This 1948 aerial view of Houghton shows the Collins School and some of the WWII housing. That is 108th Ave NE on the right and the Kirkland/Redmond Road (NE 85th St) curving along the bottom of the photo. Projects A and B are in the center with Stewart Heights in the distance.

Clyde Harold Pix
PreSIdent’S Letter
Loita Hawkinson

Time is marching on and summer is upon us...if you look at the calendar.

Our speaker for the May meeting will be Joe Regan who was a WWII POW. We had hoped to have a time set aside to honor our WWII veterans this year being its the 70th Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor this December. When Anita scheduled Joe, it just seemed like a natural time to plan our celebration now. All local WWII veterans are encouraged to attend the May 25th KHS meeting. After the program, we wish to record a few minutes with each of you. And this celebration will not just include the Veterans; we want to recognize the home front. So if you were alive during WWII, you had a rationing book and had to make sacrifices. If you have any memories, please attend. Your stories are important. And of course, if you worked at Boeing, Lake Washington Shipyard, Kirkland Marine works: you are an important part of America’s history.

The 4th of July Parade’s theme is Patriotic Red, White, and Blue. In the spirit of the theme, we would like some of our local WWII veterans to ride in cars. The Model A car club will be in the parade but their insurance does not allow for riders. Therefore, anyone who had a vintage or classic car, please contact us. The 4th is less than two months away as I write this, so we must get organized.

Please call the hall at 425-827-3446 if you have questions.

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Elections, May 25, 2011

Slate of positions and nominations:
President: Loita Hawkinson
Past President: Robert Burke
Vice-President: Matthew McCauley
Secretary: open
Treasurer: Mark Amick
At Large: Linda Jaton
           Clarence Stone
           Anita Maxwell
           Vic Newhard

Four at large positions are currently nominated with four positions open. Vice President has two nominations and will be subject to a vote. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor on May 25, 2011. Contested positions will have a private paper ballot vote.

Rain or Shine
Kirkland Heritage Resource Center open:
Monday: from 9 to 12 noon.
       Wednesday from 2 to 5.
203 Market Street, Lower Level

Tracy Ball gave KHS this 1954 cartoon. Apparently Kirkland has had cool wet summers before!!
KHS Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.   Heritage Hall

May 25, 2011

World War II American Ex-Prisoner of War Joseph Earl Regan, Kirkland resident will unfold his story. KHS will honor all our service men at this meeting. Joe has a very intense and exciting presentation of his service and captivity during WWII plus his release when General Patton’s troops freed many prisoners in this camp.

June 29, 2011

Seattle Seafair Pirates will invade the Kirkland Heritage’s meeting and reveal their beginnings and update their activities. The Seafair Pirates are a voluntary group of people started in 1949 by the members of the Washington State Press Club. They joined together with other community leaders to create Seattle’s first Seafair Festival in 1950. This is guaranteed to be a very entertaining program.

Russ and Linda were the winners of the pink gardening gloves given away at the April meeting. Those pink fingers were a perfect match for the pink toes on the foot Ed Lincoln’s historic Toe Truck. If you have not seen the Toe Truck recently and miss it, you can visit the truck at MOHAI. It is in the same area as BoBo.

An Egg Rationing Coupon was of little use if there were no eggs to buy.

Sort of says it all.

And sadly, it did.
WWII by Loita Hawkinson

WWII changed the world and America. It also changed the eastside. WWI brought jobs and income to Houghton and Kirkland but very little growth. WWI was a short brutal war for the US. Shipyard workers commuted by ferry with few moving to the eastside.

But WWII was different. With thousands of jobs available on the heels of the great depression, families moved to the eastside to work in the Lake Washington Shipyard in Houghton or the Marine Boat Works in Kirkland. The landscape of Houghton and Kirkland changed. Lakeview Drive was cut giving the historic Marsh Mansion its rear exit. Lakeview was needed to move the traffic from the ferry in Kirkland to the Shipyard in Houghton.

The projects were built to provide housing for the shipyard officers and the workers. Northwest College is now on the site that was the Stewart Heights project. Stewart Heights resembled a dorm atmosphere with families living closely together. Projects A and B were built further north and provided small individual homes. Lakeview provided housing for the officers.

In February 1942, the Kirkland Japanese families were required to leave their homes. The Yabuki family who had lived in Kirkland for over 30 years were taken away by train. All the Yabuki children had been born in Kirkland. The older ones had graduated from Kirkland High School. They did not believe this anti-Japanese sentiment and fear could possibly include them. But it did. The late Gary Lanksbury recorded an oral history with Rose and Shizu Yabuki in 2006. Shizu and Gary had been classmates at Central School. Gary remembered the day that his second grade classmate had been taken away. It is a touching and frank history.

Senior’s at Kirkland High School were allowed to quit school and enlist. Many did. At least five returned and finished their schooling and graduated. Russ McClintick’s mother accepted his diploma and Russ went straight into the University of Washington after serving. The late Jack Spencer had a similar history. The Denton family had four sons serving at one time. These men have all been members and contributors to Kirkland Heritage Society so their names just pop up. We thank these mentioned and all those not mentioned. We owe our freedom of speech and movement to these WWII veterans... both the men and women.

Rosie the Riveter was actually Rosie the Welder at the shipyards. Lake Washington Shipyard ships were no longer being riveted but welded. Because so many young men were serving, local women took up tools and joined the men. Lakeview Terrace was built so the working mothers had quality care for their children. Lakeview Terrace later became the home of the Houghton City Hall. Today it is a Terrace Park.

After the war, some families moved. But many stayed and helped the area become what is now Kirkland. It gave Kirkland and Houghton sustainable growth. The ferries were running, the town was growing, the high school was at the foot of Market: this is the Kirkland many miss. There must have been a community pulse that will never be repeated.

Kirkland Heritage Society sincerely hopes that as many WWII veterans, Rosie the Welders, all Boeing and LWS workers will attend the May 25, 2011 meeting. With a WWII prisoner of war as our guest speaker, we want to hear your stories too. All home front families are invited. If you had a rationing book, planted a Victory Garden, collected paper or metal for the war effort, worked in a war industry, lost a loved one or best friend, then we want your stories too. You all contributed to America’s freedom.
The Rest of the Story

Loita Hawkinson reporting

During an oral history with the late Ev Cox, he told about his summer job as guard at the Lake Washington Shipyard. It was a job he dreaded because it was dark, loney and just a little spooky. But supplies were disappearing from the ships and they needed protection. During his oral history, the late Roger Johnson told about how he and his friends would swim to the back of the ships at the LWS and climb aboard during the bright summer days. Once aboard the unguarded ships, they would toss hardhats overboard to hear this delightful “pop” as they hit the water. Welding rods looked like water snakes as they shimmied to the bottom. Ev Cox was protecting by night and Roger and his friends were up to their mischief by day. And these are some of the treasures that the young Matt McCauley found during his many dives at the Lake Washington Shipyard. History is like family. The more you learn, the more you understand and appreciate the connections.
THANK YOU TO:
Pam Gates Owens for two Lucile Mac-Donald books: The Lake Washington Story and the Eastside Notebook with 101 Local history vignettes. Both books have been out of print and are very hard to find. They are shelved with local history at the Resource Center. Pam also offered 1928 and 1941 and 1945 Reveilles. Pam wanted to keep them in her family but knows how much we desire a complete yearbook collection. KHS has copies of these yearbooks so Pam’s were returned to her. It was a wonderful gesture.

David Sherbrooke for a DVD of family movies taken in the 1940’s. See the website for family movies. Link is on the front page. Thank you webmaster Dale H.

Vicki Tompkins Bilyeu for photos of Minnie Bartsch Sample, Rose Bartsch Tompkins, Chester Tompkins and Harrie Tompkins. Vicki is the daughter of Chester and granddaughter of Rose and Harrie. Harrie and his brother-in-law, George Bartsch, started B & T Transportation in 1901. They took on a partner, John Anderson and this company eventually became the Lake Washington Shipyard.

Russ McClintick for a book about Kirkland’s Senior Center, which was written by Kathryn L. Nelson. Russ also gave a copy of a Washington Centennial newspaper featuring local history that included his wife, Freddie Ann Huelsdonk McClintick’s family. And Russ donated three postcards, two which are Ellis photos of Kirkland. These two cards are old and wonderful.

Frank Rosin for two 8x10 photos of his place in South Kirkland taken in 1968. So much has changed. Wow.

Pat Shinstrom for two button pins. One is for Al Lock and the other is for the Moss Bay Celebration. For as many buttons that get made, very few survive. Pat also gave some wonderful history that may be new to Kirkland. Al Lock said the Market Street is precisely north. While in Moss Bay, Ferry Captains would line up their ferry with Market and set their campuses due north. Now for all of you that will say “I knew that”, I say, “we did not” and there must be many more bits of historic trivia that will enrich our history.” Please share your memories.

Vic Newhard for donating the copy of Ed Lincoln’s Life Through the Rearview Mirror that was given away at the April meeting.

In 1996, Betty McClintick Gaudy and Jeanette McClintick Makela recorded their memories of Life on Rose Hill. These tapes have been duplicated with copies given to both Redmond Historical Society and Kirkland Heritage Society. Redmond’s Doris A. Schaible has now transcribed the tapes and KHS has received the transcription. Such a wonderful gesture by our friends in Redmond. The transcription is on the history shelves of the Resource Center and has been entered into the PastPerfect database. Betty and Jeanette are sisters of Russ and they tell some pretty good stories about Russell McClintick!!!!
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<td>Sandy Ekins</td>
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* Chair or Co-chairs

** During WWI, the Hello Girls were ladies who served as telephone operators. For KHS, these sweet ladies call and remind you of the next meeting or event.

KHS is 100% volunteer with no paid staff. Your membership makes it all happen.

2010 MEMBERSHIP
Kirkland Heritage Society
January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011
KHS qualifies for tax exemption under 501(c) (3) and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. We qualify for matching gift contributions by those employers who offer this benefit.

Membership Category

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