An intriguing picture of the picnic shed in the upper part of the photo and parking below. I presume that in the distance is the Langdon Store and Langdon Road (116th)
I commented on Barbara Loomis’ house in my letter last month - its coming along - drive by to see - better yet, if its a sunny day, bring a paint brush. Also, Patti Payne featured her “house that wasn’t torn down” in her Sunday column. It is wonderful to see this neighbor helping neighbor effort - I can’t help wonder if there would have been the same interest in working on a stucco box?

As we move into the Fall and I look at all the things that are happening, I am impressed that KHS’s role as an organization is changing. In June I wrote about the need for a permanent KHS home. That need reflects part of the change, but this is much more intrinsic. Since 1992 we have been working to catch up: to tell the history of Kirkland, to document the people who contributed, to collect photographs illustrating our past and to more effectively preserve historic properties.

Each of those efforts is ongoing - we’ll never be completely finished - we’ll always be challenged to do more! KHS is now recognized as a positive resource and integrated into the decision processes of the Kirkland community. Our role is shown through our work with neighborhoods, community groups, the City and now downtown’s Main Street Program! We bring a historical perspective to each of these efforts which increasingly is recognized for its value in framing and contributing to Kirkland’s future! Within the preservation community s we are known for our efforts by awards and Alan’s representation on AKCHO.

How do we adjust KHS to assume this expanding role and responsibility? I’m not sure, but its something else to consider as we run to catch up!!

STREET SIGNS WITH HISTORIC NAMES

Two exciting things have happened in achieving our goal of displaying the historic street names! George Harris who took on this project presented at the last KHS meeting a new design which has the new signs mounted vertically on the pole below the present street signs. They could include neighborhood symbols and historic information. Copies have been given to the City for review.

We have been informed by Dave Godfrey, City Engineering Department that $10,000 has been proposed in the 1999 City budget to install signs incorporating the historic names. If approved, KHS will be working with the City to finalize the design and locations. George, thank you for taking on this project!!
OCTOBER 28 PROGRAM

PUGET SOUND MARITIME HISTORY
BY: Linda McCune

Linda McCune is founder and director for the Don McCune Library, who’s mission is to preserve audio/video, and written works of the Northwest broadcaster Don McCune. For 50 years he wrote and recorded radio and TV adventures about the Northwest. On October 28, Linda will share her late husband’s Emmy-winning program:

Puget Sound Maritime History
Come hear how Kirkland was a part of this history.

Kirkland Congregational Church
106 - 5th Ave.
7:00 PM

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

Mimi Sheridan, Historic Preservation Consultant, met with the Steering Committee and reports that she is about 75% done with all of the property surveys. She has the Juanita and Highland Neighborhoods to complete. She is scheduled to meet again with the Committee on November. Final presentations will probably be delayed until January to coincide with the Planning Commission’s work program. A budget request for Phase Two has been submitted to City Council for consideration.

KHS INVITED TO BE ON DOWNTOWN MAINSTREET BOARD

The effort to organize a Main Street Program in Downtown Kirkland is well underway. KHS has been asked to have an ex-officio member on the Board through 1999 while everything is being established and a director hired. The Main Street Program was established by The National Trust for Historic Preservation and has been successful in over 1,000 communities.

HEAR JAMES KUNSTER SPEAK NOV. 5TH

Noted Author James Kunstler who wrote Geography of Nowhere and Home from Nowhere will speak at 7:00 p.m. on November 5th at Lake Washington High School in Cadle Auditorium. He is a lively and provocative speaker on a new urban vision reviving civic art and civic life! He is being sponsored by the City of Kirkland Livable Communities Fair

Kunstler will also participate in the Livable Communities Fair being held on November 6th and 7th at the Seattle Center. The theme is to join your neighbors to improve our quality of life in Puget Sound. It is free! Information will be available at our October KHS meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for the wonderful response to our membership drive. We are just seven memberships short of 100% renewal! Thank you all.

Welcome New Members
David Millar
Wayne Stenton

Thank you for renewing your membership in KHS

Supporting Member
Jim Lauinger

Organization Member
Kirkland Womans Club
Family Members
Rick & Lisa Altig
Jeanne & Hilbert Bartels, plus a generous donation
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth R. Drewelow
Ken Nelson & Jessica Greenway
Darby & Scott Johnson
Robert Pantley
Eric & Deborah Shields

Individual/Senior
Myra Gamburg
Cassandra Noble
Betsy Pringle
Frank Rosin
Inge Theisen
Donovan Tracy
October can be an odd month for weather. Some of the most beautiful days of the year occur during this Autumn splendor, but some of the cruelest can also strike. This month’s historic article is from the October 4, 1962 edition of the East Side Journal, and describes one of the more freakish events to hit the East Side.

**Tornado Sweeps Across Finn Hill, Juanita Area**

This will be known as the year Bouncing Betty the tornado knocked Finn Hill flat, after bouncing off Denny Park area.

Seattle sent it across Lake Washington toward Holmes Pt. Dr. shortly after 6 p.m. last Saturday.

Mrs. D. O. Smith and her son Ken, 14, watched it coming. They live on the lake.

The water danced up and down without waves, Mrs. Smith relates. Then their trees whipped first one way, then the other and then down. Next they noticed the supports for their porch collapse.

They looked out and the porch roof was gone.

In 1933 in a fall storm they lost their porch roof also. Power was out three days then and trees fell on the porch.

As the porch left, the full blast of the tornado the weather people say won’t come this way, hit the house. Sand and debris plastered the brown house white.

A three foot thick madrona tree that leans out over a bank toward the water was whipped back to lean the other way.

A fir 10 feet from the house was splintered and laid on the ground by the wind.

One flying branch broke a window, but the Smith’s boat in the water was unharmed.

“We had no idea of what it was. It was over so fast,” Mrs. Smith recollects.

Shingles were torn from the Ed Cotter home nearby and a maple toppled. Mrs. Porter Perrin had big firs on either side of her house flopped down pointing away from the house, but it was unharmed.

A boat belonging to the Tom Kilpatrick’s, who’d left a half hour before for Harrison Hot Springs, was thrown off their dock.

Buni Lercher, 15, a junior at Lake Washington High School, was baby sitting there at the time.

“Pretty exciting,” she said.

Up the hill a way George Watson, 11530 Holmes Pt. Dr. had gone out in the rain to see if a newly poured concrete slab was draining right.

A branch hit him in the chest, apparently the only casualty, but that so slight that he was unscratched.

There was a “thunderous noise” and three trees near the road flopped first one way and then the other and fell over the road “like a bulldozer” swiped them down.

From there the tornado bounced on up a gully toward Steiner’s Corner, squashing trees here, missing them there.

Roger Cross of 12411 84th Ave. NE on Finn Hill discovered some, but not all, of the window frames that had been thrown into the corn patch and shattered.

Mrs. Cross saw the funnel coming. A funnel some 300 feet high was full of debris and maybe a hundred birds being whirled around, she said.

Barney Shreeve at 12414 84th Ave. NE lost the top of a big maple tree.

The twister apparently left the area about at the Norman Searle residence on the Bothell-Juanita highway.
Bltchberry

IN THE GUEST BOOK

By Alan J Stein

Recently, I had a chance to visit the Snoqualmie Valley museum in North Bend while doing research for History Link. I met with museum director Greg Watson, who has a vast knowledge of the history of the valley. The next time you’re up in North Bend, don’t hesitate to stop in and visit Greg and the museum, which is located a few blocks south of the old Mar-T café.

I was looking into Snoqualmie Valley history, but since I had read that the registration book from the old Hop Ranch Hotel was at the museum, I asked to look through it to find a little piece of Kirkland history.

The Hop Ranch Hotel was a grand structure built in Snoqualmie in 1886. The valley (and especially the falls) was a destination for many Seattleites even then as it is today. Politicians, businessmen, out-of-town visitors and the like all stayed or dined at the hotel near the turn of the century.

I knew that one of those people was Peter Kirk. Kirk’s grand plan for a steel mill entailed large amounts of iron ore. Seattle pioneer Arthur Denny had interest in an iron mine near Snoqualmie Pass, and Kirk was looking to capitalize on this. If they went up to visit the site, I figured that they would have stopped at the hotel.

Sure enough, they had.

The register was an old leather-bound book, filled with names and hometowns on every page. Greg let me leaf through it, and within a few pages, there they were: A. Denny, Peter Kirk and a J. Ellis from England. A few pages later the names appeared again. Further in, Kirk showed up one more time with a different party.

Unfortunately, I don’t believe that the names were actually signed by his hand. Many of the signatures appeared to be similar, leading Greg and I to assume that the hotel registrar entered them. Still, it was fascinating to know for sure what Peter Kirk had been doing on a particular fall day in 1890—sipping tea after spending a long day in the mountains looking for some iron.

Paging through the rest of the book, I stumbled on a piece Northwest trivia un-related to Kirkland, but interesting nonetheless. In the late 1890s, a Toklas family from Seattle visited the hotel for dinner. A young girl in the family was listed as A. B. Toklas. Mr. Watson pointed out to me that this was Alice B. Toklas, later to become a writer and close companion of poet Gertrude Stein.
RENOVATION OF THIS OLD HOUSE IS A COMMUNITY EFFORT
by Barbara Loomis

My 1889 Queen Anne house was last painted about 17 years ago. Almost every window downstairs was broken and had inefficient aluminum storm windows which detracted from the Victorian double hung style. The house looked very sad in such a state of disrepair but I couldn’t afford to have the work done by professional painters. My new neighbor, Terri Anderson suggested that we just have a “Painting Party,” invite the neighborhood, friends, relatives, and KHS members, and crank-out the Bar B Q! So that’s what we did! We’ve had about six parties with as many as thirteen people working on the house at one time!

I chose four colors from the Benjamin Moore Historic Color pal. Hunter Green for the windows and doors (this is an original window color,) medium green for the body, light green for the fish-scale shingles and a creamy white trim. In order to maintain the architectural integrity and save a whole lot of money I’ve been rebuilding windows and replacing glass. There is a lot of wood rot which I am either replacing with new wood or filling with a product from Min Wax which includes a wood hardener and a sandable filler. The newel posts at the bottom of the porch stairs have rotted out so I’m replacing that section with new wood. My wood-working teacher, John Avery, at the Voc. Tech. has been a tremendous help.

Terri and most of her clan; husband Tom Buxton, (even with a broken foot!) Carl Anderson, Troy Anderson, Mike Day, and Robert Lee have been here almost every weekend. Terri has even hosted some of the dinners, with Tom as cook, when my house has been too torn up! KHS member Michael Radcliff did yeoman work sanding most of the house with a grinder, and even coming over after work to finish it. KHS members and neighbors Melissa and Jeff Thirloway and son Tyler are meticulous painters (and Jeff does the high eves), as does my daughter Stephanie and her boyfriend Matt Adams (mom just doesn’t look!) KHS members Pam Owens and Cathy Smith have done tedious scraping, caulking and painting. My youngest daughter Sarah and her friend Jason Preuett have also helped with the painting. KHS President Bob Burke is replacing trim and skirting that is missing, making repairs to rotted-out sections and lending his architectural advice. His son-in-law, Todd Moore, who is visiting from Alaska is painting the finish coat in the upper sections. We couldn’t have done it without the expert advice of my next-door neighbor, Jay Hardin, commercial painter, who lent us caulking guns, scrapers and ladders. I thank you all for all your hard work, good humor and time to make my house a beautiful “Painted Lady” again.
Kirkland Heritage Society

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Velda Wilson 641-0528

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Shannon Harris 822-2478

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Exhibits:
Vic Newhard (206) 949-6457
Web Site:
Kelli Adam 827-5255

CALENDAR

October 27
AKCHO
9:30 a.m.
Black Heritage Society
Jackson Street After Hours
Mount Zion Baptist Church
Corner of 19th & E. Madison

October 28
KHS Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.
KHS Program:
7:00 p.m.
Linda McCune, Puget Sound Maritime History
Linda will share some of her husband’s TV programs about Puget Sound history.

November 5
James Kunstler
7:00
Geography of Nowhere, and Home from Nowhere, author will be at the Lake Washington High School Cadle Auditorium. Don’t miss this dynamic speaker who tells it like he sees it, regarding urban planning issues!

November 6-7
Livable Communities Fair
Seattle Center

Free!
Join neighbors and community leaders who want to learn practical positive ways to build healthier communities.

No November Program

December 13
Holiday Open House
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
The historic Loomis House will be decorated and open.

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, 1998 - June 30, 1999

KHS now qualifies for tax exemption under 501(c)(3) and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. We now qualify for match contributions by those employers who offer this benefit.

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED:__________________________

☐ My Company Matches Contributions
Conact:______________________________________

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
☐ Newsletter, Blackberry Preserves
☐ KHS Web Site

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
Exterior Restoration has begun on
This Old House

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

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