Susan Parks display in Denver
See back page and pages 4 and 5
From the President
Frank Rosin

Frank has been under the weather and will not have a letter to membership this issue. Please send him happy thoughts.

KHS has been promoting itself as a Mini Museum for Kirkland. But foremost KHS is a Resource Center for our local history. The archives are chock full of primary source materials that are available for research. Above is Matt McCauley who is doing in-depth research on the early days of the railroad. Fellow KHS member, Kent Sullivan and Matt are working feverishly to fill in the many gaps in the Kirk era railroad history.

2022 Kirkland Cemetery Tour

Matt McCauley will guide his popular Kirkland Cemetery Tour on May 21, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Covid forced Matt to cancel the tour in 2020 and 2021. Now that masking and social distancing is a way of life, the tour is back on schedule.

This year’s tour will feature some of the Civil War Veterans that rest in our historic cemetery. So mark your calendars and hope for some great weather.

In the mail
Dear KHS,

Thanks for sending us the Centennial Calendar. We miss beautiful Kirkland so this will be a wonderful reminder each day!

We loved the Kirkland of the “good old days” and this calendar keeps our happy memories fresh.!

Cheers! John and Barb Broderick

The Jan/Feb Blackberry Preserves had pictures and a little information on Luther Davis. Here is a tad bit more.

Davis was the Washington state high school 100-yard dash champion in both his junior and senior years, 1949 and 1950. In ’49 he ran the 100 at state in 10.1 seconds and the next year at 9.9. In the 200 he sprinted to the finish line in 22.0 the first year and 21.6 as a senior. In both years LW finished third at the state meet. In both years the 10 points Davis earned (five for each first place) made him the state meet’s individual high point leader.

After 72 years his 200 time is still the fastest in school history...tied by Jon Bathurst in 1978. The speedster’s time in the 100 is the eighth fastest. His 1950 times are the oldest for any track event in the LW record book by 10 years.

Bruce Bennett
LWHS 1960

Yearbook photo provided by KHS

Mail continues on page 3
Enclosed is my yearly check. I would like to suggest putting the family name as well as married name in regards to women.

We cannot make it to Kirkland as we’re too old in regards to traffic! We enjoy reading your newsletter. I feel you are forgetting “our” group who have good stories now “so long ago”. Ask Cathy R. about being a cute VanDeCamp girl, as was I. It was always a treat to work together.

Did the name of the military group out of Juanita clarify that it was a gunsite, not a missile site. Jim had brought to the attention of several people. So for your true history it needs to be changed. Missiles were not used yet by the local sites. My husband Jim, was on a missile site on Vashon Island for 10 years starting in 1965.

Hope we can come see your wonderful collection.

Always Kangaroos!

Jim and Lois Pawley - Wick.
LWHS classes of 1950 and 1951

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Always Kangaroos!

Jim and Lois Pawley - Wick.
LWHS classes of 1950 and 1951

Hi KHS,

The picture of Luther Davis and my father (Hunter Mock, back page photo in the Jan/Feb 2022 issue) brought back many great memories. We had a picture of Luther taken at the state meet in Pullman on the mantle in our family rec-room. My father took me to many of the practices and meets when Luther was competing. Luther Davis was a great athlete and in 1950 he alone took 2nd place at the state meet by winning the 100, 220 and broad jump. I remember my father telling stories about their experiences together as coach and high school track star. They were a great team.

Jim Mock
LWHS class of 1955

Yearbook photo provided by KHS

Oops
Thank you Matthew Gregory for noticing that the membership form on page 7 had not been updated for the current year.

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Corporate Members:
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Susan Gregg Parks
by Loita Hawkinson

Susan Parks was a 1916 hero of a Columbus, New Mexico raid. At age 19 she was a wife, mother and telephone operator who at 4 a.m., while the first shots were fired, realized she was the only person in town able to call for help when Pancho Villa raided her small town. Susan Parks is buried in the Kirkland Cemetery.

From a March 24, 1916 New Mexico newspaper: “While Mauser bullets from the rifles of the Villa raiders tore through the thin walls of the telephone station and showered her with flying glass from the broken window panes, Mrs. G. E. Parks, telephone operator of Columbus and wife of the editor of the Columbus Courier, remained at the switch-board with her baby in her arms and sent out the only calls for help that were sent from the little border town during the Villa raid. Mrs. Parks was cut by the flying glass but otherwise was uninsured.”

From family we know that the baby was Gwendolyn Parks who had been ill at the time. Her mother put Gwen under the bed where she slept during the raid. Susan’s cuts were not minor and she carried bullet fragments in her neck for over 20 years. They were removed in a Seattle Hospital in May of 1937.

There is a historic marker and historic display featuring the original switchboard used by Mrs. Parks in New Mexico and Colorado. Susan Parks descendents were honored at the 1916 Centennial. A granddaughter is now writing a book about her famous Grandmother.

It is because of this book that Kirkland Heritage Society took interest in Susan Parks in October of 2021. Shannon Parks called KHS to hopefully learn where Susan Parks had given birth to her last child. They thought it was in a maternity hospital in Juanita that was run by Mrs. Brown.

JUANITA SANITARIUM
HAS CHANGED HANDS

Mrs. I. M. Brown, who has operated the Juanita Sanitarium for the last eleven years, announced, this week, that she had sold the property to Peters and Wood of Seattle. The Sanitarium was sold with all its furnishings so it is thought that it may perhaps be retained as a sanitarium.

Mrs. Brown said today that two hundred babies had been born at her Sanitarium within the last five years, many of them well-known Eastside offsprings.

December 4, 1942
Seattle Daily Times

Mrs. Susan Parks of Kirkland, another woman employee of the yard, has three sons in war service. They are in the Army Signal Corps, the Navy and the Coast Guard. She has two children at home and a daughter working in the time-keeping department.

“The women are trained to do a man’s work, and do it well,” a representative of the shipyard said.
Continued from page 4....
This inquiry was the first hint that Susan Parks had history is Kirkland. So it is time to share a little of what has been unraveled.

Susan Parks was born Susan Ashcraft Gregg. The Gregg family moved to Rose Hill in 1898. Eva May Gregg Cathcart has been the most well known of the Gregg family, largely because James and Eva Gregg Cathcart remained on Rose Hill for over 60 years. Eva had been on Rose Hill as a child.

Eva’s sister was Susan Ashcraft Gregg Parks Kendrick. Mrs. Kendrick died in 1981 and is buried in the Kirkland Cemetery. There is no hint that she had Kirkland roots, that she supported 7 children on her own working at the East Side Journal, at the lunch counter aboard the ferry, and at the shipyard during WWII. She married Mr. Delco Kendrick, a widower, after the war. They had met at the Lake Washington Shipyard.

February 5, 1937
Seattle Post Intelligencer

Over 20 new cemetery markers have been delivered to the City.
Photo by Jason Filan, Kirkland Parks

Programs
Karen would like suggestions for future programs:
Karen Schickling @ 425-273-6299 or kschic1965@gmail.com.

KHS receives 100% commission from the sales of Bob Neir’s A City Comes of Age and Steve Larson’s The Power of a Dream.
On March 6, 2022, Sandy Middleton presented a ZOOM program about her newly released book *The Pioneering Life of Peter Kirk.*

Sandy, from the comfort of her home.

Kirkland Librarian, Andy McClung, organized the event.

Robert Kirk, cousin of Sandy Middleton joined in from Canada.

Matt McCauley was moderator.

Chris Neir recorded the event and once edited, it will be on the KHS website.

Kirkland Heritage Society office and museum is now open

**Monday from 10 to noon**

**Wednesday from 2 to 5**

Editor’s note: Lois Pawley - Wick reminded us of how important it is to use complete family names. That family names are important is illustrated in this issue’s history of Susan Gregg Parks Kendrick. Had Mrs. Kendrick’s granddaughter not asked for research materials about her grandmother’s youngest child who was born in Mrs. Brown’s Maternity Hospital in Juanita in 1929, the history of Susan Parks may have been missed for many more decades.

Mrs. Brown’s history in Kirkland remains a mystery because she was always referred to as Mrs. Brown and Mrs. I.M. Brown. Little is known about her maternity hospital.

Ben’s Barrie’s wife was always referred to as Mrs. Ben Barrie. It took years of research to learn that Rhoda Crabb Barrie was in the Kirkland High School class of 1917. Ben Barrie was in the class of 1916. They were both born in Kirkland. The Crabb family has as deep a history as the Barrie family. Both families came during the Kirk Era and remained.
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<td>Cathy Radcliff</td>
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This historic marker is in New Mexico.

Susan Parks has a place in American history dating back to 1916. Her heroism has been compared to Paul Revere. The Telecom Museum in Denver, Colorado honors the 19 year old telephone operator. See front page showing the display with the original switchboard.