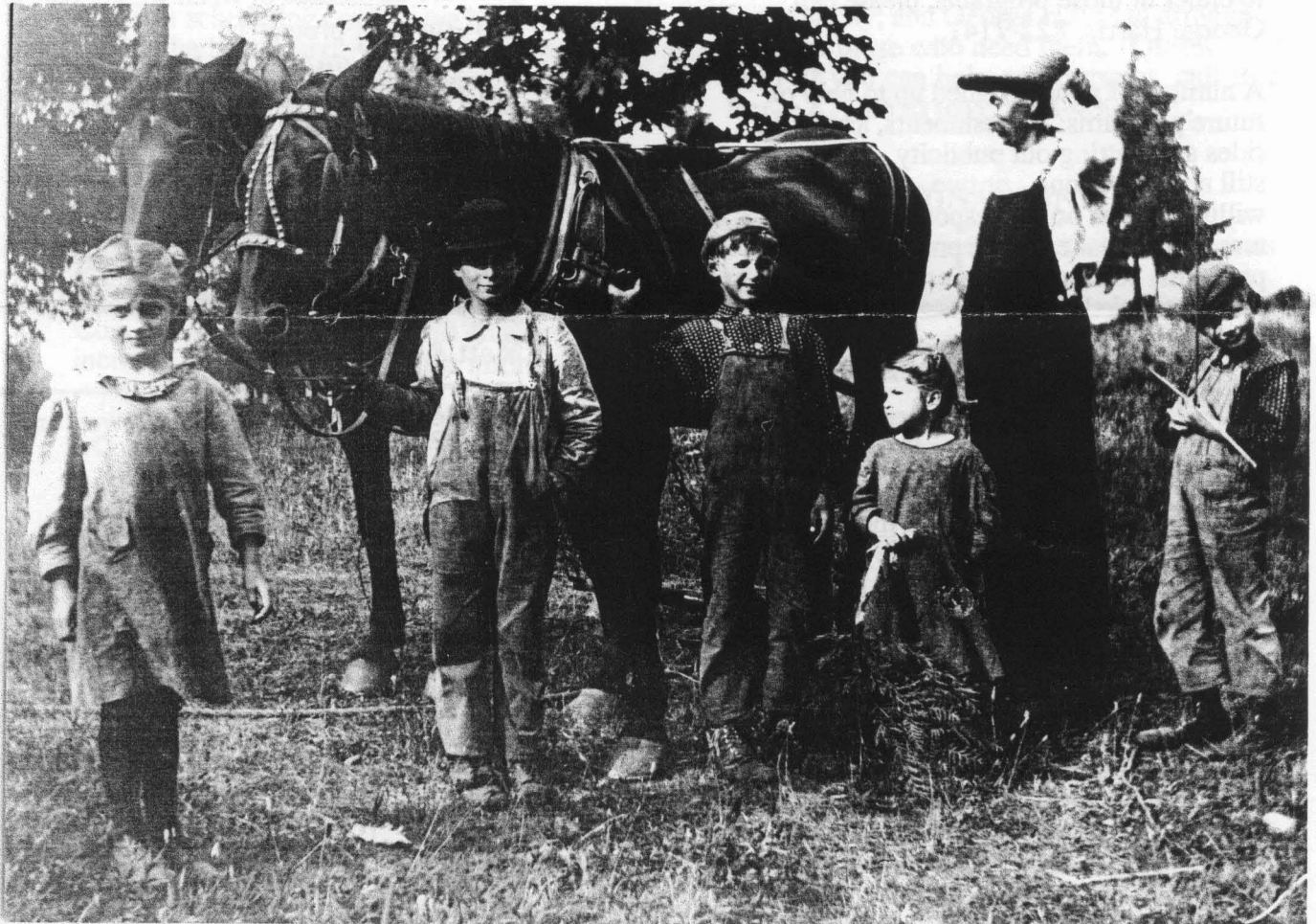


Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



1900s & 1910s Juanita/Totem Lake Area Photos
March Meeting: How to Research Your Home's History

Volume IV., Issue 3

March, 1996



Kirkland Heritage Society

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by
Bob Burke

First, I want to be sure everyone is aware that the programs for March and April have been switched. The tour of the Winter's House in Bellevue will be held on April 24th and the presentation on **How to Research the History of your Home** will be held March 27th at the Church. If you need a ride to either of those programs, please call George Harris, 822-7141.

A number of people signed up to help on future programs: refreshments, arranging rides and getting out publicity. However, we still need someone - or two - who would be willing to take on the responsibility of arranging speakers. We pretty well have programs set through June. If you'd be willing to take this on, please call me at 827-6550 or 828-4095. This is the last Committee Chair position for which we need a volunteer(s).

Each month as I start to do this letter I think about a theme - and the recurring one is the incredible energy of our KHS membership!! All our efforts have significantly increased our visibility in the community. Each week I get a call from someone who wants to work with us on some project or activity. As a result of the survey and the Board/Committee workshop we had in January we have been able to focus our attention on the priority interests of our members. All of the program ideas which have been arranged so far for this year came out of that discussion. At the last meeting 7 people volunteered to help with program arrangements! We have people who are conducting neighborhood surveys, searching out examples of historic street signs in other cities and volunteering to work on the tour brochure! Each because they feel it will contribute to the charm, livability and long term quality of our community!!

Thanks !! - to each of you !!

MEMBERSHIP

by Barbara L.

We haven't had much activity over the past few months which gave me the opportunity to do our membership lists in a database. (I've just completed the course in MS Access.) If you think your name is incorrect, please call me at 822-7141 so I can correct it. I'm still tweaking the database.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sustaining/Supporting Members

Paula Riggert & Thomas Griener

(They included a Microsoft Matrix in their gift. We can take advantage of when we do our next C-3--my next project!)

Family/Individual Members

Jean Arthur

Krystal & Gary Gannaway

Joie Goodwin

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP

Dorris Forbes Beecher

Joan McBride

Matt & Ashley McCauley

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WHEADON FLORISTS

From the Eastside Journal, 1959

MEETING CHANGE

MARCH

HOW TO RESEARCH THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOME

by
Mike SAUNDERS
Puget Sound Regional Archivist
and
GRAHAM HASLAM
Center for Puget Sound
History and Archeology

Due to a scheduling conflict we have had to switch the March and April programs. Fortunately, **Mike Saunders**, Puget Sound Regional Archivist was able to move up his program. He will describe and illustrate the resources available to you in researching the history of your home or building. **Graham Haslam**, History Department, BCC, will discuss the new Regional Archives being built at Bellevue Community College which will greatly increase the accessibility of this information.

Wednesday, March 27, 1996
7:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
106 - 5th Avenue, Kirkland

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

APRIL 24 Tour and Program on Restored F.W. Winters House and Archives, 2102 Bellevue Way S.E., Bellevue. Hosted by the Bellevue Historical Society.

MAY 29: Issaquah's Annual Pioneer Reunion 7:00 p.m. Nancy Horrocks, President, and members of the Issaquah Historical Society will discuss their successful Pioneer Reunion.

JUNE: Weekend Tour introducing the new **Historic Tour Brochure**, if it is done.

JULY 13 & 14: KHS Booth - **Kirkland Arts and Crafts Fair.**

BOARD/COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 p.m., March 27, 1996
First Congregational Church
KHS members are welcome!

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO CHAIR THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE? We still need someone - or two - to arrange future programs after June. At the last meeting **Loita Hawkinson** volunteered to arrange refreshments; **Paula Riggert** to be responsible for publicity; and **George Harris** to arrange rides for those who need them. **Thank you!** If you can help on programs, call **Bob Burke** 827-6550 (o) or 828-4095 (h).

BOARD NOMINATIONS

The KHS Bylaws establish that the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and Communications Officer will be elected in even numbered years. Any member is eligible to hold office.

A three member Nominating Committee made up on the Past President and two others appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board in March is responsible for presenting a preliminary slate at the April meeting where additional nominees may be considered. The election is held at the May Annual Meeting. The next *Blackberry Preserves* will list the Committee and you can contact them if you are interested!

EXCELLENT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Thanks to Susan Busch and Mildred Andrews for their excellent programs!! Susan presented fascinating insights into the historical development of Houghton and some of the proposals which didn't happen. Mildred had some wonderful slides and photographs to illustrate the suffragist movement in Washington State!! **Thank you, again!**

Tales from the *Eastside Journal*

By
Alan Stein

To celebrate April Fool's Day, here are two whimsical articles from the 1930s.

The "Bluebeard" article is from 9/14/33 and details a bizarre occurrence in the woods of Juanita. Read it and tremble at the dark secrets contained in those arboreal groves. Who knows how many other sinister crimes have occurred in the deep forests surrounding Kirkland?

The "Upside-down nertz" article has me stumped. It is from 7/26/34 and no explanation is given as to what the joke is all about. Obviously it was some odd little event, most likely held as a pick-me-up from the woes of the Great Depression. I'd sure like to know a little more about the "nifty Napoleons" and "jolly Josephines" who attended this party. And what exactly is "technocracy vs. Hick-too-crazy?" Chalk it up as another mystery of history.

Bluebeard Evidence Gives Woman Thrill

Mrs. Roy Peterson, of Seattle, got the scare of her life Friday while wandering thru the woods near Juanita in search of huckleberries.

Stumbling over a hard object hidden in the brush, Mrs. Peterson was horrified when, on glancing down, she met the vacant stares of three pairs of blue eyes, set in three feminine heads.

But no bodies were in evidence.

With visions of a triple trunk murder in her mind, Mrs. Peterson ran screaming for her husband, who summoned Deputy Sheriffs A. H. Swift and Jack Payton after he reassured himself that there was no triple murder.

Their fears were set at rest when they examined the heads and found that they were merely milliners' models, believed to have been stolen from the parked automobile of a salesman, L. H. Chamberlain, last June. Near the box which had contained the models until it was broken open by the elements was found a salesman's suitcase containing a number of display racks.

The three models, playfully dubbed Abigail, Clementine and Phoebe, were turned over to Sheriff Claude G. Ban- nick, who will hold them for their

U E R T Z



Professor Hick

Eastside Lunatics Hear Professor Hick Speak

Special to the Eastside Journal, July 26—Approximately twenty-five Eastside lunatics attended the first annual picnic today of the Associated Lunatics of Kirkland, held under the auspices of the organization founder, Chief Prof. Hick of Widro-Silley asylum, noted lecturer, at the palatial Benedict Manor on Hollywood road, Juanita.

Battling huge crowds who gathered around the Benedict estate to witness the capers of would-be Eastside nifty Napoleons and jolly Josephines, an observer, by special wire, reports things are quite foxy today at the gala society event in peaceful Juanita.

Spectators were protected from bodily harm by a stout wire enclosure.

Professor Hick lectured his guests on his favorite and timely topic, "Technocracy vs. Hick-too-crazy," which was well received and amply applauded.

***Matt McCauley Responds:** I hate unsolved mysteries, of history or otherwise, so lets deconstruct Alan's problem and see if we can solve this puzzle.*

First, "Nertz" may have derived from "Nerts," a slang term used to express contempt, disgust or refusal. The Nertz headline, then, might have been chosen to quickly establish within the story a sub-textual theme of derision. By the way, since it lacks almost any factual basis I suspect the entire story is a joke.

The short-lived Technocracy Movement¹, mentioned in the article, was an actual Depression-era scheme to ease hard times. Like the leftist Townsend Plan² and Washington Commonwealth Federation³ supporters, Technocrats were active on the Eastside. Under Technocracy, each person was, inter alia, to have his or her own private currency, called "energy units," with his or her thumbprint, picture and signature on each traveler's check-like bill. People would have to have spent all

¹ Technocracy was associated with the likes of Upton Sinclair and Louisiana's colorful Governor Huey Long. Although linked at times to populist rhetoric, the technocrat impulse was at its heart elitist and anti-democratic. It offered a vision of a stable and efficient future society, managed not by politicians but by engineers, "technocrats" free from the distorting interests of economics and politics.

² The leftist Townsend Plan sought to pay each "aged"--over 60--husband and wife \$200 each month. In 1935, 96% of Americans opposed the Townsend Plan and it was defeated in the US House that April by a 266 to 56 vote. Even so, for a time Democrat leaders feared the Townsends would become a serious third political party and put forth a presidential candidate who (a la Perot v. Bush in 1992) would draw Roosevelt votes, thus ensuring a 1936 Republican victory by plurality.

³ Eugene V. Dennett, *Agitprop: The Life of an American Working Class Radical--The Autobiography of Eugene V. Dennett* State University of New York Press (1990). A 1930s-era Communist and labor leader, Dennett discusses the relationship of the Washington Commonwealth Federation and the Washington State Democratic Party's left-wing, the conduct of various strikes, plus accounts of the Communist-led Unemployment Council and details of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Washington during the Great Depression.

their money in one year, since it would have no value the following year. (I don't fully understand why an economic policy would discourage savings, but what do I know?)

Seattle attorney Ralph C. Converse explained Technocracy--the 'Plan of Plenty'--to prospective recruits at meetings in the Kirkland Co-operative Hall and other Technocracy speeches were sponsored by groups such as the Redmond Democratic Club. Pandering to a theme common among Populists, the meetings also featured anti-immigrant speakers.

More on point, there was a 150-member Kirkland-area Technocrat Study Club in 1934. My guess is that the story parodies that club; painting the Technocrats as lunatics--evidenced by the inverted "Nertz" and "nifty Napoleons" which is a 'crazy person' stereotype; thinking one is someone famous like Napoleon or Josephine--meeting in a fictitious Juanita insane asylum. Even its name, Widro-Silley, seems at once, for reasons unknown, to spoof the Skagit River town of Sedro-Woolley and attempt to play on the words "weirdo" and "silly," which would tie neatly into the lunatic theme. Maybe Professor Hick was a caricature of the left-wing Seattle professionals who traveled across the lake to address Kirklanders--"hicks?"--about Technocracy. Perhaps the story's underlying message was that the real-life Technocracy meeting attendees were 'crazy' as was their leader, portrayed as the professor. "Hick-too-crazy" we might construe then as: 'Hick is also crazy.'

While at first gloss the article might not seem uproariously funny, remember that humor requiring a bit of thought was more common sixty-something years ago. Audiences read for entertainment much more than today and people had not yet been dumbed-down by viewing tens of thousands of hours of television, where comedy, if I may opine, too often centers around unimaginative crudity, graphic sexual innuendo, and the savaging of traditional authority figures, such as parents.

So much for my theory. Possibly Dr. McKibben, Mr. Marsh, Mrs. Forbes-Beecher or another senior KHS member or Golden Grad who lived here during the 1930s will let me know if I am correct.--M.M.

Mickelson Family Photos: 1900s & 1910s

Christina Brugman recently conducted an oral history interview with Miss Mickelson, who grew up in the area now called Totem Lake, near today's Evergreen Hospital. Miss Mickelson kindly allowed us to reproduce her wonderful family photos. We are grateful to Miss Mickelson for her generosity and thank Christina for her efforts.

Right: C. 1916, a rare shot of Juanita Bay's shoreline. Juanita Bay Bridge is just off camera on the left. The dock behind the kids was the steamer landing. It is high and dry because the lake had just lowered 9' with the locks' opening. Needless to say, that ended Juanita's direct steamer service. Note how sandy the beach was compared to most of the lakeshore.

Top Opposite Page: Juanita Schoolhouse in 1909. The building was expanded in 1914 when two rooms were added. It stood until 1951 when it was razed to make room for the current Juanita Elementary's ballfield.

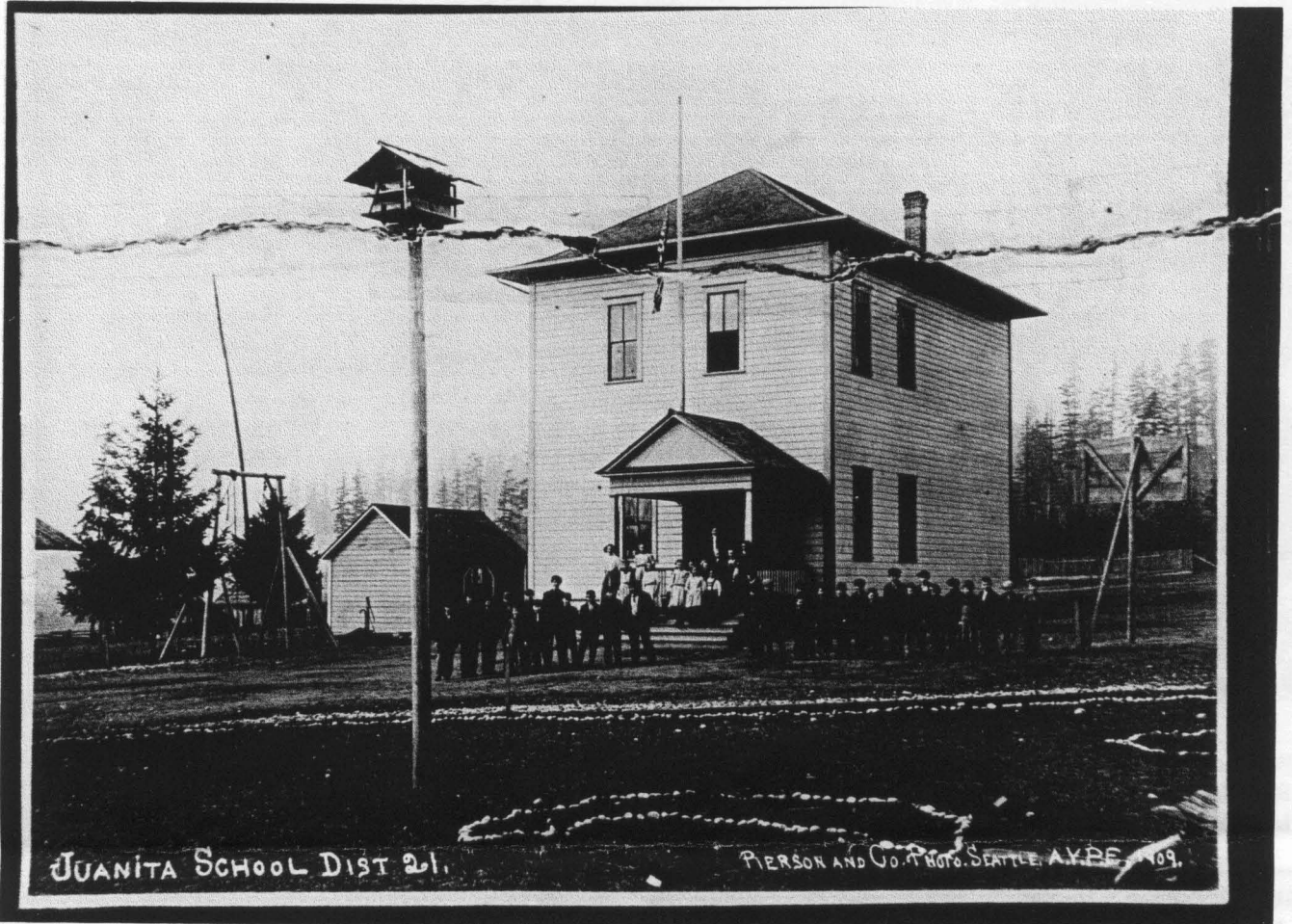
Bottom Opposite Page: Mickelson's first house, a log cabin, seen c. 1910. Note the stump holding up roof over doorway on left.

Back Page: Rare interior view of the Juanita School c. 1910. Bird pictures were tacked over the 45 star US flag. Teacher's name was Miss Jurdy. The small school districts, such as Juanita School District 21 were later merged to create the behemoth Lake Washington School District 414. Note the early basketball backboard on the right and the fancy birdhouse in the foreground.

Cover: Mr. Mickelson and the kids, on their farm c. 1910.



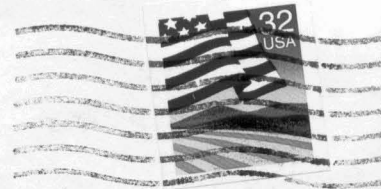
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Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, 10635 NE 120th, Kirkland, WA 98034, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. Matthew W. McCauley, Editor. For more information call: 823-6838 or 827-7194. E-mail: mccaule@seattleu.edu

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