In this 1911 ad for Kirkland, the canals are coming.
You will not see ads like this for any other community, including Seattle. And why Teddy Roosevelt cared is still a mystery.

*From the Seattle Times*
**President’s Letter**

**Glenn Landguth**

Let me first take this opportunity to introduce and welcome Nancy Bock, the newest member of the Board. Nancy stepped up to fill the open At-Large position. Nancy’s family came to Kirkland in 1947. She graduated from LWHS in 1961. She and her husband of 47 years, Lauren, have two grown daughters. Nancy has extensive experience in title insurance/escrow, real estate, and office management. She has been an active member of KHS, and has provided photographs and other information for our heritage database.

Visitors to the KHS Resource Center will now find a new display of furniture from some historic schools. Frank Rosin has donated several prize memorabilia in the past, and has just recently donated a set of school desks that were in one of the classrooms at the old Rose Hill Elementary.

Loita then rearranged the existing teacher’s desk from Central School and other existing classroom items to simulate a classroom environment. Nancy Bock said that she has some of her school work from Central School that could be added to the display.

Loita has also added school photos for a digital photo frame that she has hung on the wall.

Our next big project is the upcoming History Month celebration. We are actively working on new posters to add the ones that we already have. We will be getting 12 new large posters with aerial photographs. The larger format is appropriate for aerial views so that people can identify enough detail to spot where their present homes or businesses are located. Look for a separate article on History Month in this newsletter.

We thank The City of Kirkland, 4Culture, and our wonderful members for their continuing support of KHS.

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**Mailbag**

December 2015

Hi KHS,

I do so love getting your newsletter. I was born in the old Kirkland Hospital. I lived on Yarrow Bay until 18 and then on Rose Hill until I was 58 and moved to Maine. I love to see the volunteer names. Wayne Jaton was in the same class as I and he and Linda are friends I treasure. Also a couple other I knew but were older: Frankie Rosin, Marilyn Johnson, Clarence Stone. Also my mom, Erma Evetts Gain, went to school with John Gates (Pam’s dad) and I knew him well.

I also remember well, after the ship canal was opened, the lake was lowered every summer for 2 weeks so people could work on their docks, etc. One time my Great-uncle Charlie (from Seattle) had been over to swim in June. All was good. Then he came for Mom’s annual 4th of July picnic. He got out of his car in a bathing suit and started running with a banshee yell towards the dock. Everyone else knew and tried to stop him but he dove off the end of the dock (yes, the lake had been lowered several feet). When he stopped he was head first into the muck with legs in the air above the water. Daddy and an uncle dashed out fully clothed and pulled on his legs. What a mess! I don’t think he ever swam again at our house – ha!

I remember swimming across Yarrow Bay and then across to Seattle to a park near Sand Point and then back. Also when a small Navy airplane crashed in our bay and daddy and a neighbor, Cecil Goring, went out in a row boat and saved the pilots.

Thanks for all you do for the History of Kirkland.

Judy (Thommasen)
KHS Monthly Program
7:00 p.m.
Heritage Hall

January 27, 2016
Houghton native, Tom Hitzroth will be sharing what he has learned about the 1886 Mercer Island murder mystery. This is still a cold case. Wonder if Tom has solved it?

February 24, 2016
Kirkland Police Lieutenant, Nick Seibert, will tell us the history of the Kirkland Police Department.

2015 Cookie Exchange at the 1915 Carr/Hawkinson home.

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.

Karen Schickling edits our Facebook account named:

Kirkland Heritage Society and Museum.

If you use Facebook, please give us a look and a like.

Corrections
In the last issue, it was stated that our founder, Peter Kirk, had died in 1915. Mr. Kirk died May 4, 1916.

AND….C.D. Stimson and the Stimson Road were misspelled as Simpson. It is spelled correctly in my files so do not know what happened. Thank you Terri Malinowski, Woodinville Historical Society, for gently calling this to my attention.

And in this case...heaven help HER. Your humble editor, LH. Clipping from the 1929 East Side Journal.
The Lake Washington Ship Canal is to Kirkland what homesteading is to Juanita, Pleasant Bay (Houghton) and Redmond. Juanita, Houghton and Redmond were settled by homesteaders. Kirkland was established as a company town by Leigh S.J. Hunt and Peter Kirk. They purchased homesteads in the Nelson Bay area of Houghton and renamed their new town Kirkland. Nelson Bay became Moss Bay. Many areas offered inducements to entice Peter Kirk. Ellensburg offered free land and financial inducements. But it was the promise of the ship canal that led our namesake to Nelson Bay.

2016 is the Centennial for the lowering of Lake Washington. Seattle will be celebrating and honoring the Lake Washington Ship Canal because of its impact on the City of Seattle. But it is my view that no community benefitted more than the Kirkland area. And without the promise of the canal in 1888, there never would have been a Kirkland in King County, Washington.

First proposed by the earliest Seattle pioneers, the canal would have opened the Lake Washington side of Seattle for manufacturing and export. The U.S. Navy also had plans for the canal which would have allowed them to have a fresh water Naval Shipyard. These earlier attempts faltered. Then in 1888, the US Government appropriated funds to build the canal. By 1891, the federal funding had been repealed. This repeal is the reason Kirk’s steel mill never went into production. The 1893 financial panic had nothing to do with it, no matter how many times it is repeated.

In 1905, James A. Moore (Moore Theatre, Seattle’s oldest), again proposed the canal. Moore had government support but Hiram Chittenden stepped in, thinking that Moore’s plans for wooden locks were a recipe for disaster. If (and when) they failed, Lake Washington would have literally drained into Puget Sound. Chittenden envisioned large cement locks….locks that could accommodate ships. Locks that are sound 100 years later.

If you Google the history of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, most links lead to Seattle. Misunderstood and largely ignored, was this area’s influence of the eventual building and benefit from the Ship Canal.

For the last 5 years, the Blackberry Preserves has published the 30 Little Stories offered by Kirkland land owners and developers, Burke & Farrar. Published in the Seattle Times in 1915, Burke & Farrar enticed families to invest in Kirkland.

This year, Blackberry Preserves will focus on the canal’s history from Harry French through WWI and WWII. There is much to tell.

We thank Mary and Rebecca, co-owners of Parkplace Books for their years of community support. We hope Parkplace Books returns. The store has been a fixture. They will be missed.
Trueblood House
by Glenn Landguth

Some people have had their collective eyes on this house for a long time. The house is called the Trueblood house in respect to the best known resident, Dr. Trueblood. But that is another story.

Last June, Lynette Weber brought to our attention the possibility that the Trueblood house would possibly be available to KHS if we could use it. Our understanding was that the Trueblood house was scheduled for demolishing or moving in 2016.

The owners would donate the house, which would then be available for “future adaptive reuse”. Adaptive reuse would be a way of saving this particular structure. KHS has always been interested in helping Kirkland to have a museum, and so the question was, could the Trueblood house fill that need? Just because a house is “old” or just because it is historically or architecturally significant, does not automatically make it suitable for housing a museum. We would still need to find a place to site the house, fund moving the house, and repair/refurbish the house to meet codes, and fund continued maintenance. Total budget for relocation & rehabilitation was thought to be at least $200,000, depending upon the final location.

One of the criteria for adaptive reuse is that the house would have to generate income sufficient to justify keeping it from an economic standpoint. The City could consider other uses for the building if it is not used for a museum.

At the December Board meeting, the feeling was that KHS could not fund a museum, but would provide volunteers to have it opened on a very limited schedule should the City establish a museum.

It was felt that the upstairs part of the house could never be made available to the
d

public because it could not be made ADA compliant. Significant furnishings have probably already been removed, so we would be starting with an empty “stripped” house.

In an email on December 10, 2015, Lynette indicated that the City Committee, comprised of people from the Parks Department, Public Works, and Planning/Development, “would not move forward on this project until they had significantly more information and a reasonable set of assurances from KHS.”

Lynette Weber requested KHS to provide the following to the City Committee:
Possible property locations other than City parks
A letter of intent
A business plan for its use
A plan for how it will be operated
Thoughts on possible fund raising

Lynette added that, “They would really like KHS to step up to the plate, show some real leadership behind making this a project, and then they would be happy to help.”

We will also be looking at what kind of financial aid 4Culture might offer for a project like this.

KHS has not yet responded to the City Committee. Time will be allotted at the January board meeting for discussion on this topic. Member input is welcome.
Well, here we are again. History Month is less than a month away. And we are racing to make final preparation for what might just be the signature event of the year for the KHS. The posters that we provide for display in Kirkland establishments during History Month have pictures from our growing Kirkland database. Whenever possible, we try to use pictures from the neighborhoods in which the posters are to be displayed. We are fortunate to still have many of the buildings in the downtown neighborhood that have been repurposed but are still recognizable.

There are always new old things that we need to remember. Pictures from 1971 and 1975 are reminders that history is a moving target. Many of us have fond memories of the ‘40s, ‘50s, and ‘60s in Kirkland. That is how history works. What we remember most fondly are the things that we grew up with. The pictures bring back those memories. And along with previous treasures, our knowledge about and appreciation of our heritage continues to grow. Our goal is to add 12 large posters with aerial pictures and 24 of the smaller posters with pictures from some of the annexed neighborhoods. We are fortunate to be receiving a targeted grant from 4Culture to partially finance the new posters.

Specifically, we have some aerial pictures of the Juanita, Kingsgate, and Everest neighborhoods from the 1970s:. We also have some pictures of the large driftwood that used to be in Marina Park. And pictures of Juanita Beach park before the park was extensively re-landscaped. And we have pictures of the Neal property, now a Rendezvous development and the Neal-Landguth Wetland Park on 10th Street South.

Volunteers will distribute posters somewhat randomly. When volunteers again approach business with posters under their arms, we hope that the businesses will be as receptive as they have been in the past.

We welcome your comments about History Month. Drop us a note, or respond to a survey, and let us know what you liked, what you didn’t like, and suggestions for additions in the future. Give us your contact information and we will respond directly back to you if you wish.

We aim to please. Just give us something to aim at.

We thank The City of Kirkland, 4Culture, and our wonderful members for their continuing support of KHS.
Kirkland Heritage Society
www.kirklandheritage.org
425-827-3446

KHS is 100% volunteer with no paid staff. Your memberships make it happen.

2015 MEMBERSHIP
Kirkland Heritage Society
January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

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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I would like to make a contribution: ___________

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

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

Name: ________________________________
Address: _____________________________ State: ______ Zip: ______
Phone: ______________________________
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 Kevin Ball at Kirkland Parks
425 587-3398
Tim and Maria Carr. Tim is the grandson of the first owner of the Carr/Hawkinson home, Berthe Carr. His Aunt Janeen Ryseff made sure he was invited to the 2015 Cookie Exchange. Tim had not been in the home since it sold in 1976.