February is History Month

Look for historic plaques around town as you

DINE & SHOP & BANK in KIRKLAND.

Vol. XXVI, Issue I Jan/Feb 2019

www.kirklandheritage.org
From the President
Loita Hawkinson

2018 was a good year for history in Kirkland. That is not to say it was an easy year, but it was rewarding. As collections come in they need to be cataloged then archived or displayed. The archives have plenty of room as yet, but display space is a premium. If any of you have ideas of how to make better use of our space, please do not be shy.

We thank our wonderful Bookkeeper, Hazel Russell, for her years of service. Hazel asked to be relieved of the Bookkeeping duties about a year ago. It was not easy to find a replacement. This December Andrea Kyrala came in for some history on her home on Big Finn Hill. Andrea commented on wishing she could do something for KHS but she had limited time. I asked her about the bookkeeping position and put her in touch with Hazel. They met and Hazel is both happy and relieved. Frank continues to be the Treasurer and pays the bills and makes the deposits. Andrea will then take the paperwork and do the record keeping and reports. Hazel will be on call should Andrea have questions.

I also wish to thank Hazel’s husband, Dave. I ran into Dave at Costco about 6 years ago and asked if Hazel might be able to help with the books. I was a recent widow, our bookkeeper had to retire for medical reasons, the copier had quit, the renewal letters had just gone out and checks were coming in. I cornered Dave, he cornered Hazel and the rest is history. And while I am at it, thanks to Santos Contreras for disposing of the huge copier back then….no easy task. It was replaced with a modern desk top copier which made more room for displays. The 2019 renewals have been coming in along with several new members. Thank you all.

Happy Spring Cleaning.

A special visit.

Aubrey Aramaki, Donna Fujii, Min Muromoto, Young-sun Aramaki in November 2018.

In November, KHS had some very special guests. Little is known at this time about the Japanese relocation of the Japanese who lived on the eastside. We know that 443 Japanese left from the Kirkland train depot on May 20, 1942. Because of the war time paper recycling, news reports are scarce. Min Muromoto lived in Bellevue but attended Kirkland High School because of the music department. Min and family visited KHS and shared some memories.

Min, along with his family, was relocated to Idaho. He still remembers Dick Shinstrom, Bill Crow, Martha Burr Millar, Phil Marsh, Milt Sessions and others. During his visit, Min talked by phone with Martha for a 76 year catch up. Aubrey’s parents met and married in camp. His brother was born in camp. Aubrey was born after the war and is responsible for his family’s visit. Most of the family continues to live in the area.

KHS has not had any relocation history since the late Gary Lanksbury did an oral history with Rose and Shizu Yabuki in 2006.
KHS Monthly Programs
7:00 p.m.
Heritage Hall
203 Market Street

January, 2019

No Membership Meeting. Weather related events have forced last minute cancellations in the past. See you in February.

February 27, 2019

At last report, there will be a program about coin collecting

March 27, 2019

To be announced

April 24, 2019

To be announced

May 29, 2019

To be announced

Thank you Drs. Dan & Kim Hartman for opening their “new” 1890 home, the Buchanan Home, to KHS members for the annual Cookie Exchange. Was a wonderful event. It adds such charm that Kirkland’s first hospital/clinic is owned by doctors. Photo by Linda Jaton.

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.

Kirkland Heritage Society office and museum are open:
Monday from 10 to noon
Wednesday from 2 to 5

Life Members:

Programs
Karen and Linda would like suggestions for future programs:
Linda Jaton @ 425-898-4853,
Karen Schickling @ 425-273-6299 or kschic1965@gmail.com.

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When you purchase from Amazon, .5% of your total purchase can be donated to KHS. Amazon pays this .5%, not the buyer. The link to our AmazonSmile account is on our website @ Kirklandheritage.org
.5% does not amount to much but every penny helps support Kirkland’s history.
Antiques, collectibles, ephemera.  
By Loita Hawkinson

The small museum at KHS is more like a Smithsonian than a museum. There are the rare historic antiques from the pioneer eras. Anything belonging to Harry French and his family is an antique. Their dining table is our conference table. There was no room to display this lovely table so we put it to use.

There are many collectibles….items that were mass produced but served a purpose and therefore saved by many families. Yard sticks and other business advertising premiums, LWS badges, rationing books with coupons and tokens, yearbooks, pens, ice picks, phone books, cigar boxes and Tasty bottles are examples. All have Kirkland inscribed on them.

Other more rare collectibles are the nail scale from McEvoy Rogers, hardware store aprons worn by employees, kitchen items from the Lake Washington High School kitchen, telephones and equipment from the Kirkland Telephone Company, cast iron pulleys from the clothes line at Juanita Beach…from back in the days when swimmers rented wool bathing suits that then needed a wash, a life ring from Juanita Beach and so much more.

Then there is the ephemera. Ephemera are those items that are mass produced and used one time and then discarded. These are the items often found on eBay. They are rare because they were not meant to be saved. Examples are theatre and ferry tickets, ferry schedules, Juanita and Shady Beach day passes that attached to the radiators of cars….these passes littered the roads back in the 1930’s, but are rare today.

It is the ephemera that many people enjoy seeing on display. They are a reminder of the past. When they are found, it is often in a scrapbook or book, having been used as a bookmark. But many may never be found. Younger’s Mints were individually wrapped and people remember that Younger was written on the wrapper. With the millions sold and eaten, you would think a wrapper would turn up in a desk drawer or old purse. So far, no luck. KHS does have three Younger’s tins. One donated and two from eBay…all three are displayed at KHS.

So…as you spring clean…it is just around the corner, please keep your eyes out for any “ephemera” that would help preserve Kirkland’s history.

WWII Lake Washington Paycheck

Stoney (Clarence Stone) has donated what maybe a one of a kind. His aunt worked at the Lake Washington Shipyard in 1945, before the end of WWII. When a new employee was signed up to work, a small check would be issued to get the employee in the system. Even though these checks were just pennies, they were cashed by most employees.

The check was payable to Clarissa A. Cain and was for 10 cents. We will never know just why this check was never cashed but Clarissa may have saved it as a souvenir. Many families have the paystubs for the Lake Washington Shipyard. But an uncashed check is rare.

It is not even worth 10 cents in 2018 since the shipyard no longer exists. But it is priceless to Kirkland’s history. Thank you to the Stone family for entrusting it to KHS. The check is in the WWII display case.

On a personal note, my own father worked for Northland Greyhound during the war. His first check was for pennies as well and he saved it. After his death, I called the Greyhound Museum in Hibbing, Minnesota and asked if they were interested in this check. They had heard of these checks but had never seen one. My father’s first paycheck is now at that museum. Loita

WWII Lake Washington Shipyard Paycheck
Can you help?

These two glass tubes were found in the deep water off the Lake Washington Shipyard. Because two were found during a dive, there are more and they were made for a purpose.

They are of thick glass with a blue tint. They are much like a thick narrow glass that has been crimped and bent to a slight angle. They are alike but not identical so handmade. My personal guess is that they went over the ends of bare cables or thick wires.

Please help. They are a real treasure… just not sure just what kind of treasure.

From the Don Schmitz Collection.

Great War Veterans

Thanks to Anita Maxwell, two of her family members are now recorded in the WWI or Great War database. Ernest R. Gilbert and Frank L. Gilbert both served. Many will remember Captain Frank Gilbert because he was a Lake Washington ferry captain for 50 years. He made the last voyage in 1950.

And thanks to Martha Burr Millar, Harry B. Kean is now recorded. Mr. Kean was a thin man and wore Dr. Ernest McKibben, Sr.’s uniform in the Veterans parades.

Thank you both for getting these men counted..

Bottles & jars found in Lake Washington. They date from WWI through WWII.
Tax Tokens

Betty McClintick Gaudy got the ball rolling when she sent a green plastic tax token that were issued during WWII. Washington State started collecting sales tax in 1935…the rate was then 2%. Aluminum tax token were issued to the merchants to give change so that people did not overpay the sales tax. Every penny counted, especially during the Great Depression. If a family found themselves with a pocket full of sales tax tokens, they could be used as money to buy a candy bar or to give exact change.

Frank (Rosin) knew he also had some tax tokens. His parents were in business when the sales tax started and he has donated the 1935 Kirkland Paint Factory business tax license and aluminum tokens issued in 1935. Frank also had a few fiber tokens and green plastic tokens, both issued during the war when all metals were being saved for the war effort. Green tokens are the most rare. They curled and broke easily. Plus they were a pretty color and kids used them when playing Tiddlywinks and other games. Few survived.

After the war, the tax tokens were again made of aluminum. These are the tokens many people remember. Tokens were used until 1951.

The oldest tokens are with the Kirkland Paint Factory display. The wartime tokens are with WWII display. Thank you Betty for getting this all started. While having little monetary value, these tokens are an important bit of history.
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Secretary: Janice Gerrish 425.827-3446
Treasurer: Frank Rosin 425 827-3446
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At-Large: Vic Newhard 425 892-8388
At-Large: Lynette Weber 425 890-9058
At-Large: Dave Sherbrooke 425 827-3446
At-Large: Shannon Harris 425-827-3446

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<td>Jim Neir*</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.
* Kirkland Natives or deep roots serving KHS.

Kirkland Heritage Society
www.kirklandheritage.org
425-827-3446

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

2019 MEMBERSHIP
Kirkland Heritage Society
January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019
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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Kirkland, WA 98033.

TO RENT HERITAGE HALL
Call the City of Kirkland’s Customer Service Division at:
425-587-3300
Min Muromoto talking with Martha Burr Millar
November 2018    See page 2 for details.

Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland’s past. Loita Hawkinson, Editor.
For information on KHS - visit our website: www.kirklandheritage.org, or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.