarders or servants or hangers-on. Sometimes there is information about their net worth, employment and educational accomplishments. The King County Archives are dusty, and jets scream overhead, but there a person can find photos of homes now gone or remodeled beyond recognition. There are also really old school records that list the children enrolled in a given year, how many days they were absent, and how much their teachers were paid. At the Kirkland library (and at the UW), once you master the machines, you can read almost 60 years of the East Side Journal on microfilm. There are news stories, features, ads, editorials and photos for that long period.

All those resources are fun to use, but like prospecting, you pan through a lot of rocks to get some nuggets. Eventually, though, the nuggets of data form a framework on which to flesh out memories of lived experience. With trusty tape recorder in hand, I talked to the people who lived in the houses, who had the perfect attendance record, who played in the pond with the neighbor kids, who went to the dances at the Woodsmen's Hall, who read the ads to plan their shopping, who walked the trails and fished in the creeks.

What I could learn about in history books or on microfilm or in archives, the older people in the community lived. Only they can tell us what it was like to have been there. Doris Forbes sat with her grandmother while the indomitable Eliza shot robins out of the cherry tree with a .22. Helen Mickelson tells of the birth or her older brother and sister, twins so small they each fit in a shoe box. Dorothy Snow's parents raised turkeys at their place on Finn Hill. The children gave them a wide berth as they were inclined to attack. Mabel Barrie and her husband, Don, raised tulips all over Juanita, as beautiful as anything in the Skagit valley. Elaine McKenna tells of how a woman who came from Seattle to fish Juanita creek became a member of their family. Orval Higginbotham survived a typhoid epidemic.

We all know that memory does not serve us absolutely. Sometimes the details are a little inaccurate, or even conflicting. The point of oral history is not to have a newsreel of the past, but to open a door to the sometimes messy habitation of people's remembrance. Their stories are full of sights and sounds, feelings, interpretations, characters, opinions, events, and meaning. Facts we can corroborate in the archives; texture we get from asking.

Some of them can tell us no more. Orval Higginbotham, Don Barrie, and Eliza Forbes have all died. Doris Forbes has moved to Michigan. The others, thank God, are still with us, and can still answer our questions, but time is running out. We have many more people to interview than we have interviewers.

Anyone willing to help with conducting oral histories is urged to join the Oral History group. Training will be available. If you don't think you would be very good at asking the questions, we always need people who have a computer and can transcribe the interviews.

For more information, call Christina Brugman at (425) 821-3605.

Kirkland Heritage Society  February 1998
This article is from the September 8, 1932 issue of the *East Side Journal*, and presents a tale of the odd background of R. J. McIntyre, then manager of the Kirkland Sand and Gravel Co. The Sand and Gravel Co was located between Kirkland and Juanita along Forbes Creek Drive. Many longtime area residents still refer to the street as Gravel Pit Road.

Mr. McIntyre’s background is unique indeed, as it appears that he previously worked as an escape artist along the lines of Harry Houdini. As I was preparing this article, I e-mailed a few Houdini and magic historians for any further information on this local celeb. If I receive any response, I’ll be sure to include it in a future article.

"Mac" Recalls By-Gone Days in Interview with Journal Staff

R

J. McIntyre, manager of the Kirkland Sand and Gravel Co. several years ago walked into a Kirkland hardware store and asked to see something in a good padlock. He picked up the heaviest one on display, fumbled with it a moment, and, without benefit of a key snapped it open with his bare fingers. Then he had an astonished clerk truss his hands together with a heavy log chain garnished with padlocks, sauntered to the back of the shop and reappeared almost immediately holding the chain and locks in his hands.

"You see, I used to do it for a living, on the stage," he explained, recalling the incident.

"There were only two of us, Harry Houdini, now dead, and myself, who were escape artists then. Later, Houdini’s brother Hardeen entered the game, and he was followed by Brindenmere. I was known officially on the stage as 'Mast'.

"Houdini and I were rivals, playing on competing 'variety' circuits, as they were then called. One day Houdini came out with a huge milk can which, after it was filled with water, he allowed himself to be sealed in, and then broke out of, in full view of the audience."

"Accordingly, I had an 80-gallon barrel made, with a close fitting lid, which I started to use with great success in my act. It was mounted on casters on a platform and could be rolled about on the stage so that the audience could get a full view of it from all sides. Then it was filled with water and I got into it, with members of the audience putting the lid in place and locking it tightly with four large padlocks."

"The time I was under water varied, but I allowed myself one minute and twenty seconds to escape."

And if the reader thinks this sounds easy, let him try holding his head under water for 80 seconds, at the same time picking four padlocks that apparently can't be reached.

McIntyre, or "Mast" was the
1997 was a very successful year for the Kirkland Heritage Society - as should be the year of the celebration of our 20th year!

20th Anniversary Celebration: May 1997
Over Sixty people attended the old fashioned potluck dinner at the Kirkland Woman’s Club. Everyone shared stories of the early years - it was great fun! Many of the original founders of the original Historic Commission were present. Thanks to Barbara Loomis and Shannon Harris and all who brought great food!

American Legion Building Offer
In April we made an offer on the American Legion Building. Membership response was exceptional and established an interest in finding a home and archives for KHS and the City. The offer of the donation of the Christian Science Church Building if moved has been withdrawn.

Historic Interpretive Marker Program
The Rotary Club of Kirkland provided the impetus to launch the program with their marker at the Ferry Dock in downtown. As a result 5 markers were installed in 1997; 3 more are now underway. King County has approved the grant request for a marker for the Mickelson family!

KHS Obtains 501-c-3 Status from IRS
August 11, 1997 we received notice from the IRS that we had obtained the 501-c-3 status.

Oral History Program
Five oral history interviews were conducted in 1997. We need volunteers! If interested call Christina Brugman, 425-821-3605.

City Hall Display
Alan Stein maintains the rotating City Hall display in the lower lobby! Interested in helping?

Inventory of Historic Properties
A preliminary survey by KHS of potentially historic properties identified 387 structures and 55 sites. Lynette Friberg and Velda Wilson spent hours at the State Archives doing research. The City of Kirkland funded $22,000 in the 1998 budget for KHS to hire a consultant to document an additional 210 of these properties.

Kirkland Comprehensive Plan
The City Council passed the Community Character chapter and Downtown Plan, both with strengthened policies on Historic Preservation. Eight structures and 2 sites were added to the City’s list of Recognized Historic Properties.

Ongoing Monthly Programs / Newsletter
Shannon Harris organized a wide variety of monthly programs throughout the year and Barbara Loomis published Blackberry Preserves.

Grant Request - Kirkland Heritage Event
Velda Wilson and Barbara Loomis put in a grant request to the East Side Journal Foundation for an October Downtown Kirkland Heritage Event.

Financial Status
Treasurer Laura Westlund reports that KHS is in good financial shape. As of 12/31/97 we had the following assets:

- Checking: $1,717.91
- Savings: $3,551.61
(Committed to Special 1998 projects - $2,650)
- Certificate of Deposits (Picture Book) $3,000
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FIVE YEAR GOALS - 2003
KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY

The following five year goals were identified at the KHS Board / Committee Chairs Workshop. Each is considered important, but the general priority is reflected in the order listed.

COMPLETE ORAL HISTORIES

The Oral History Program will be our highest priority over the next 2 - 3 years! The first objective is to identify all the people who should be interviewed - currently on list or additional suggestions. In 5 years all oral histories would be current and readily available in both tape and transcribed form as well as on the KHS Web Site. In 1998 look for more programs and emphasis on Oral History.

PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

We have expanded our collection; however many need to be copied and all need to catalogued, filed and stored in archival materials. Sale of photographs can provide additional funding. In five years complete organization of and research on historic photographs and continue to expand the collection. Publish the book of KHS photographs by KHS 25th Anniversary. In 1998 join a "work party" to organize, catalog and properly store the photographs.

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The objective is to create more awareness of the importance of historic preservation to the community. KHS will continue to work with the City and Neighborhood Associations in making Historic Preservation an integral part of the City’s Community Character policy. New projects to look for in 1998 are: KHS Web Site, Walking Tour Brochure, initiate annual heritage festival, and slide show on Kirkland history.

PRESERVE HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES

The efforts of the past 4 years have established a much stronger City policy base for preservation of historic buildings and sites. During the next 5 years these efforts should be completed and turned to implementation including rehabilitation and restoration of buildings; creation of a foundation which can assist in purchasing, renovating or moving threatened buildings. In 1998 complete Phase One of City Grant to Inventory Historic Properties; install plaques on all buildings recognized by the City of Kirkland and initiate the installation of new street signs with the original street names.

PERMANENT KHS HOME / ARCHIVES

Obtaining a permanent home in a historic building is perhaps one of the highest priorities for KHS members; however, it is understood that this will likely be in response to opportunities provided such as the donation of a building. A historic building would increase the presence of KHS in the community and would provide a central location for the public to access the oral history interviews, photographs, newspaper research and building inventory data. Optimally, it would be located close to Downtown Kirkland. In Five Years the goal is to have dedicated a historic building as the Kirkland / KHS Archives.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDING

Membership is essential to our vitality and growth is a logical extension of the expanded activities and increased awareness of KHS. In five years increase, KHS membership to over 300 with a core of 60 - 75 active volunteers. Increase sustaining, professional, business, and corporate membership to 25% of the total membership. Obtain grants and sponsorships which will allow KHS to have a part-time staff person. In 1998 coordinate Membership efforts with the Historic Property Inventory.
first "variety" circuit ever to tour west of Chicago, and it was Morton Beck who was sent from the East to manage the bookings and tour of the first loop, which included Kansas City, Omaha, Denver, Salt Lake, Seattle, Portland, San Fransisco, Los Angeles and back to Chicago.

When McIntyre played to Seattle audiences for the first time, it was behind the gas footlights of the old Coliseum, then located in a frame building on the present site of the courthouse, and, merely as a free stunt to bring crowds to his performances, he allowed himself to be handcuffed hand and foot by the police, and then jumped off Coleman dock. When he broke surface, the handcuffs were off his hands and feet, and in his pocket.

McIntyre and his other escape artists of which there aren’t any more than three left on stage, always used locks, boxes, cages, sacks and jails as he found them in the town he was playing, and in this respect he and his fellows differ from the ordinary magician.

"Take the props away from a stage magician and all you have left is a card manipulator," he said, "while we rely on our wits and perhaps a corset stay to break out of jails, strait jackets, tombs, diving bells and sacks."

"I got out of a packing case so easily while playing Winnipeg, that the local gentry dared me to try my luck at breaking out of a specially built tin box soldered at every seam and built just for the occasion. I looked it over, got them to leave four holes in the top, so that I would not suffocate."

"Then they sealed me in the box, placed my cabinet around it and waited for a moment or two. Presently I walked out on the stage and the box was found exactly as they had left it."

"Here was the trick. I carried a small already hot soldering iron with me and an electrician’s spirit blow torch, unknown to the audience. As fast as they sealed the top seams with solder, I would melt them again from inside with my torch, and then, using my head and back, popped the lid open as soon as my cabinet was thrown around the box, so no one could see me."

"Then I soldered up the seams again from the outside."

"A feature of my act, while playing in Seattle, was to have a box, the parts of which had been sawed at the old Bon Marche packing rooms, constructed on the stage. Before the last two boards were nailed down, I would get inside. Then my cabinet was thrown around it."

"This was always simple to get out of. I always carried a one-inch chisel in my vest and as soon as I was inside, I’d insert the end of it under a board end that wasn’t yet nailed down. The persons boxing me in, always members of the audience and consequently stage frightened, wouldn’t notice that the nails they drove into the board bent over when they hit the chisel. With this gap in the nails, I would pry the lid open, and then press it shut again once I was outside."
First Families of Juanita

Presentation of a “Work in Progress”
by
CHRISTINA BRUGMAN
Resident of Juanita and Board Member, Kirkland Heritage Society, Chair of Oral History Program.

You are invited to attend a presentation on the History of Juanita. Christina has been conducting oral history interviews with long term residents of Juanita and researching the history of the area for the past three years. She has compiled a wonderful collection of slides of historic photographs which will be used to illustrate Juanita’s history and the contribution of the pioneers who shaped it.

Plan to attend the next meeting of the Kirkland Heritage Society:
Wednesday, February 25, 1998, 7:00 p.m.
Kirkland Congregational Church: 106 - 5th Avenue

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
In May 1998 KHS has elections for three Board positions:
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Communication Officer

Alan Stein, Laura Westlund and Barbara Loomis currently fill those positions. The Nominating Committee will include: Velda Wilson, 641-0528; Melissa Thirloway, 889-9120; and Cathy Smith, 828-9088. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact one of them.

The Nominating Committee is responsible to bring back a slate of candidates at the April Membership meeting. Information on the candidates is either mailed or published in May at least 10 days prior to the election at the May membership meeting. The bylaws provide that additional nominations can be made from the floor at the election; however, the person nominated has to indicate that they are willing to serve. The term of office is two years starting July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2000.

HELP NEEDED WITH KHS WEBSITE
The Kirkland Heritage Society has been busy gathering information to place on our upcoming website. This webpage will be a “living brochure” that will provide information about KHS and our efforts, along with historical information about the Kirkland area.

Maybe you (or possibly even your kids) would like to help out with the design, creation or maintenance of the website? Specifically, we are looking for a webmaster who could be responsible for the upkeep of the finished site, but any help would be appreciated as we build it.

For more information, please come to our next meeting.
KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY

DIRECTORY

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304 - 8th Avenue West
Kirkland, WA 98033
Phone: (425) 827-7194

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              827-6550 (o) 828-4095 (h)
Vice President: Alan Stein
                821-0164
Secretary: Lynette Friberg
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Treasurer: Laura Westlund
             827-6676
Communications:
                Barbara Loomis 827-7194
At Large Member:
                Loita Hawkinson 827-1950
At Large Member:
                   Christina Brugman 821-3605

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives
Sue Carter 822-5486
Don Winters 827-2650

Oral History
Christina Brugman 821-3605
Lorraine McConaghy 827-2927

Historic Buildings and Planning
Vic Newhard (206) 949-6457
Velda Wilson 641-0528

Membership and Funding
Melissa Thirloway 889-9120

Programs
Shannon Harris 822-2478

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
Exhibit:
Vic Newhard (206) 949-6457
Web Site:
Kelli Adam 827-5255

CALENDAR

February 24
AKCHO Meeting
9:00 a.m.
Daughters of the Pioneers
16442-43rd Ave. E., Pioneer Hall, Seattle
Dr. Kay Reinartz will be discussing the implications of the Heritage Corridors Program and the possibilities of available grant monies.

February 25
Board Meeting
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
KHS Program
7 p.m.
First Families of Juanita
A slide presentation by Christina Brugman on the history of Juanita. Christina will talk about the lives and interrelationships of the people of Juanita. She has numerous slides, both then and now.

February 27
Conversation on Design: A Community Forum on Metropolitan Revitalization
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Three experts in community revitalization will discuss community design and metropolitan revitalization. Donovan Rypkema, economist specializing in enhancing communities as they develop economically. James Kunstler, author of The Geography of Nowhere, advocates traditional town planning. Christine Saum was executive director of the Mayor’s Institute on Design. Tacoma Landmark Convention Center. Call Susan Attig at (253) 591-5191.

Unless otherwise noted KHS meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., Kirkland Congregational Church, 106-5th Ave.

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
☐ Monthly Programs
☐ Oral History

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, 235 - 10th Ave. W.,
Kirkland, WA 98033. Phone: (425) 889 - 9120
Two mainstays of Juanita life, the elementary school and the Woodsmen’s hall, looking south on 100th Ave. NE from near 132nd Street. c. 1912

Photo courtesy of the Josten Family, Kirkland Heritage Society Collection

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 or E-Mail: bloomis@msn.com

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