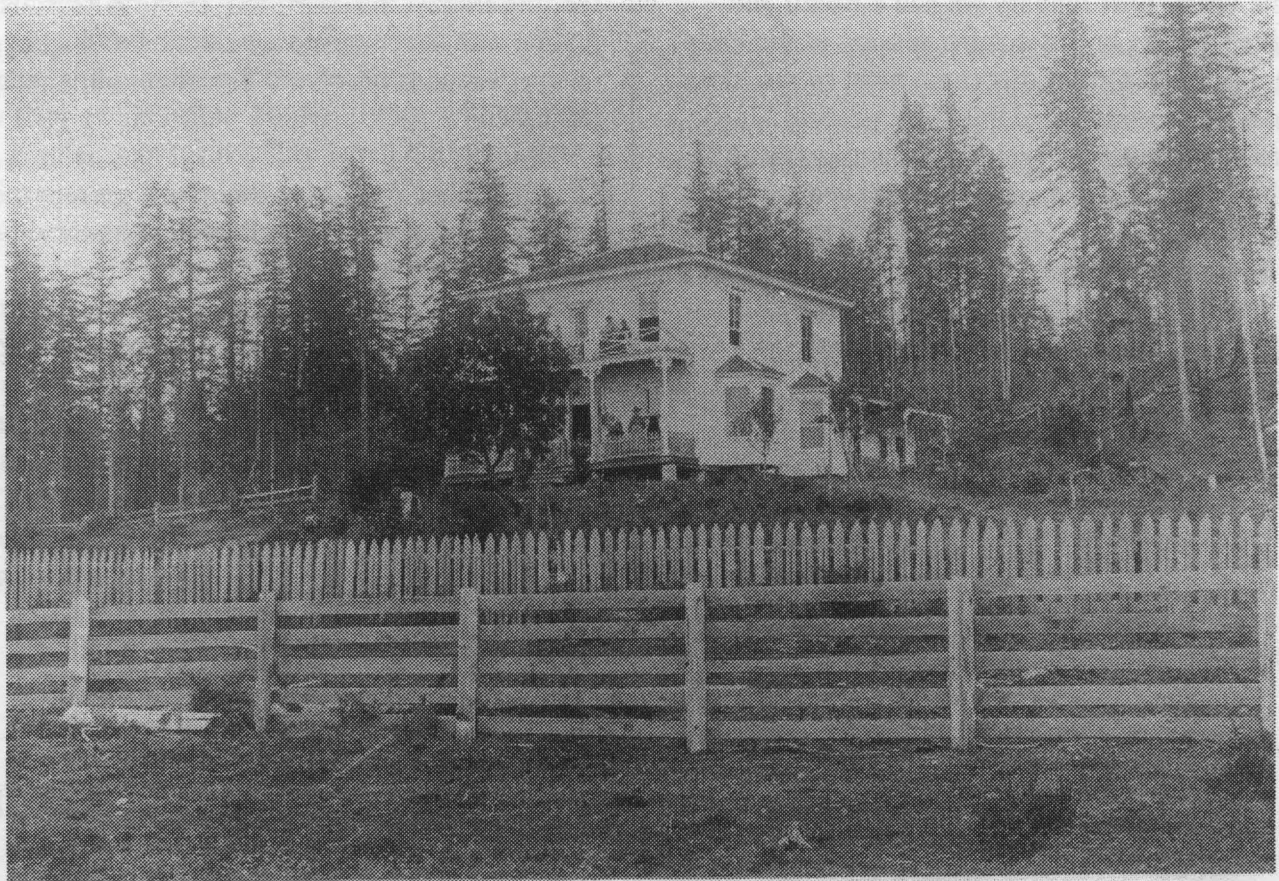


# Blackberry Preserves

## The Journal of the Kirkland Heritage Society



### J. C. O'Conner's Lake House in Houghton in 1887

On the lower porch, Mrs. J.C. O'Conner with baby Clarence in her arms and the hired girl - who may have been Effie Day. On the top porch are George Lewis O'Conner, Charles O'Conner, Henry O'Conner, Lura O'Conner and Maud O'Conner.



Kirkland Heritage Society

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by  
Bob Burke

This is usually our last newsletter of the year so it seems appropriate to reflect about what KHS has done this year! Last January we had a Board and Committee Chairs brainstorming session at the Rose Hill Fire Station. Out of that came most of the ideas which we've accomplished this year: nearly all of which resulted from our seeking out and working with other organizations. Among these are:

- **City of Kirkland**
  - *Historic Display, Funding,*
  - *Interpretive Markers, Virginia V*
  - *Comprehensive Plan Update*
- **King County - Landmarks Division**
  - *Funding for Historic Tour Brochure*
  - *Training for Historic Surveys*
- **Kirkland Arts Center**
  - *Booth and sponsor of KC Grant*
- **Kirkland Chamber of Commerce**
  - *Support for Historic Tour Grant*
  - *Auction & Membership*
- **Neighborhood Associations**
  - *North Rose Hill, Highlands, & Central Houghton*
- **Other Historic Organizations**
  - *Bellevue & Issaquah, Programs*
  - *Marymoor - Archives, Marsh Tour*
  - *Puget Sound Regional Archives*
  - *Center for Puget Sound History and Archeology*

Thanks to each of you from KHS in 1996!!

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Please Note the Change of Date!!  
November 20, 7:00 p.m., 1996

## 1920's MURDER MYSTERY

by  
Alan Stein

Seventy years ago, a brutal crime in Kirkland sent shockwaves around Puget Sound. The lifeless body of a young girl had been discovered in the Sammamish Slough. After much investigation, the wrong man was brought to trial. The press had a feeding frenzy, the courtroom became a circus, and justice was never served on earth. To this day, the murder remains unsolved. It also remains relatively unknown.

On November 20th, Alan Stein will present the details of this sad event in East Side history. At the time, The Seattle papers had banner headlines about the case almost daily. Today, very few people remember this heinous crime. Using news clippings from the East Side Journal, The Seattle Times and the Seattle P.I., Alan will show us how an over-zealous media, inept investigation and show-boating lawyers allowed an innocent man to stand trial while a killer walked free.

Wednesday, November 20, 1996  
7:00 p.m.

Kirkland Congregational Church  
106 - 5th Avenue, Kirkland

If you need a ride to KHS meetings, please call George Harris in advance - 822-7141.

Board and Committee Chair Meeting  
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20, 1996  
Kirkland Congregational Church

All KHS Members are Welcome!!

## TRAINING WORKSHOPS: HOW TO CONDUCT SURVEYS OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

On October 8 and 15th we had an extremely useful training course given by **Clo Copass**, Historic Preservation Planner from the King County Landmarks and Heritage Division. Thank you very much Clo for spending your time training us! This was arranged by the Planning and Historic Sites Committee chaired by **Lynette Friberg** and **Velda Wilson**. Although Clo provided a great deal of information about conducting surveys of historic properties, one of the big hits was a wonderful colored map showing the age (10 year increments) of all structures. It had been done by King County for the new City of Shoreline. Hopefully we will be able to get a similar map for the City when Kirkland gets our GIS mapping system completed. The data on age is available through King County.

Others who participated in the training included: **Lee Beard, Bob Burke, Barbara Loomis, Vic Newhard, Galen Page, Betsy Pringle, and Nancy Stephens**. With this core group of people we hope to complete the preliminary survey of historic properties in the City of Kirkland. We want to work with the Neighborhood Associations to identify those buildings and sites which they feel are important.

We are working to get this final list of potentially historic sites and structures incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan.

**Recognize these buildings: What style are they? Where are they? What is their historic name?**



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## EAST SIDE JOURNAL has become the EASTSIDE JOURNAL again!!

It is interesting that this week that the owners of the Journal American announced that they were changing the name of the newspaper to the **Eastside Journal**. I asked **Chuck Morgan**, KHS Lifetime member, and retired publisher of the **East Side Journal** for his reaction. He said he thought it was a "wise move" and it was "personally gratifying they would return to this more encompassing name."

I told Chuck that I had written to the paper to urge them in their increased emphasis on the Eastside, to make a part of that emphasis be on the history of the area. I suggested that through the combined resources of the various historical groups on the Eastside that we should be able to work with them to produce a very interesting weekly article with photographs. I also suggested that it would be useful if one of their new reporters had a background and ongoing interest in history.

Chuck applauded the effort and noted that the "depth and worth of a newspaper is measured by its effort to tie its community's history to the present." He emphasized how important it is for the citizens to have a sense of their history and what has gone into shaping the present. We will keep you posted on our KHS efforts with the new Eastside Journal.

Answers: At the KHS meeting or in the January *BP*.



## MAKE WAY FOR LIGHT RAIL

by  
E. C. McKibben

A recently obtained copy of the *East Side News* dated January 12, 1912 reported the Kirkland Town Council had passed an ordinance granting a franchise for a streetcar system to Charles Easton and Boon Gordon. This included the right to lay rails, erect poles and put up an overhead trolley wire system. It was stipulated that they have the option of using an electric cable traction system or any other means of propelling the cars except that they may not employ horses or steam locomotion.

There was to be special consideration to the repair of macadamized streets although most of the streets involved were gravel. Portions of Picadilly still had wooden bridges over several small streams

The photo on the following page to the right is a view down Picadilly from a level a bit above the present railroad crossing. Central School is visible so that dates it as some time after 1905.

The designated route was to be from the east boundary of Kirkland ( where the then defunct steel mill site was located - about where the Costco parking lot now lies) along Picadilly (now 7th Avenue) to Market Street, the site of the Peter Kirk Building.

The franchise document directed that the railway line must run from this point down Market Street to Lake Avenue (photo below -old State Bank building was on that corner with the dock across the street) and "along Lake Avenue in a north easterly direction" to where that meets Picadilly Avenue (this would be the general location of Central Way). Also, a line was to run north on Market to the city limits and "along the whole of Spring Street" (today's 11th Ave. W.).



View Down Market Street Toward old Bank Building and Dock.

Source: Kirkland Heritage Society Collection



**View Down Picadilly Street Looking West**

Source: Marymoor Museum

The 1910 Census shows Kirkland's population at 532. The only industries here were the woolen mill and a shingle mill. But our town fathers were thinking BIG! The same edition printed a franchise agreement for installing electric light and power lines in the city. That franchise went to Boon Gordon and Leila May Gordon. Not long after that date (according the Arlene Ely in *Our Foundering Fathers*) it was James Bell and T. L. Kyler who provided the first electric light service to Kirkland. What became of the Gordons, I do not know. They do not loom large in further Kirkland history. And the street railway? Well, we are still standing here, waiting for the interurban.

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*Editor's Note: An interesting and appropriate story from our past, considering the successful RTA vote this month! But don't look for light rail down Picadilly or Market soon!!*

**COREY KAHLER  
RESIGNS FROM KHS BOARD**

In discussions with Corey Kahler earlier this month he indicated that his schedule was such that he felt it necessary to resign from the KHS Board. Corey served in the capacity as Past-President.

He initially was elected as Vice President and became President when Barbara Loomis resigned. His term was one of completing the reorganization as KHS. During that time we started our membership growth and received the award for *Blackberry Preserves*. It was the beginning of initiatives with the City of Kirkland and other historic groups. One of those was Marymoor Museum where he continues as a Board member. He will continue to represent KHS interests there as we discuss cooperative efforts on archives.

**Corey, thank you for your service as President of KHS and your continued interest in helping!!**

## KHS BOARD POSITIONS OPEN Interested?

With the resignations of Matt McCauley and Corey Kahler we now have two positions open on the KHS Board. If you are interested in finding out more about the positions or serving, please call Bob Burke, 827-6550 (office) or 828-4095 (home). One of the positions is as Communication Officer; and one is as an At-Large member. Barbara Loomis has expressed interest in the Communications Officer which is responsible for publishing *Blackberry Preserves*. If she assumed that position, we would need a new Secretary. Anyone interested in filling that position??

The Board will discuss it at their meeting in November and an election should be held at the January membership meeting.

## ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Interesting excerpts from the Oral History Program were presented to the membership at the October meeting by **Christina Brugman**. While listening to the taped interviews she shared pictures which showed pictures of those who had been interviewed and a very different Kirkland from today. We listened to interviews with Helen Mickelson, Orval Higginbotham and Dorris Forbes Beecher (we have her parents to thank for the cottonwood trees in Juanita!).

The next Oral History Committee meeting will be December 5, 1996, 7:30 p.m. at Christina Brugman's house: 11122 NE 132nd, Kirkland - 821-3605. If you are interested, please plan to attend!

There is also a training session to be given by **Lorraine McConaghy** which is tentatively scheduled for January 18, 1997, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The location will be announced later or you can call Christina for information.

## MEMBERSHIP

by

Barbara Loomis

KHS welcomes a new member - **Vic Newhard**. He has already turned out to be a great volunteer by cleaning and acting as a host at the Marsh Mansion Tour, and by attending both training sessions on conducting inventories of historic properties. Thanks also to **Sue Carter** for renewing her membership. We now have over 80 members! If you want a membership form for a friend, call me at 827-7194.

## MORE EAST SIDE JOURNAL

The following article was also in the May 6, 1937 edition of the East Side Journal. I'm sure the City Parks and Recreation Department would like to see these prices again. And, if the light rail would have been built, Waverly Park would be at the end of the line. The article is retyped to make it legible.

## KIRKLAND'S LAKESHORE PARK PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION

A few more weeks and Kirkland's \$12,000.00 park project will be completed and Kirkland's mothers and dads will not only have a fine place to take their children for a summer day's outing and swimming party, but will have a beautiful spot where they can spend a pleasant day picnicking.

The Park is located at the foot of 10th Ave. W. right on the lake shore with close to a thousand feet of lake front which, with the aid of the artificial breakwaters is rapidly being transformed into a splendid sandy beach for swimming.

The park is being improved under a Works Progress Administration program, supervised by W.J. Vague of Kirkland. An average of 35 men have been working on the park since December 9, and they are expected to complete the present appropriation by the middle of June. However, a new application for an additional \$1,500.00 has already been approved.

# TALES FROM THE EAST SIDE JOURNAL

by  
Alan Stein

A while back, I was contacted by the Lake Washington School District. They had discovered a plaque which honored Laura Miller, and they were interested in her accomplishments. This is what I unearthed.

Miss Miller devoted her life to advancing the generations behind her. For over fifty years she gathered what she had learned and shared it with children. As these children aged, she watched them grow, and passed on their experiences to their children.

## MISS MILLER RETIRES AFTER FIFTY YEARS AS TEACHER ON EASTSIDE

When Miss Laura Miller steps from the Central grade school at the end of this term she will have completed fifty years of school teaching and that says Miss Miller "is enough", and so she decided to retire from the profession in which she has spent her life and has made such a signal success.

It was in 1887 that Miss Laura Miller accepted her first teaching assignment and without interruption she has been teaching the young people and starting them out on the road of life. When

as now she found her teaching satisfaction in the primary grades. From her classes have come many who hold high places in the affairs of the nation, judges, statesmen, doctors, ministers and businessmen. One of the satisfactions of her long teaching career has been to watch the progress made by her pupils as they passed on through the grades, on to high school, college and on into life.

Nineteen years of her teaching career were spent outside the state and for the last 31 years she has been continuously teaching on the Eastside of Lake Washington. During that 31 years there were but seven school days that did not find her accepting the cheery good mornings of her pupils. Three of those days were lost while teaching at Happy Valley, three at Rose Hill and one during the past seven years at Central school. She taught in Happy Valley from 1906-10, Tolt 1910-12, Rose Hill 1912-22; Taylor 1921-22, Redmond 1922-26, Rose Hill 1926-27, Central school 1927-27.

During all these years she has been beloved by her pupils and admired and honored by their parents. Despite her years of teaching she has constantly kept in touch with every new development. In fact played a part in bringing many of them to practical application. Though advanced in years Miss Miller is still regarded as young in teaching capacity by her contemporaries.

**SENIOR HI CLASS  
WILL GRADUATE  
73 ON JUNE 3RD**

Class Speakers Are Chosen for Graduation Exercises. Grads to Wear Caps and Gowns for Third Time in School History.

The following articles, from the 5/6/37 edition of the East Side Journal, details her career and her constant dedication. A few years after this article, she came out of retirement. War had broken out, and the local shipyard attracted thousands of new workers to aid in the effort. The local schools were not prepared for the amount of children flowing into town.

Miss Miller was!

## ENDS FIFTY YEARS OF TEACHING



MISS LAURA MILLER

Within a few days a great nation in Europe will do signal honor to a man who by fortune of birth is a king. He has as yet done nothing in particular that would demonstrate his ability to fulfill the obligations of that position.

We, in our own civic community, are about to have a coronation of our own. A coronation based upon a recognition of service actually performed. We are to crown with honor a public servant who has spent fifty years of her life preparing your children to become better citizens.

Miss Laura Miller is that teacher. She has demonstrated the qualities to deserve that honor. A great man once said, "I would rather be a teacher than a preacher, for I had rather be a former than a re-former."

Miss Miller has taken your children at an early age, when their minds are like wax to receive and like marble to retain impressions, and has led them with patience and tenderness along the road.

What have been her compensations? All spiritual, but few of them financial.

In looking over her list of pupils she will find many who occupy responsible positions in life doing their part in this world's work. Occasional recognition from them and the knowledge that she had a part in their success and the respect and affection in which she is held. Those are her compensations.

Miss Miller has lived up to the teachers' creed, "I believe in boys and girls, the men and women of the great tomorrow, that whatsoever the boy soweth the man shall reap. I believe in the curse of ignorance, in the efficacy of schools, in the dignity of teaching and in the joy of serving."

In this meagre way I wish to pay my tribute to her work for I have known her a large portion of those fifty years.

W. G. HARTRANFT,  
Formerly county superintendent of schools.



Kirkland Heritage Society  
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Kirkland, WA 98033

Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, 304 - 8th Ave. West, Kirkland, WA 98033, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. To contribute articles or for more information on KHS, please call Bob Burke, Interim Editor, 827-6550 or 828-4095 or E-Mail - mcbinc @ halcyon.com

The King County Ferry Dock at the Kirkland Ferry Dock

