Homes for as little as $18,500 and Boeing just 15 minutes away. How times have changed. See page 4 for Kingsgate history.
Blackberry Preserves

Kirkland history, visitors to City Hall found a display of historic Kirkland artifacts and historic photographs and in the downtown area banners flew from light polls. History month is organized and supported by the Kirkland Heritage Society (KHS), with participation by Kirkland businesses, and additional support from 4Culture. Businesses are not charged for their participation. Much of the financial support for History Month comes from KHS general funds, which come from member dues and other donations.

Each of the past few years the Kirkland Heritage Society has purchased additional items for use in celebrating History Month. We now have 12 banners to hang in downtown Kirkland, about 100 window display posters, and numerous historic photographs from our growing collection have been enlarged for public display. This year we could have used more enlargements and posters.

4Culture supports projects related to historic King County. Funding comes from a hotel/motel tax dedicated to historic preservation, education, and public awareness. Funds are distributed through a program of grants. It was through past grants awarded by 4Culture that KHS was able to purchase many of the items displayed in recent years.

This year we are again applying for a 4Culture grant that would allow us to purchase up to 100 additional posters and additional enlarged photographs for use in the 2015 History Month celebration. With additional posters, more Kirkland businesses will be able to participate in the 2015 History Month. Some larger posters will allow us to display aerial pictures. Aerial pictures are especially enlightening as they show the overall changing landscape in areas of Kirkland most affected by recent development.

With early planning and community support we are expecting the 2015 History Month to be better than ever. We thank KHS members and donors and 4Culture for their generous support.

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**2015 History Month Planning**

By Glenn Landguth

People are starting to catch on to the fact that February is History Month in Kirkland. We have just experienced another successful event, with about 100 Kirkland businesses displaying posters depicting Kirkland’s history. The website has been maintained for the past two years but additional information could not be added until I got some tech support. We will need more help in the future but for now I will be kept busy adding history for Kirkland’s 14 neighborhoods. The Christine Neir Scholarship winners are now featured. If you have ideas, please don’t hesitate about contacting KHS.

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KHS Monthly Program

7:00 p.m.
Heritage Hall

March 26, 2014

Topher White speaking about the Kirkland Masons.

April 30, 2014

There have been many eras in Kirkland’s rich history. This program will feature the era that may have had the most impact.

In the Land of Rain and Salmon program in January.

Tom Hitzroth during his “Lost Redmond” program in February

Karen Schickling started a Facebook account named Kirkland Heritage Society and Museum. If you use Facebook, please give us a look and offer suggestions. You can go directly from the KHS website.

Retired Teachers meet monthly at Hectors. They have a meeting, lunch and program. In January they requested a program on Kirkland. Our April meeting will feature the same program.

Peter Kirk’s Gr Gr Gr granddaughter, Sandy Middleton made her annual visit to the NW to visit family. Sandy often spends time going over the Kirk archives held by KHS. During this visit, Sandy also visited the Peter Kirk collection held by the UW Special Collections. In 1959, Marjorie Bergman, granddaughter of Peter Kirk had the foresight to give historic papers to the University. This collection is organized in two boxes and gives Kirkland history that would have been lost forever if not for the forethought of the Kirk family.

The History Month display at City Hall featured the Founders and “our” Seahawks.

KHS receives 100% commission from the sales of Bob Neir’s A City Comes of Age and Steve Lamson’s The Power of a Dream. Both are available at Parkplace Books.
Kingsgate’s Beginnings
By Loita Hawkinson

What do Kirkland and Kingsgate have in common?

Kingsgate, originally known as Kingsgate Highlands, was first envisioned in 1964 by Murdock McPherson of the McPherson real-estate family. Planned communities of the 60’s were largely designed for adult living with little attention for children. It was Mr. MacPherson’s vision to have a community designed for children and their parents. Kingsgate was one of the first planned communities that was designed for families…”families on the grow”.

During 1964 the MacPherson’s purchased land from over forty owners to provide room for their 450 acre neighborhood vision. During this time the evening news frequently mentioned Kingsgate in England. This is when Murdock MacPherson decided on the name Kingsgate. When I spoke to Mr. MacPherson in 2011, he could not remember the news stories. He had just liked the name. The 450 acres was to provide room for 2,000 family homes. The acreage had been previously undeveloped. Roads, sidewalks, a sewage treatment plant, underground utilities, parks, a swimming pool and three schools were then designed. A new owner could select a lot and have a home built to meet their needs. The first MacPherson built homes went on display in 1965. Visitors were greeted to the open houses by a guard in a Buckingham Palace uniform. Kingsgate was the first planned community of that magnitude in Washington.

Originally Kingsgate was to be connected to NE 85th Street on Rose Hill by Kingsgate Way which was then and still is 124th Avenue NE. This road idea was abandoned because of Lake Watstine. Lake Watstine’s wetland area prohibited the building of a straight road north on 124th Avenue NE. Today the curved road is Totem Lake Blvd. Lake Watstine had been known as Lake Wittenmyer, named for 1880’s pioneer, George Wittenmyer. Locals called it Mud Lake. This small lake was renamed Totem Lake by the Totem Lake Developers in 1973.

Soon after, the land directly south of Kingsgate was named Totem Lake by the Totem Lake Development Company. Totem Lake’s business district development was built in two phases and soon overshadowed Kingsgate. The Evergreen Hospital was built during phase 1 and the Totem Lake Shopping Center opened during phase 2. Kingsgate has now been incorporated into Kirkland. But from the beginning, Kirkland and Kingsgate have shared a history. They were both planned communities with a focus on families and a quality of life.

In 1888, Kirkland was platted after Pullman, Illinois. Pullman, now incorporated into Chicago’s South Side, was a world-renowned company town founded by the industrialist George M. Pullman in the 1880s. Pullman was a planned community with a focus on a quality of life for the workers of the Pullman plant. Parks were abundant. Homes were affordable with oil lights and bathrooms. Kirkland was platted for the same density as Pullman. Parks were abundant. Views were cherished. The town was walkable. The Steel Mill was coming and families were being enticed with parks, schools and a quality of life.

And then there is the British influence: Piccadilly Street which is now 7th Avenue; Moss Bay, named for the Bay near Peter Kirk’s steel works in England; Kingsgate named for England; the Buckingham Palace Guard.

Both Kirkland and Kingsgate focused on values we can all be proud of.

1966 ad
This is the 20th in the series and does not give much history. But it continues to drive in the point that the Kirk Era investors did not give up on Kirkland. General Alger died in 1907 but his heirs held tight to their Kirkland investments. Mr. Sears died in 1905 and the estate finally sold most (but still not all) of the holdings in 1915. These families were investors, not speculators. The speculators bought on credit and they lost their land. But the investors paid cash and finally realized a profit. It was not the profits they had hoped for when they had originally invested in the future steel mill town.

More about the Peter Kirk Papers at the U. There are letters to Peter Kirk on 1908 Kirkland Development Co. letterhead. This letterhead is Robin’s egg blue and claims that Kirkland is the “Oakland of Seattle”. Prior to finding these letters, Burke & Farrar had been credited (or blamed) for this slogan.

The pavers are in

Thank you Jason Filan, City Parks Maintenance Manager and his crew for installing the pavers free of charge. Without this little perk, we would have to stop selling the pavers. The cost has gone up over the past 14 years but KHS does not want to increase the price to you. The next order will be submitted the first of October, 2014.
THANK YOU TO:

Jerry Sampont donated copies of *Coast Guard at War – Vietnam* which was recorded by the Discovery Military Channel in June 2006. Jerry had enlisted in the Coast Guard and found himself in Vietnam in 1966. Very little has been told about the Coast Guard’s involvement during the war until this documentary. The Navy could not navigate the shallow waters near Vietnam so the Coast Guard was brought in. Being Coast Guard white, the boats were sitting ducks. They were immediately painted battleship gray. Jerry is the first person you see to start the documentary. There is 1966 footage of Jerry boarding a junk. Jerry is featured several times during the documentary...he gives a very good interview.

Hazel and Dave Russell were very involved in the first Moss Bay Celebration held in 1972. This was also the Founders Centennial. Hazel has given three original buttons and a sexy garter...like the one Bob Neir wore for a photo shoot.

Carol Trapp had the heart break of losing her son, Brian in 2011. Carol has now donated Brian’s yearbooks and other items of local interest. Thank you, Carol for continuing to trust KHS with your family treasures.

Tom Hitzroth has acquired a photo of Dr. Dobbs who was falsely accused of the murder of Leticia Whitehall. Tom had to buy the original photo and has generously shared it with KHS

NW Seaport is celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. Thanks to the collections of Allen Locke, Bob Neir and Bob Ely, KHS has provided original images of their time at Marina Park. Many of you continue to miss the atmosphere of having the Wawona, Author Foss and Relief moored at the end of the dock. Allen Locke was City Manager, Bob Neir was Mayor, and Bob Ely was the Fire Chief when the boats arrived.

Wayne Kirtley is a descendent from pre Kirkland pioneers. They owned Lake House. Wayne has the most magnificent memory. As soon as time allows, a second oral history will be done. I have made notes of topics to cover. Wayne’s family spoke of his grandparents, Bessie Fish Kirtley and Ed Kirtley. Wayne has that history tucked away in his memories. Bessie was Ida and Ed was Erastus. They did not like their names and changed them. Something’s do not change from generation to generation.

Pat Shinstom was as pretty as ever when she dropped off items to add to the growing Shinstom collection. Among the items were her Girl Scout ring, Dick’s Honor Society pin from LWHS and her father’s WWII Coast Guard pin.

Kent Sullivan is a railroad enthusiast and has shared his Kirkland Depot photos with KHS. The depot is another example of how a common historic building can get passed over. There must be photos from the early days as visitors were picked up or dropped off. And what about all the school kids that took the train to Puyallup? Years ago Frank Rosin donated his train ticket to the fair.

Gary Stone donated a 1938 and a1940 KHS Reveille. They were the yearbooks of the late Eugene Johnson and Bette Spencer Johnson. Gary had been entrusted to get the annuals where they would be available and safe. Thank you Gary.
President: Loita Hawkinson  425 827-1950  
Vice President: Lynette Weber  425 890-9058  
Secretary: Vic Newhard  425 522-4082  
Treasurer: Janeeen Ryseff  425 827-3446  
At-Large: Clarence Stone  425 827-3446  
At-Large: Glenn Langduth  425-827-3446  
At-Large: Karen Schickling  425 827-3446  
At-Large: Linda Jaton  425 827-3446  
At-Large: Sally Jo Bechtel  425 827-3446  

Committee Chairs & members  
Archives & Collections: Loita Hawkinson* Karen Schickling  425 827-1950 425-827-3446  
Controller: Hazel Russell  425-827-3446  
Blackberry Preserves: Loita Hawkinson Marjorie Denton  425 827-1950  
Pavers: Glenn Landguth  825 827-3446  
Grants/Funding: Glenn Landguth*  425 827-3446  
Hello Girls**: Linda Jaton* Cathy Radcliff Corrine Hieb Margie Denton Marilyn Johnson  425 827-3446  
Feature Writers: Loita Hawkinson Guest Writers  425 827-1950  
Programs: Linda Jaton* Karen Schickling  425 827-3446 425 827-3446  
Time Keepers: Marin Harris* Shannon Harris  425-827-3446  
Membership: Janeen Ryseff*  425-827-3446  
Oral History: Loita Hawkinson Clarence Stone  425 827-1950  
Planning and Historic Sites: Lynette Weber* Tom Hitzroth  425 890-9058 425 823-2981  
Scholarship Committee: Jim Neir* Kris Woods  206 478-3173 425 827-3446  

* 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.  
※ Kirkland Natives serving on the KHS Board.  

Webmaster: The late Dale W. Hawkinson.  

Kirkland Heritage Society  
www.kirklandheritage.org  
425-827-3446  
KHS is 100% volunteer with no paid staff.  
Your memberships make it happen.  

2014 MEMBERSHIP  
Kirkland Heritage Society  
January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014  
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  
_____ Senior / Student  $20  
_____ Individual  $25  
_____ Family  $30  
_____ Supporting  $100  
_____ Life Member  $1,000  
_____ Organization/Government  $100  
_____ Professional Business  $125  
_____ Corporate  $250  

I would like to make a contribution:  ___________  

TOTAL ENCLOSED:  

If your company matches contributions, please provide the signed Matching Gift Form!  

Name:  
City:  State:  Zip  
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E-mail:  
Checks should be made payable to and mailed to:  
Kirkland Heritage Society  
Heritage Hall, Lower Level  
203 Market Street  
Kirkland, WA  98033.  

TO RENT HERITAGE HALL  
Call Nicci Osborn at Kirkland Parks  425 587-3342  

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Look Out Above
The Seattle Times featured three Juanita photos in their April 19, 1952 news article about the Anti-aircraft Battalion stationed at Juanita Beach. Lake Washington was protected from both Juanita and Seattle. The Times report claimed that Seattle had the best protection on the Pacific Coast. This photo was purchased on eBay. If any of you remember this Battalion and know exactly its location, please give us a call.