LAKE WASHINGTON SHIPYARD, HOUGHTON
AT ITS PEAK OF PRODUCTION DURING WWII 5,000 - 6,000 WORKERS WERE EMPLOYED THERE
MARCH PRESIDENT'S LETTER
by
Bob Burke

If you didn’t attend our last meeting, you missed the highlight of the year! Christina Brugman’s presentation was great! It was made even more special since nearly everyone she had interviewed for the oral history program attended! It was a privilege to see how these families who shaped Juanita were still such a vital part of our City. Hopefully, we can find an equally dedicated person in every neighborhood to do the same research!

Tacoma held a Community Forum on Metropolitan Revitalization which had James Kunstler, Christine Saum and Donovon Rypkema as keynote speakers. Kirkland was well represented with 4 planning staff members, and 4 KHS members: Jim Lauinger (Planning Commission), Barbara Loomis, Cassandra Noble, and me. It reinforced the importance of KHS’s efforts to maintain and enhance the historic character of Kirkland’s neighborhoods and downtown. The Tacoma Historical Society was instrumental in working with the City to organize this event. They are to be congratulated for this inspiring event.

The visit of 3 of my grandchildren from San Diego, CA. and Soldotna, AK. reminded me about the importance of KHS work. Although they don’t live here, I trust that someone is working to preserve the history of their communities. When they are older, I hope they know their grandpa helped keep Kirkland more like they remember it when they visited him - when they were small.

Isn’t that what its all about?? Keeping Kirkland vital and livable for future generations - for our children and their children!! Making it so they understand their history!! A major step in our effort to preserve historic buildings is now beginning with the selection of a consultant for the inventory funded by the grant from the City!

Thanks, again, City Council!!

CONSULTANT PROPOSALS FOR INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

We have received two proposals to conduct the inventory of history properties. The Steering Committee is made up of: Mary Alyce Burleigh, City Planning Commission; Angela Ruggeri, Planning Staff; Charlie Sundberg, King County Cultural Resources Program; Tere Gidlof, Chair Market Neighborhood Association, representing the Kirkland Association of Neighborhoods and Barbara Loomis, Velda Wilson and Bob Burke from KHS. The committee will review the proposals and conduct interviews so KHS can sign a contract to begin work in April.

We have also asked each of the neighborhood associations, Kirkland Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Merchants to name a liaison person who will receive all materials produced by the inventory and to participate in 2 to 3 meetings during the study effort.

KHS WEBSITE COMMITTEE

As a result of an initial offer by Kelli Adam and the volunteer efforts of a number of other members, KHS will have a website within the next few months. In addition to Kelli, the committee consists of: Loita Hawkinson, Alan Stein, Cathy Smith, Tyler Thirloway and Frank Rosin. Frank is responsible for the Model A website. If you are interested in helping on the website, please contact Kelli at 827-5255.
MONTHLY PROGRAMS SET FOR 1998!

As the result of ideas generated at the Board / Committee Workshop in February and a lot of hard work by Shannon Harris, Program Chair, KHS now has a wonderful, varied group of programs lined up for the rest of the year! We will be running a preview of the next 3 month’s programs in each Blackberry Preserves so you can plan ahead.

The program layout for the next three months is as follows:

April - Elizabeth Furlow from MOHI - Caring for Family Heirlooms and Antiques.

May - Leonard Garfield, King County Cultural Resources Division Manager - Architectural Styles and Periods.

June - Heidi Bohan Bennett, Daily Life of the Coast Salish People.

Please plan to attend each of them!!

THREE MORE HISTORIC MARKERS!!

We were notified by King County that the grant request submitted by Christina Brugman for the Mickelson Pond interpretive marker has been recommended and now goes to the King County Council for final approval. The Kirkland Arts Center Board through the initiative of Kelli Adam approved the placement of a marker related to the Peter Kirk Building. Finally, The Seattle Times has agreed to sponsor the marker showing the Original Homesteads; likely be placed at the entry to Peter Kirk Park near the library.

This makes 10 of these historic interpretive markers which will be installed in the first year and a half of the program, starting with the donation by the Rotary Club of Kirkland installed August 1997.

If you would like to help in researching, writing or finding more sponsors, call Bob Burke - 828-4095.

MARCH PROGRAM

Wednesday, March 25, 1998, 7:00 p.m.

STORYTELLER:
ERNIE THORMAHLEN

Come for an entertaining, enjoyable and informative evening as a forty-eight year resident, Ernie Thormahlen, who served eight years on the Houghton Council, tells wonderful stories of the early days of Houghton and Kirkland.

He is married to an even longer-time resident Verna BERTO Thormahlen. Can you guess what significant role her father played in Houghton’s history?

“Big Ernie”, as many people refer to him, is an avid sports fisherman and a talented artist with colorful stories of our history to share. This is a “must” program for Houghton residents as well as all KHS members!!

Kirkland Congregational Church
106 - 5th Avenue

HELP VIDEO OUR MONTHLY PROGRAMS

If you have the necessary video equipment to record our monthly programs and would be willing to do that, we would really appreciate it. Please call Shannon Harris, Program Chair at 822-2478. As a historical society we are really remiss in not keeping a better record of our own activities and events. KHS will cover associated costs.
This month’s article is from the Sept. 22, 1955 edition of the ESJ. It was written by Donna Karasek, and documents a typical day at the (then) new Lakeview Elementary School in Houghton. Built 10 years after the end of WWII, this was the first “Baby-Boom” school in the area.

*Reedin’, Ritin’ and Rithmetic*  
*Is a Pleasure For All Who Attend Sparkling New Lakeview School.*

When the bell rings to call children to their classes at Lakeview Elementary School, 31 fifth-graders race into Mr. Lynn Atwood’s room. Among them is 10-year-old Roberta Ann Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Johnson of Lakeview Terrace. Roberta, a cute miss with short red-blonde hair and a pleasant personality, takes her place in the last seat of the row nearest the windows. The class stands to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and Roberta’s school day has begun.

Lakeview School is a spanking-new brick building, low and modern, containing six large classrooms and a spacious office. In the wide corridor, a blond spinet piano stands, no doubt to be used for teaching singing. Quiet tans, greens and yellows give the halls and rooms a cool, bright look. The school is located on the north side of NE 68th Street, just east of State Street, and thus most of its pupils are Houghton youngsters. In the front is a newly seeded lawn. Behind the school is a huge playground, as yet undeveloped, but with ample play space for all the children.

Roberta’s class is deep in social studies, and the youngsters take turns reading aloud from the bright new books. The subject at hand is Ponce De Leon and Mr. Atwood asks the class to name a well-known Cuban.

“Desi Arnaz”, shouted several children.

The discussion is sidetracked a bit to waterways and especially the Mississippi river. A boy in the front seat interjects a remark about burial at sea.

But Roberta’s attention wanders. She looks about her at the light green walls, blond-wood cupboards and desks, and big windows. She looks up at the skylights, and thinks how much brighter this rooms is than the old classrooms at Central School, where she had attended for her first four years of school. Her gaze wanders to the green blackboards which are so much easier on the eyes, to the sink and drinking fountain in the back of the room, to the air-conditioner, to the bulletin-board display on the prevention of colds.

But Roberta doesn’t maintain her top-notch grades by inattention in class, and she quickly turns to the front again as Mr. Atwood announces the arrival of Mr. Richards, the school district’s junior band teacher. He is visiting to acquaint the boys and girls with the instruments they may learn to play in the band, and he demonstrates the flute, clarinet, and French Horn.

Mrs. Smith, orchestra teacher, comes in to demonstrate string instruments. Roberta already plays two instruments - the piano and the flute - and doesn’t want to start on another one, but several other children decide to sign up for the beginner’s band.

At 11:10 a.m., 11 youngsters leave their seats and go over to the coat-cupboards. According to Mr. Howard Johnson, principal, “Every youngster should have a responsibility and an opportunity to serve his school,” and this group of Patrol boys and girls serves in one of the most important ways - protecting the lives of younger children. Roberta is one of the ones who slip into red jackets and white belts and hats, take
up their flags and hurry to their posts.

Since she is on patrol duty, she finds it more convenient to eat lunch at school. However, her sister, eight-year-old Mary Lou, is among the fortunate children who live near enough to be able to go home for a hot lunch. Some remain at school during the noon hour, but as Lakeview has no hot-lunch program, they have only sack lunches.

After she has eaten, Roberta leaves her room and starts down the hall to go outdoors. But at the door of the first-grade room she meets the Journal reporter, talking with Mrs. Jean Jayne, first-grade teacher. She stops to offer her comments on the new school.

"It's so modern," she says, "I like not having to go out of your room to wash your hands or get a drink of water, and not having to take a bus to school. And here I'm going to school with neighborhood kids I know, and I get to make friends with other neighborhood kids I didn't know very well."

Mrs. Jayne, who previously taught at Central and is teaching the first grade for the fourth year now says she likes most of all having "a place for everything."

"I have drawers that I haven't even found things to put in, yet", she laughs. She had never taught in a new school before, and was impressed by the lightness of the building and the good ventilation afforded by air-conditioning units.

Apparently the peace and quiet of his room pleases tiny Loren Meyers, sitting at his desk nearby, for he gazes up at the clean white acoustic tile and remarks through a mouthful of sandwich, "I guess there must be a thousand dots up there", which brings a laugh from Mrs. Jayne and the reporter.

Roberta is asked about the playground program. "The equipment isn't here yet. There are jump ropes, but I don't go much for that. In our room the girls have a bat and the boys have a ball - so we have to play together."

"I like the playground", comments Tommy Hitzroth, another first-grader. "It's all covered with sawdust, but I can get dirty anyway!"

Roberta runs on out.

Reading and arithmetic fill the afternoon agenda, and with the singing of "America the Beautiful", Roberta's school day has ended.

HELP ON CITY HALL DISPLAY

Alan Stein is in the process of preparing the text and selecting photographs for the next City Hall display. Could you help him in the logistics of getting the photographs and text copies, matted, framed and installed? Call Alan at 821-0164. Even if he's not home, you'll enjoy the message!

EDUCATION GRANT
KIRKLAND ARTS CENTER

We were contacted by Lara Holman of the Kirkland Arts Center to work with them on an Arts / Heritage grant request to King County to develop a curriculum on Arts / Architecture / Heritage in Kirkland for 4th and 5th grade classes at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. It is assumed that this will become a prototype that can be used in all Kirkland Schools. It will include: handouts, in-school presentations; an 8 - 10 minute video on Kirkland's history; and a tour starting at the Peter Kirk Building and going through downtown Kirkland in the spring of 1999.

This has been on our list of our special activities and it is great that we can work with KAC and teachers at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School to develop this curriculum. We anticipate also using the video at our exhibit booth.
TUDOR
1919 - 1940

When U.S. Soldiers returned from Europe at the end of World War I, they brought with them a taste for the quaint cottages and picturesque settlements they had seen abroad. These images became a popular style, referred to as Tudor or Provincial Style. In Kirkland, there are many houses which were built in this style throughout the City.

Identifying Features

Steeply pitched roofs, with the front of the home dominated by a prominent cross-gable and a massive chimney.

Tall, narrow windows, commonly grouped together and with multi-pane glazing.

Brick, stone and wood cladding as well as stucco were common exterior materials. Sometimes houses were sheathed to mimic English half-timbered houses, with stucco between the applied boards.

Some homes were modeled on English rural cottages with false thatched roofs, made by roling layered roofing materials around the eaves.

Key Elements

The following sketches identify some of the key design elements of Tudor homes.

Siding

On homes which use brick detailing, do not cover the masonry with siding.

Windows

Multi-paned windows are an integral feature of the design and should be matched when replacing windows.

Siding

Regular, simple maintenance of stucco and half-timbered house types will prevent water accumulation behind the sheathing.

The sketches and descriptions of this style was used with permission by the City of Everett from the report entitled, Rucker/Grand Avenue Historic Neighborhood Conservation Handbook, prepared by Makers for the Everett Historical Commission.
Kirkland Heritage Society

March 24
AKCHO Meeting
9:00 a.m.
Marymoor Museum, Marymoor Park
Peggy Hanson, if you missed Peggy’s presentation at KHS in November, you have a second chance. Peggy will be presenting her program about the process of categorizing, preserving and protecting your photographic collection in an acid free environment. A very well done program, worth seeing a second time.

March 25
No Board Meeting
KHS Program
7 p.m.
Storyteller: Ernie Thormahlen
A long time Houghton resident, Ernie Thormahlen will delight us with his stories of the bygone days of Houghton and Kirkland.

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming programs:

April 25, Elizabeth Furlow, Caring for Family Heirlooms and Antiques.

May is Museum Month and May 10-16 is Historic Preservation Week. Preservation Begins at Home.

Unless otherwise noted KHS meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., Kirkland Congregational Church, 106-5th Ave.
J.C. O’Conner’s Lake House on NE 59th, About 1887
Across the street from Houghton Beach Park.
Demolished in early 1980’s for office building

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, Publisher, (425) 827-7194 or E-Mail: bloomis@msn.com

Kirkland Heritage Society
304 - 8th Ave. West
Kirkland, WA 98033