

Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



LOOK MOM, WE'RE SWIMMING! SELMA, DORIS, AND BERNICE FORBES
JUANITA BEACH PARK c1920's

JUANITA JUNCTION AND LANGDON STORE IN THE BACKGROUND



Kirkland Heritage Society

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by
BOB BURKE

Congratulations to AKCHO (Association of King County Historic Organizations) on their 20th anniversary celebration, October 28th.

Melissa Thirloway has volunteered to be the Membership Committee Chair!! Thank you!! Thanks to Barbara Loomis who has had that responsibility the past 3-4 years. We have plans to launch another campaign toward the end of the year capitalizing on all the research that was done on historic properties in Kirkland.

I was in Washington D. C. last month for a meeting of the American Planning Association. It is impossible not to think about history when you are there! I went to an exhibit in the National Building Museum on *Main Street Five and Dimes, the Architectural Heritage of S.H. Kress & Co.* in hundreds of towns across American and now a thing of the past.

The National Building Museum (Built 1882-87) is in the historic, and restored Pension Bureau Building which has this wonderful 116' x 316' central space, 159' high. The guide explained that it was also built to house the Presidential Inaugural Ball - starting with Cleveland in 1885 - because up until then there was no space large enough and the Ball had to be held in a tent.

Kirkland doesn't have such grand buildings, but it does have the smaller remnants of history - like the Kress's stores - all of which make up part of our local history - equally as important to preserve for and share with future generations!

Thanks to everyone in KHS who is working so hard to promote understanding of Kirkland's history and the importance of our historic resources through programs, membership, research, interpretive markers, oral history, photographs, articles, etc., etc.!! Historic Preservation is essential to the long-term quality of our City!! It takes time, but we are effectively telling our message to the public and our elected officials. **Thanks for all of your work!!** If you are not involved, and would like to be, call me at 828-4095 (h) or 827-6550 (o).

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

by Shannon Harris

For the **October 29th** Program we are pleased to have Marc Connelly, Assistant Director, Kirkland Parks and Recreation. Marc's presentation is titled: *What do Tulips and the Former Bothell Mayor Have in Common?* I guess we'll figure it out as Marc talks about the renaming and upgrading of Kirkland's Parks over the past five years, with an emphasis on the historical background and research required for such a project. Marc was also instrumental in helping with the interpretive marker project.



The **November 17th** Program (please note: because of Thanksgiving this is Monday night a week early) will be with Peggy Hansen, Preservationist, Marymoor Museum. Peggy's program is: *Photographic Preservation Issues for the Family Historian.* She will discuss the basics of photographic preservation. There is "acid free" and there is acid free! Peggy will tell us how the professionals preserve historical photos. With all the hype now about making *memory books* at your local Five and Dime or crafts store, how fortunate we are to have a professional archivist share her knowledge with us.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN KIRKLAND'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

We are continuing our efforts to expand and strengthen the City's policies related to historic preservation city-wide and in downtown. The City Council is currently considering the Planning Commission recommendations for the Plan. Bob Burke made a presentation to them at a workshop to explain the criteria for designation of properties as historic and to summarize what our inventory shows about Kirkland.

Members of KHS are also participating in the workshops, focus groups, and meetings on Downtown Kirkland. We have arranged to be on the agenda of the Kirkland Association of Neighborhoods (KAN) in November to talk about historic preservation in Kirkland's neighborhoods and the inventory information available to them.

WHERE ARE KIRKLAND'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS?

Two pieces of information which we now have about our historic properties are how many potential sites and structures there are by age and by neighborhood and how many we've inventoried. We've concentrated on those over 60 years old so far - so there are more to do!

STRUCTURES BY DECADE BUILT

Decade Built	Total # of Structures	# on KHS Inventory	% of Total
Pre 1900	62	32	51.6%
1911 - 1920	399	136	34.0%
1921 - 1930	302	128	42.6%
1931 - 1940	406	50	12.3%
1941 - 1947	424	19	9.7%
Sub-Totals	1,644	392	23.8%

STRUCTURES INVENTORIED BY NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOODS	Total	Sites	Structures	%
NORKIRK	150	3	147	37.5%
WEST OF MARKET	102	8	94	24.0%
CENTRAL	36	8	28	7.1%
SOUTH ROSE HILL	32	4	28	7.1%
HIGHLANDS	26	0	26	6.6%
JUANITA (N & S)	33	8	25	6.4%
NORTH ROSE HILL	29	4	25	6.4%
HOUGHTON	18	4	14	3.6%
LAKEVIEW	18	13	5	1.3%

WHAT ARE KIRKLAND'S TWO MAJOR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL STYLES?

Our inventory identified the two predominant architectural styles in Kirkland: Bungalows and Vernacular residential houses.

Bungalows - 1910 - 1920's
45% of Kirkland's Historic Buildings



Vernacular - 1870's to early 1900's
25% of Kirkland's Historic Buildings



Now that we are entering November, winter looms. The following is a reprint of a KHS article written for the *Kirkland Courier* in their January 1997 issue. Since some **Blackberry Preserves** readers don't get a chance to read the *Courier*, we present the article here for your enjoyment.

TALKING ABOUT THE WEATHER - AN HISTORIC NORTHWEST TRADITION

BY ALAN J STEIN

There's one area of history that everyone loves to talk about - the weather. Think about it. Every time there's a new winter storm, everybody in the office has a horror story to tell about their commute. Soon, the conversations turn to previous storms, and how bad they were. Everybody seems to remember inclement weather. Of course, it helps that in the Pacific Northwest, storms have a knack for occurring around holidays, allowing us to remember them by name (e.g. the Columbus Day Storm, the Inauguration Day Storm, and countless Thanksgiving Day Storms, to name a few).

This month's article highlights notable winter weather in Kirkland's past. This information was gathered from articles in the old *East Side Journal*, all of which were front page news. Just like today, bad weather is always the number one topic of discussion.



Winter 1916/17

The granddaddy of all winter storms. Unfortunately, the *East Side Journal* did not start publication until 1918, so this storm is only mentioned in passing in later issues. (i.e. Yesterday's storm wasn't as bad as the Big Snow of 1916...).

Winter 1926/27 - This storm is notable, if only for the fact that the reporter covering it was smitten with a poetic temperament. Here's how he described it: *"The king of the winds held the East Side in the hollow of his hand Wednesday night when with mighty gusts, trees were torn up by the roots, signs blown from their hangings and boats torn from their moorings."*

Winter 1928/29 - Fifty mile an hour gales hit Kirkland. The only damage discussed in the paper involved the town's Christ-

mas tree. The tree was erected by the Business and Professional Woman's club, who were hoping to win a prize in a *Seattle Times'* tree contest. The winds blew the tree over, but upon inspection it was noted that two guy wires had been cut. The members believed that the wires were cut by people who were inconvenienced by the tree, saying, *"The selfish interest of a few seems to have taken precedence over the pleasure of the great majority of people in the community."*

Winter 1932/33 - This wasn't a big storm, and cavorting on the ice allowed people to forget their depression-era troubles, if but for a little



while. Clayton Shinstrom was noted to be an excellent skater, but Doc Raymond was memorial-

ized in print as having gotten *"mixed up in the barbed wire entrenchments some way or another"*. Meanwhile, doctors at Kirkland Hospital were noted to have been *"taking care of knots on heads, gashes on legs and arms, stiffness of joints and bruised fannies"*.

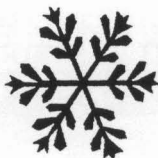
Winter 1933/34 - This was a wet winter. December rains caused major flooding. The Redmond golf course was knee-deep in areas, and Lake Washington was noted as being at it's highest level since the canal was dug in 1916. A house east of Redmond was caught in a mudslide, and ended up on top of nearby railroad tracks.

Winter 1934/35 - This was one of those landmark storms. After dropping eleven inches of snow, a warm Chinook wind and heavy rains melted it all away in a 24-hour period. Downtown Kirkland was hit hard. A drainage creek undermined Martin's Grocery and the East Side Bakery. The oven

in the bakery fell through the floor and was washed away. Fortunately, in true small town spirit, baking continued on with the assistance of the ovens at Schmidt's Bakery, down the street.

Winter 1942/43 -

Anyone who was around here back then is sure to remember this snowstorm. A cold snap hit on January 16, followed by three days of snow. Even though wartime production was moving in full force, the Lake Washington Shipyard was temporarily closed down. One quarter of the phone lines in the area went down, and long-distance calls couldn't even be made to as far away as Bellevue. Thankfully, the planespotters in the observation tower between Bellevue and Kirkland persevered throughout, ensuring that no enemy planes breached our national security.



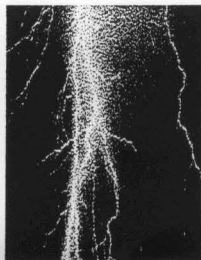
Winter 1946/47 - Six inches of snow landed on Kirkland, and Redmond had around twenty inches. Schools were closed for a week, 40 percent of the local phones went out of service, football games were cancelled, but the paper noted that the Lake Washington Ferries remained on schedule.

Winter 1948/49 - A record low of 14 degrees was reached on January 4th. The newspaper interviewed local citizens and had them guess the temperature. Grocer Harlan Gehrt guessed 20, Police Chief Allen Cameron guessed 15, and his son, Harold, guessed 8. Juanita storeowner Art Case made this observation: "I took a careful reading of the store thermometer before locking the safe for the night. It said 72. I noticed no appreciable departure from our cus-

tomary beautiful weather; lots of people on the beach and everyone with a picnic lunch." The paper noted that other self-styled weathermen were inclined to disagree, and that they all felt it to be colder than the Big Snow of 1916.

Winter 1955/56 - In December, a 68-mile gale hit the community, tearing a floatplane from her moorings on Lake Washington and sinking her. In January, a more spectacular event occurred when ball lightning struck a 150-foot tall fir tree in Denny Park. One witness described it as "... a ball of fire, spiralling around the tree and making an awful noise". One terrified neighbor thought that Sand Point had blown up.

These are just some of the weather stories that local residents have been sharing around watercoolers and woodstoves for decades. So, the next time we have a winter storm and a coworker tells you about the huge branches in his yard, you can carry on the tradition of Northwest winter horror stories. Now you can say, "Oh that's nothing compared to the ball of fire that came screaming out of the sky back in '56". See if they can top that one.



KIRKLAND NEWSPAPER INDEX TO BE ACCESSIBLE WORLDWIDE BY ALAN J STEIN

The *East Side Journal* database, which indexes all issues of that newspaper from 1918-1975, will soon be going on the internet, thanks to a special projects grant from the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission.

Once online it will be accessible from anywhere in the world. Right now, the database resides on my computer and at the Kirkland library. Some other people have copies, but most people either don't know about the database or don't know how to find it. The internet is the perfect location for it, so that all researchers can use it with ease at anytime and at anywhere.

Working with Graham Haslam of the Center for Puget Sound History & Archaeology, the database will be up and running on the net by next spring. It will be set up to make it as easy as possible for genealogists and historical researchers to search through 60 years of Kirkland headlines. I'm also writing a history of Kirkland for the website, along with an essay stressing the importance of historical newspaper research. We're also planning on including an area where people can leave questions and comments.

As far as I know, this is the first research tool of it's kind in the state, if not the country. I've done quite a bit of surfing, and the only newspaper indexes I've seen only go back a few years. Kirkland will be the first community in cyberspace to have a comprehensive, journalistic history available online.



You and your colleagues are cordially invited
to the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the
Association of
King County Historical Organizations

Tuesday, October 28, 1997
9:30 a.m. to Noon
The Hollywood Schoolhouse
14810 NE 145th Street
Woodinville, Washington

This celebration will bring together those
who worked to create AKCHO and
those who carry on its mission today

RSVP with the number of attendees to Julie O'Neil
(425) 451-3711

Twenty years ago a group of preservationist got together to talk about King County's historical organizations. Their needs were similar and they thought that they could achieve more for their individual societies/museums if they worked together. From that brainstorming discussion, with Art Skolnik leading the way the Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) was born.

Today AKCHO has 65 member organizations and 65 individual members. This represents thousands of individuals with a common mission of promoting *mutual assistance* among heritage organizations. Kirkland Historic Commission/Kirkland Heritage Society has been a member for about fifteen of those twenty years. For me personally it has provided history, training, and networking in many aspects of King County preservation. I invite all of you to attend this celebration of a unique organization that is one of a kind in the State. Call me if your interested in going. Barbara Loomis, 827-7194

CONGRATULATIONS AKCHO!

ORAL HISTORY

BY CHRISTINA BRUGMAN

Sitting down with Kirkland residents to record their stories can prove most interesting. Mary Ann Timeus recently interviewed Dorothy Wold, who was born in Redmond in 1902. Dorothy's family moved to Kirkland when she was seven, and lived near Peter Kirk Park. At one point, her parents moved their house to another location, south of downtown. It took a week, AND THE FAMILY LIVED IN IT WHILE IT WAS PROGRESSING THROUGH THE STREETS. It gives new meaning to the concept of "mobile home".

The Oral History group would welcome new members who would like to help preserve as many of those interesting stories as possible. We will provide you with materials, training, and encouragement. Our group meets every four or five weeks.

We also need someone to transcribe the interviews. They are much more accessible in written form. We presently have a Dictaphone, so anyone with a word processor (or typewriter) and a little time can transcribe them. Call Christina at 821-3605.

THE CANAL IS BEING BUILT.
KIRKLAND, WN. WILL BE
A SEAPORT TOWN WITH A
FRESH WATER HARBOR.

Kirkland Ferry Docks.



Now this little town of which I speak,
To go to and from it, don't take a week,
The King County Ferry only
takes a little time,
And never charges over a dime
To and from Kirkland.

CALENDAR

October 28

AKCHO 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

9:30 a.m. to Noon
Hollywood Schoolhouse,
14810 NE 145th St.,
Woodinville, RSVP Julie
O'Neil, 451-3711

AKCHO was formed to facilitate mutual assistance among heritage organizations, promote professional standards and secure funding for heritage projects. Come join the fun!

October 29

Board Meeting 5:30-7 p.m.
KHS Program 7 p.m.

What do Tulips and the Former Bothell Mayor have in Common?

Marc Connelly, Assistant Director, Kirkland Parks and Recreation. Marc will discuss the research that goes into the naming of Kirkland's Parks.

November 10

Oral History Meeting
7:30 p.m.

Mary Ann Timeus' house, 1000 116th Ave. NE. Call Mary Ann 889-9661 or Christina 821-3605 for more information.

November 17 (Note earlier date!)

Board Meeting 6-7 p.m.
KHS Program 7 p.m.

Photographic Preservation Issues For the Family Historian.

Peggy Hanson-Preservationist-Marymoor Museum. Peggy will discuss the basics of photographic preservation.

November 27

Happy Thanksgiving!

December

No KHS Board Meeting
No KHS Program
Happy Holidays!

See you in January 1998

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

PRESERVATION EDUCATION

TWO FORUMS

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is planning a one-day conference, *Teaching With Historic Places*, for teachers, historic site interpreters and preservationists on Saturday November 8, in Tacoma. Call Loren McCroskey at (360)753-5010.

AND

Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority will sponsor a series of three forums geared to the concerns of neighborhood activists involved in historic preservation issues. The forum will be held on Monday evenings from 7-9 p.m. on November 10, 17, and 24. *Neighborhood Preservation, Then and Now; Big Business, Small Neighborhood; and A Place to Stay.* Each forum is \$5. Call Historic Seattle, 622-6952

MEMBERSHIP by Barbara Loomis

We have a New Membership Chair, **Melissa Thirloway** has volunteered to take over this position. She and her husband and two children live in a remodeled bungalow West of Market Street.

Melissa's address and phone number are on the bottom of the membership form at right. **Thank You Very Much Melissa.**

Thank you for your **Supporting Membership Renewal:**
Kirkland Womans Club

Thank you for your renewal:
Bill Ballentine
Sue Carter
Chet and Susie Creger
James and Betty Spieth

PHOTOGRAPHS

Kirkland Heritage Society is always looking for new photographs to add to our collection. In looking for pictures for this newsletter I realized that we have few pictures of Kirkland Parks. Does anyone have photos of the Peter Kirk Baseball Field when it had wooden bleachers? We would like to copy your old photos and return the original to you. Please call Barbara Loomis, 827-7194 if you have photographs to donate. Thanks.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization/Government	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional/Business	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> 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
- _____ Monthly Programs
- _____ Oral History
- _____ Planning and Historic Sites

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

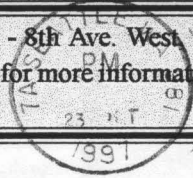
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home# _____ Work # _____
Organization/Firm _____

Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
Kirkland Heritage Society, 235 - 10th Ave. W.,
Kirkland, WA 98033. Phone: (425) 889 - 9120



JUANITA BEACH PARK c1920's

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, (425) 827-7194.



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