

Blackberry Preserves

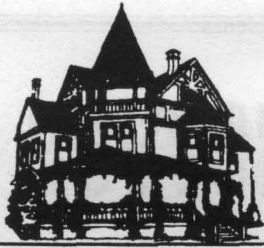
The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



**Kirkland Heritage Society Booth at the
Kirkland Art Festival, 1995**

Join Us For *Summer Fest* in Marina Park July 12 & 13

Pictured: Bob Burke, Alan Stein, Loita Hawkinson and Matt McCauley



Kirkland Heritage Society

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by
BOB BURKE

If you weren't at the 20 year Celebration of the Kirkland Historic Commission / Kirkland Heritage Society in May you missed a wonderful, fun event!! Friends who hadn't seen each other for years were all impressed that no one had changed at all!! Sixty people shared their reminiscences about the "good old days" and "now". Vic Sampson, President at the time of Incorporation, commented "amazingly, many of the issues are still the same!"

Thanks to everyone who was involved in making it a success!! I want to particularly thank Shannon Harris and Barbara Loomis who did most of the organization, calling and decorating!

People are the Key!

What came through to me, is that the people - the members - are the key to the life and success of any organization. You could feel the bond that existed between the early members who were so involved in fixing up homes, holding home tours and trying to promote legislation to preserve our heritage!

KHS's success today is dependent on that continued dedication and the creativity of our members! As an example, when a lot of people said why they were involved in KHS, the name of Barbara Loomis came up again and again. We are fortunate to have a growing, strong, diverse group of people interested and involved in a wide variety of activities to research and preserve Kirkland's heritage!

Please send in your membership dues now! We will hopefully have our 501-c-3 designation in the next month or two. Please consider renewing as a Supporting Member - it helps considerably!

Thanks to each of you for your membership and participation - it is the key! !

KIRKLAND SUMMER FEST JULY 12th AND 13th

The Kirkland Heritage Society will again have an exhibit booth at SUMMER FEST (Kirkland Arts Festival) which will be held at Marina Park this year - not at Park Place. The Board has authorized the purchase of a new booth since Issaquah's is no longer available.

Vic Newhard has agreed to chair the effort. Our June meeting on the 25th will be devoted to organizing for it. If you are interested in working at the booth on either Saturday or Sunday, please call Vic at 949-6457. It's a lot of fun!! And, we get a good public response to our participation!

SURVEY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Planning and Historic Sites Committee chaired by Lynette Friberg and Velda Wilson with committee members Barbara Loomis and Bob Burke have completed the first comprehensive inventory of historic resources ever done for the City. They have identified 382 buildings and 26 sites. They have driven every street in the City, collected old assessors records at the Washington State Archives, photographed each site, and compiled available information into a data base.

The data base lists the site, its address, architectural style, date built, known historic person or event, neighborhood, designation as being of National, State or Kirkland importance, survey references and whether it has a plaque and whether we have an assessors record or photograph. The data base has been given to the City to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. We are currently working to consolidate all of the information by neighborhood. We will have a list, photographs and assessor's sheet for each of the properties. This information will be supplemented as additional research is done.

Of the 382 buildings, 13 are considered to have National significance (7 are already on the National Register); 15 are considered to have State signifi-

cance (1 on State Register); and 354 are Kirkland Landmarks. Following is a Neighborhood breakdown:

Neighborhood	Buildings	Sites	Total
Central	27	7	34
Highlands	26	-	26
Houghton/Lakeview	16	5	21
Juanita	25	4	29
Norkirk	143	1	144
N. Rose Hill	24	2	26
S. Rose Hill	28	1	29
West of Market	93	6	99
Totals	382	26	408

This information will be valuable for neighborhood planning, research by individuals and in our continuing effort to identify our historic resources.

20TH YEAR CELEBRATION

Sixty people attended the 20th Year Celebration of the Kirkland Historic Commission / Kirkland Heritage Society on May 22nd at the Kirkland Woman's Club. It was a great party!! We had most of the original incorporators / past presidents / directors were there including Vic Sampson, Susie Creger, Kris Whitely, Judy Gibbs, Barbara Loomis, Corey Kahler and Bob Burke. A certificate was presented recognizing their contribution. Unfortunately, Arlene Ely Andre, Helen Benham, Jan Landry, Ken Wames, Jr., and Shannon Weiss could not attend.

Thanks to Mayor Debbie Eddy for attending and for her toast to Barbara Loomis and Shannon Harris for their hard work in organizing the celebration! It is difficult to adequately thank everyone who helped make the party such a success. Certainly, Shannon and Barbara as well as Christina Brugman who helped with the "Blackberry Preserves". That was a great idea as a memento of the occasion. Lynette Friberg found the jars and took pictures; Corrine Hieb, Cathy Smith, Bob Burke, Vic Newhard, Loita Hawkinson and Velda Wilson helped set up. Also thanks to Larry Springer and Penny Sweet, The Grape Choice, for assisting on the wine!

In the research for this celebration a couple other items of interest came to light:

- Of the seven original members listed as officers when incorporation occurred in 1977, six still live in Kirkland, three in the same house;

- Six of the original 30 members are still members of KHS: Sue Carter, Susie Creger, Myron Lewis, Barbara Loomis, Dr. Ernest McKibben, and Laura Westlund.

On the invitation reminder to the 20th Year Celebration there was a picture with the caption "Guess Who, Where and When?!" The answer was not officially announced at the dinner, so we knew everyone is dying to know - so here it is: Susie Creger, porch of her historic house, the Trueblood House on 7th Street, and 1977.

Notes From Barb

It's hard to believe that it's been twenty years since the Kirkland Historic Commission was formed. It was so much fun seeing everyone again at our celebration.

First of all I want to thank Shannon Harris for all her help organizing this party before hand and during. She was great getting all the food set out in an orderly manner. I told her that I really wanted to be able to talk to everyone that night and she took over with the help of Bob Burke, Loita Hawkinson, Corrine Hieb, Vic Newhard, Cathy Smith, and Velda Wilson.

And boy did we have lots of wonderful food, everyone brought something different, it was great! Alan Stein thought we should do this every year!! (Would whoever made the spinach/strawberry salad please call me, several people would like the recipe.)

Also a great big Thank you to Christina Brugman for supplying the blackberries and making the wonderful Blackberry Preserves, and to Lynette Friberg for finding the little jars that we put it in. I also want to thank Lynette and Bob for taking pictures throughout the evening. (See page 4)

Thank you to all the "old timers" (meaning those who were around in the early years of the Historic Commission) for coming and sharing your memories: Jeanne & Bill Arthur, JoAnne & Ron Bucklin, Sue Carter, Doris & Ralph Cooper, Susie & Chet Creger, Judy Gibbs & daughter Virginia, Joann & George Harris, Loita Hawkinson, Chuck Loomis, Carol Mathewson, Nancy & Don Moody, Barbara & Vic Sampson, Laura Westlund, and Kris & Peyton Whitely. Also thanks Doris Cooper for bringing that great scrap book.

It was a fun evening, thanks for coming!



The KHCC Newsletter

MARCH 1977



KHC MEETING

Chamber of Commerce
Bldg ... downtown
Kirkland
PUBLIC WELCOME

Now You Tell One

We need tales and tidbits ... of no particular flair; one or two you may recall ... that are filed away somewhere.

In the twenties, the neighbors tell, this home was abandoned and quarantined when all inhabitants died of smallpox. The house closed for 20 years

Located in Houghton near the railroad tracks 2-story - yellow-brown color. Can you add some fine points to this dramatic tale?

FIRST KHC NEWSLETTER

The Kirkland Historic Commission introduces to you, the first in a series of newsletters to be issued quarterly to its members and any interested citizen.

Our purpose is to keep you informed...

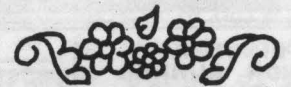
- on current activities of the commission and its committees,
- of contributions and acquisitions made available to us.
- of all special events or points of interest that are programmed thru the year.

And to generally enlighten, as well as appeal to you on a common ground...

Kirkland - Past, Present, Future.
We hope in this way to enlist your continuing support!

Officers '77

President - KEN WARNES
Executive - SUSAN CREGER
Directors - KRIS WHITELY
Secretary - HELEN BENHAM
Treasurer - ARLENE ELY

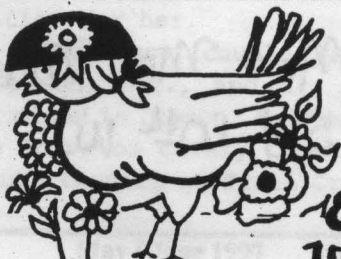


COMMITTEES NOW FORMING

historic sites preservation
historic signs
home tour
public relations
membership
telephone
fund raising
legislature
Speakers bureau

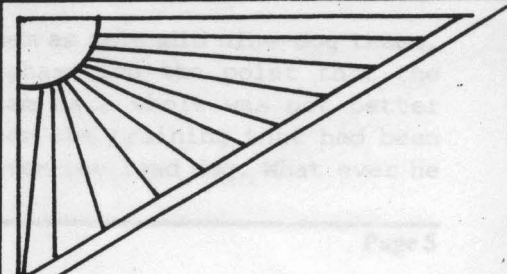
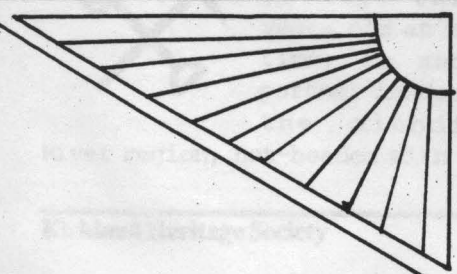
Your participation is encouraged while committees are still forming!

Call 827-1707

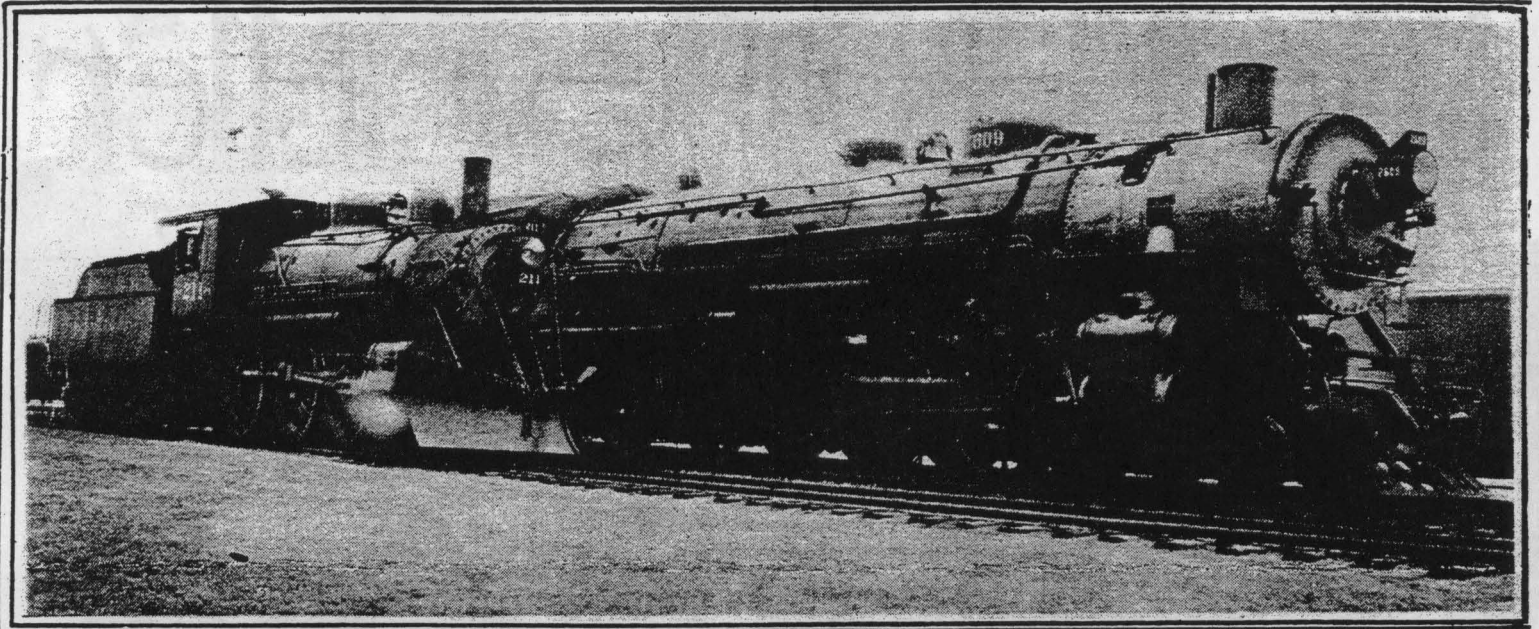


Commission Phone

827-1707



Reflections and Recollections



A GIANT MARATHON RUNNER OF THE RAILS

Left—One of the huge locomotives recently placed in service by the Northern Pacific between Jamestown, N. D., and Missoula, Mont., a distance of 904 miles, one of the longest continuous engine runs in the world, contrasted with a high speed engine of a generation ago.

*Today's photo from
The Seattle Times
Rotogravure Pic-
torial Section
May 31, 1931.*

*Out of all those
forgotten old
photos...
every family con-
tinues to store;
At least one could
be a reflection
of something
we're looking
for.
Share them with us!*

Membership in Kirkland Historic Commission

Individual Membership	\$ 10.00 per year
Family Membership	\$ 15.00 per year
Business Membership	\$ 25.00 per year
Honorary Trustee	\$ 100.00 per year
Life Membership	\$1,000.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

*Printed by Overlake Press
Newsletter Chairman Jeanie Arthur*

Kirkland Historic Commission
P.O. Box 392
Kirkland, WA 98033

*Mr & Mrs Moody
514 10th W.*

TALES FROM THE EAST SIDE JOURNAL

BY ALAN J. STEIN

This year is the centennial of the Klondike Gold Rush. Recently, I was asked to participate in a panel discussion at BCC about the effects that the Gold Rush had on the East Side. As it turns out, there were a few "sourdoughs" who made good money in Alaska and ended up settling in Kirkland. One of them was W.W. Klenert, who ran the meat market in Kirkland during the 1920's. Klenert found his fortune in the Klondike, not from mining gold but from the cattle herds he drove over the pass. The steaks from these cattle sold for well over \$1.50 a pound (a princely sum in 1897) at his market in Dawson City.

Probably the most interesting story that I found in the East Side Journal involved Henry Willett and his wife Audilie, who experienced Klondike Fever together and who later settled in Kirkland. This article, from September 5, 1946, provides a descriptive tale of honeymooning on the Chilkoot Trail, an encounter with Soapy Smith's gang of hooligans, dog sledding over frozen terrain, and raising children in the Great White North.

KIRKLAND COUPLE FLY TO CALIFORNIA

Last week Henry Willett, 82 year old Kirkland resident, and his wife sat at the honorable table at a banquet with the mayor of San Francisco.

Willett is one of the two oldest living "sourdoughs," the name by which the trailblazers of Alaska are known. Mrs. Willett shared 21 years of that period of pioneering with him. Theirs was a special recognition.

The occasion was a reunion of the clan, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the discovery of gold in the Klondike. Those who heard the taunting "call to the North" in 1896, met in San Francisco last week, in the polished, upholstered luxury of the St. Francis Hotel to reminisce about the days of homesteading in Alaska and the "good old Days" before mining companies came in and did away with individual fortune hunting..

Willett's tales of fortune could begin the year 1888. Twenty three years old at that time, he and a partner landed in the Klondike River region, hot-headed with the

first rumors of gold, Ten years later, the partners came out of Alaska, rich men for those times. That kind of story, told and retold, was what made families pull up homestakes and rush off to the land of the midnight sun to test their relationship with Lady Luck.

The swaggering, young adventurer turned his steps toward his home in Old Town, Maine. Having left it 13 years before a restless, penniless youth, he returned as a dashing figure in the community. It is easy to imagine how he swept 17 year old Audelie Parradis off her feet. After a three-month courtship they were married. Then it was back to Bonanza Creek. The couple spent their honeymoon crossing Chilkoot Pass. It was while ascending the steep iciness of the pass that Mrs. Willett encountered her first taste of life in the North. Members of the notorious "Soupy Smith' gang were enticing travelers with the chances of the shell game in one of the resting spots on the trail. The attractive, curious girl peering over their shoulders, was asked to join them. But her husband declined the invitation for her.

The young couple landed in Dawson, U.T., and Mr. Willett mined in Dawson, Fairbanks, Five Above on Cleary Creek and in Ruby Country on Trail Creek.

The Willetts made their home at Dawson in the Klondike district. Two of their three daughters were born there. Mrs. Willetts leaving Alaska only for the birth of the second oldest, now Mrs. Joseph Ratigan of Seattle. The youngest, Mrs. Kenneth Commeree of 8th Ave. West, staked them to the round trip flight they make to the reunion. Mrs. Glenn Gray, the oldest living in Long Beach, California.

Willett bred and raised his own huskies to take him on the mining and exploration trips he made. He speaks proudly of



them as splendid nine-dog teams, emphasizing the point that the team as a whole was not better than the training that had been given the lead dog. What ever he



did the others followed.

Mrs. Willett had a three-dog team. She found she was unable to handle more, especially when the lead dog would decide to give chase to the small animals crossing the trail. Even with those few, she recalls the three children and she often picked themselves up from the snow after a sudden sharp turn on the part of the dogs, attempting to follow a running rabbit and overturning the sled.

Life in the wilds was lonely at first for the young bride, her nearest woman neighbor living 15 miles away. But as soon as she got her own dog team and sled and learned how to drive them, she made the trip as casually as Mom takes out the family flivver (a small cheap old automobile, ed.) in the States and goes visiting. Mrs. Willett met that neighbor in San Francisco last week. She's still residing in the Klondike River section and the Willetts regard her with the affection of a relative.

When the first World War broke people left Alaska to work in the shipyards and defense plants of the nation. The Willetts were caught in the fever to come to the States. The girls needed the educational benefits offered here.

When the mining syndicates began to appear, buying up claims and putting the heretofore individual prospecting on a corporate basis, Willett sold his interests. He went into the lumber business in Dawson, cutting wood for fuel.

In 1921, the family bought a chicken ranch on the old Holly-wood Road in Juanita and operated it for 34 years. Oban's bought some of their first hatching eggs from them. Last September the Willetts sold the ranch and moved into their present home at 303 - 3rd Ave. South.



Spending quiet days, reading and listening to the radio, Willett is now 82, and his wife 65. When the letter came with its invitation to the reunion, it was like a call again to the trail. But time had replaced the dog sled with the silver sleekness of the United Airliner!

UPDATE

The Klondike Gold Rush Centennial Committee has announced that a TON OF GOLD WEEKEND and FESTIVAL will be held on the Seattle Central waterfront (Pier 57) on July 18-20, 1997. Events include: a street dance in Pioneer Square, panning for gold ,

historical displays and performances. Spirit of '98 arrives with a "ton of Gold" to reenact the SS Portland's historic arrival. There will also be a "Sourdough Ball" (Gay '90's attire and ragtime music) and a Sourdough Pancake Breakfast. For information and schedule contact the Committee at 389-7240.

KHS RECOGNIZED IN THE KING COUNTY COMMUNITY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

"Congratulations to the Kirkland Heritage Society on its 20th anniversary, which was celebrated in May. The Society has: built an impressive collection of historical photography; developed an oral history program; worked with the City of Kirkland to develop historic preservation policies; assisted the City to develop historical markers; produced an award winning, comprehensive inventory of historic resources; circulated an innovative and informative newsletter; and conducted many community programs, among other accomplishments."

ELECTION RESULTS

A unanimous ballot was cast for the slate proposed by the nominating committee: Board Members elected for the July 1997 to June 1999 terms were:

Bob Burke, President;
Lynette Friberg, Secretary; and
Loita Hawkinson, At Large.

INTERPRETIVE MARKERS

The effort on the Interpretive Markers is continuing. Five markers will be installed this summer:

Kirkland Ferry Dock	Rotary Club
Peter Kirk, Waverly	KHS
Lowering the Lake	City Public Works
Marina Park	City Public Works
Shumway Site	Shumway Develop.



CALENDAR

June 19, 7:pm
 Bellevue Historical Society
Strawberry Social, Winters House

June 24
AKCHO 9:30 am
Black Diamond Railroad Depot Museum, Call Bob Eaton (360)886-2327.

June 25
KHS Program 7 pm
Summer Fest, the art festival will be in Marina Park this year. July 12th and 13th please join us with your creative ideas to plan for our Booth this summer. We need your help and input.

June 25
Oral History Meeting
7:30 pm
Christina Brugman's house: 11122 NE 132, call Christina 821-3605.

July 12 - 13
Summer Fest, Marina Park, 10 am-8 pm Saturday, 10 am-7 pm Sunday
We need help with setup, take down and working at the Booth. It's a lot of fun, please join us. Call Vic Newhard 949-6457

July 18-20
TON OF GOLD WEEK-END & FESTIVAL
Call the Klondike Gold Rush Centennial Committee; 389-7240

July 30
KHS Board 7 pm
No General Meeting

August TBA
Dedication of Peter Kirk Interpretive Marker, Picnic (This is all tentative)

Unless otherwise noted KHS meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Kirkland Congregational Church, 106-5th Ave., Kirkland.

MEMBERSHIP by Barbara Loomis

You all should have received the Membership renewal forms that I sent out the end of May. Thank you for responding quickly. You can use the form on the right or pass it on.

Penny Sweet and Robert Pantly were the winners at the Chamber Auction and receive one year free membership. Congratulations!

Welcome **Donn & Beryl Owens** as new family members.

Thank you for your **Professional/Business** renewal:
Curtis Gelotte Architects, PS

Thank you for renewing with a **Supporting membership**:
Bob Burke
Barbara Loomis

Thank you for your renewals:
Rick & Lisa Altig
Charlotte Bates
Christina Brugman
Sue & Sants Contreras
Greg Crafts & Nancy Roach
Angie Eggers
Myra Gamburg
Bill & Judy Gehring
George & Joann Harris
Patrick & Shannon Harris
Dale & Loita Hawkinson
Corrine Hieb
Thomas Hitzroth

Dr. Ernest McKibben
Jerry & Patti Marsh
Chet & Melissa Nelson
Teddy & John Overleese
Pat Priebe & Brian Swanson
Frank Rosin **Donovan Tracy**
 Thank you for your extra contributions:
Charlotte Bates, Angie Eggers, and George & Joann Harris

MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

- Individual \$25
- Family \$30
- Senior/Student \$12
- Supporting \$100
- Life Member \$1,000
- Organization/Government \$100
- Professional/Business \$125
- Corporate \$250

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Your membership is the first important step in helping achieve our goals. Interested in helping on other projects? Please indicate the areas in which you would be able to volunteer.

Serve on a Standing Committee:

- _____ Archives and Collections
- _____ Education and Research
- _____ Membership and Funding
- _____ Planning and Historic Sites
- _____ Monthly Programs

Work on specific activity:

- _____ Exhibit at Community Events
- _____ Home Tour
- _____ Do Photography/Update Slides
- _____ Install Original Street Name Signs
- _____ Video on Kirkland History
- _____ School Education Program

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home# _____ Work # _____
 Organization/Firm _____

Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
 Kirkland Heritage Society, 304 - 8th Ave. W.,
 Kirkland, WA 98033. Phone: (425) 827-7194



Kirkland Historic Commission / Heritage Society

Celebrates 20 Years!!

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 Barbara Loomis, Editor, 827-7194.



Kirkland Heritage Society

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Kirkland, WA 98033