

Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



Kirkland Heritage Society Logo:
The Peter Kirk House

Fir Grove was built about 1889
in the 200 Block of Waverly Way



Kirkland Heritage Society

TIME FOR A HOME FOR KHS??

by
Bob Burke

I am continually amazed at the accomplishments of KHS - its membership and leadership - over the past 6 years!! Because of everything we have been able to do, it is becoming increasingly important that we have a permanent building for the Kirkland Heritage Society to continue its mission!

- Our membership has tripled and should exceed 100 this year! Be sure to renew!
- The Newspaper Data Base was completed and will be on-line this year - Thanks, Alan!
- The Oral History Program is KHS's highest priority and more people are participating!
- The first phase of the historic property inventory will be done this year (Phase 2 - '99)
- Our monthly programs typically draw at least 25 - last month was nearly 50!
- Ten Historic Interpretive Markers installed by the end of 1998!
- Our photograph collection has over 1,100 images and continues to grow daily!

We need a centrally located space, preferably in a historic building, which will function as:

- A focus for our all of our membership activities including monthly meetings,
- Public access for all of our historical information (Oral History tapes and transcriptions, Historic Property inventory records, Photographs, Newspaper data);
- An archives in which to protect our increasing collections and allow their expansion;
- A place to display photographs and other historical ephemera; and,
- An example of quality historic preservation reinforcing the basic mission of KHS.

This need was reinforced by a number of things the past couple months. Half of the effort in working on the photographs was pulling them all together in one place. The question now is, where do we store them safely where our members and the public can have access to them as needed? (The Board will be discussing a proposal for a temporary solution for that this month.)

Our meeting at the American Legion Hall brought back memories of when we were exploring the possibility of purchasing it. That effort created a lot of interest and excitement in the membership! One comment was that having a historic building as our home would increase the credibility of KHS. I think that is true!

A building the size of the American Legion Hall or the Christian Science Church (with a usable lower floor) would be very workable. At a minimum, we need an archives with work space and storage. We would still need to find monthly meeting space and arrange special displays, etc.

Personally, I'd like to see us set a goal of having a space available in the year 2000! It would mean becoming more pro-active - really defining our needs, exploring funding sources, and identifying potential buildings.

Ideas? Think about it!

We'll continue to discuss it at our meetings!

It will need everyone's support!!

But, as with all of the other things KHS has done, once we've set our priority and decided to do it,

I'm sure we can and will!

ELECTION RESULTS

Both **Congratulations!** and a **Thank you!** for continuing to serve KHS are due to **Barbara Loomis, Alan Stein** and **Laura Westlund** who were elected for two more years on the KHS Board.

WE MADE A GREAT START!!

**KHS Photograph Collection
Organization and Protection Has Begun!**

On Sunday, May 31, 1998, we made a major step toward the long term protection of our increasing photograph collection! We have over 1,100 photographs and slides - pretty impressive!!

Thanks to **Myron Lewis** for allowing us to use his office. It was a great place to work - nice setting and lots of flat surfaces. Those who helped included: **Cathy Smith, Barbara Loomis, Christina Brugman, Alan Stein, Vic Newhard, George Harris, Loita Hawkinson, Pam Owen, Michael Radcliff and Bob Burke.**

We learned a lot:

- There is a lot of member interest in this - 13 people signed up to help - 11 showed up!
- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. is a long time!
- We need other work parties, soon!
- It was fun!
- The food was great - thanks **Barbara & Cathy!!**

MORE FORTESCUE PHOTOGRAPHS

Ernie Fortescue called the weekend we were working on our collection and said he'd found some more photographs to give to us. He was in Kirkland and delivered another 40 photographs as well as a unique set of prints of the people working at the telephone company! We need help in identifying all of them!

Among the photographs Ernie has so generously donated to us are photographs of the Fort Jackson, the American Legion boat. These will be used on an interpretive marker being done at the foot of 2nd Street by WestWater Development, Inc. A number of the photographs are 16" x 20" and mounted. They will be used in our exhibit at SummerFest!

**Help needed in Publishing
Blackberry Preserves**

I do apologize for getting Blackberry Preserves out to you so late. This is a short month and it caught me off guard. I hope that you regularly put KHS meetings down on your calendar for the last Wednesday of the month, and will be able to attend our program Wednesday.

I do however, need some help with publishing this newsletter. If you have some time each month to take the copy ready newsletter to Kinkos, pick it up, fold, put on labels, stamps and dots and mail it and/or if you have PageMaker I could also use some help with layout. Please call **Barbara Loomis** at 827-7194. Thanks.

**JUNE PROGRAM
Heidi Bohan Bennett
DAILY LIFE OF THE
COAST SALISH PEOPLE**

**Wednesday, June 24, 1998, 7 pm
Kirkland Congregational Church**

Ethnobotanist and native plant steward, Heidi Bohan Bennett will focus her hands-on presentation on the life of the Coast Salish tribes. Though a display of native objects and artifacts she will demonstrate the use of these materials. Heidi is married to a Haida Indian who is a carver and storyteller.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES

Melissa Thirloway, Membership Chair, has sent out membership renewal notices for 1998/1999. Remember that KHS now has 501-c-3 status and your membership contribution may be matched by your company. Be sure to send it back promptly - it really helps in both volunteer time and mailing costs, if we don't have to send a reminder.

Also, please sign up to help on one of the many KHS activities! Our top priority is the Oral History Program! **Christina Brugman** (821-3605) has an excellent training program and we will provide equipment to record and to transcribe. We need the help of people interested in con-

ducting interviews as well as transcribing.

**EXHIBIT BOOTH AT SUMMERFEST
JULY 11 AND 12, 1998**

KHS will have its traditional booth at SummerFest sponsored by the Kirkland Arts Center on the weekend of July 11th and 12th. KHS has become a member to help support this event and the KAC. Plan to attend this wonderful community event!!

Vic Newhard has purchased our new booth with improved weather protection and will be looking for volunteers to work at it over those two days! It is great fun and we look forward to the special new display of Ernie Fortescue photographs!

THE ECHO OF DISTANT DRUMS- LARGE TRIBAL GATHERING HELD IN JUANITA IN 1933

By Alan J. Stein

In 1933, Juanita Bay was the setting for one of the largest Indian celebrations ever held at that time on the East Side, if not the state. On a sunny weekend in May, members of the Lummi, Skykomish, Muckleshoot, Yakima, upper and lower Snoqualmie, and many other tribes gathered for a re-enactment of the signing of the 1853 peace treaty between the Indians and the territory of Washington. Thousands more gathered to witness the event and to experience Native American culture up close.

The Warren O. Grimm post of the American Legion in Kirkland sponsored the gathering. A committee worked for months, contacting many tribes and inviting them to participate. The tribes would be in charge of almost all of the presentations and the Legionnaires would handle the logistics, such as scheduling, ticket sales and parking for visitors.

Chief Jerry Keenum of the Snoqualmie tribe gathered many local tribes near Lake Sammamish in March to introduce the other tribal chiefs to the Legionnaires. Members of each tribe performed special dances for the benefit of Legion members, such as the dance of the magic sticks and the dance of the magic boards. It was agreed that the upcoming event would be profitable and of great benefit to the Indians and the Kirkland community, and would provide Puget

Sound residents with an insight into Indian culture.

Chief Jerry Keenum, along with Chief Black Thunder of the Skykomish tribe and a delegation of women from the Muckleshoot tribe came to Kirkland to make arrangements. The event would be held on May 26 and 27, and Juanita Bay was chosen for the site. The Juanita beaches were ideal surroundings for the event, since Juanita Bay had long been a prime wapato (a type of potato) harvesting site for generations of Native Americans. By now, the beach had been developed as a picnic and camping area and would provide room for the thousands expected to attend.

The re-enactment of the signing would be the big event of the weekend. Joseph Hillaire, son of the Lummi chief who signed the treaty in 1853, gathered data on what happened prior to and at the signing. Governor Clarence Martin was invited, and accepted the offer to play the role of Governor Isaac Stevens who signed the treaty for the territory of Washington. Chief Jerry Keenum would assume the role of his father, Chief Pat Keenum, another signer. Direct descendants of other co-signers also assumed the role of chief.

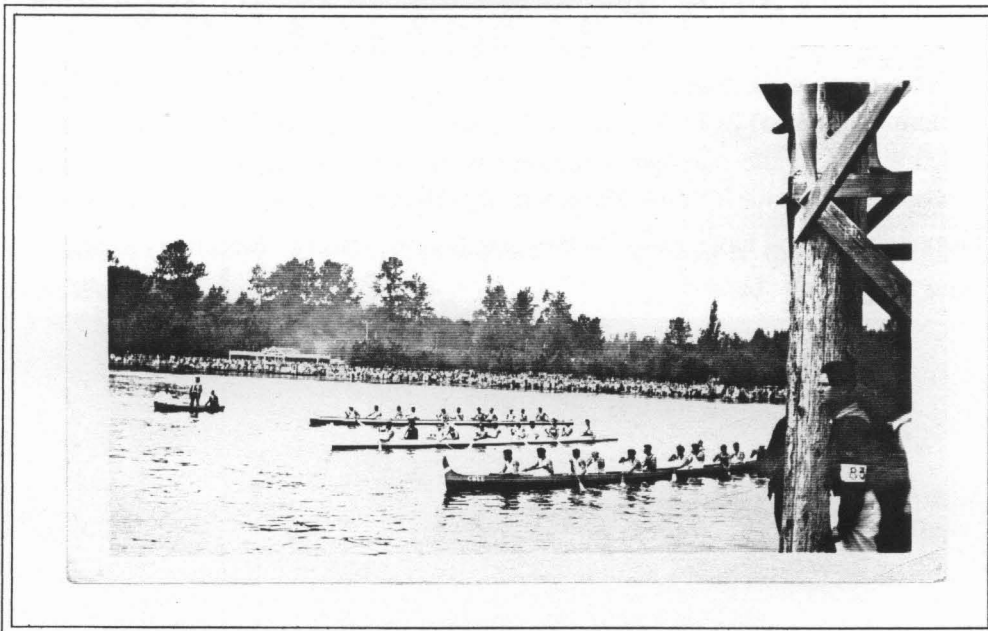
The weekend pow-wow received a wealth of publicity, The LaConner tribe loaned two big racing canoes for display in

Seattle stores. Joseph Hillaire went on a speaking tour, appearing in authentic costume before civic organizations and schools, and told the history of the treaty and of Indian culture. Martin Samson, president of the Northwest Federation of Indians made a number of radio appearances.

Kirkland girded for the coming influx of people. For any small town during the depression, throngs of visitors were a welcome sight. Even though Juanita was still considered a distant community in the eyes of most Kirkland businessmen, most visitors from Seattle that weekend would be taking the Lake Washington ferry, which dropped them off in downtown Kirkland. Storefronts were gussied up, parking zones were repainted and editorials were printed in the local paper, telling citizens to make their town more like 'Glossyville', instead of 'Shabbytown'. Even the brackish stream running through downtown Kirkland (an eyesore for many years) was cleaned up. As the local paper described it, "The things they found in that stream! Everything from soup to nuts and lots of it!"

The last weekend in May finally arrived under a canopy of clear blue skies. The warm, sunny weather brought in the expected crowds and more. Over 400 Indians encamped on the beaches of Juanita Bay in teepees and tents. Wearing colorful tribal dress, they

m i n g l e d
amongst and
conversed
with the
thousands
of visitors.
A variety of
Indian relics
were on dis-
play through-
out the
grounds for
all to see.



INDIAN
RACE
JUANITA
BEACH
MAY
1933

Kirkland
Heritage Society
Andre / Forbes
Collection

The big excitement during the day were the canoe races held each afternoon by members from the Swininish, LaConner, Skagit and other tribes. The first canoe race was followed by a hurdle race and then by single paddle races. The races which followed, and which captivated the most spectators, were the **fifty-foot, eleven paddle war canoe races**. Most people had not seen huge boats of this size and nature on Lake Washington at the time, and they have been rarely seen s i n c e .

Back on shore, over a thousand pounds of salmon was prepared and feasted upon. Demonstrations of

Indian games were shown, and as evening wore on, tribal dances were performed. "Most of which", described the local paper, "have never been seen by any large group of white people before." On Saturday night in an arena built by the Legion to hold 2500 people, historical presentations were given about the events leading up to the signing of the treaty.

On Sunday, following that afternoon's boat races, Governor Martin received a special honor when he was inducted into the Lummi tribe. Following an impressive ceremony of drumbeats and chants, tribal leader Joseph Hillaire accepted him into the fold. Hillaire delivered a stirring speech, calling Martin a protector "...like the tall cedars that used to guard our tepees in the woods.". Martin thanked them deeply for the honor, and promised to do all in his power to preserve their rights under the now 80-year-old treaty.

The sun started to set in the west, and as the skies changed color,

a reddish tint covered the entire crowd as the re-enactment pageant began. Chief Jerry Keenum and members of the Snoqualmie tribe staged a presentation depicting the medicine men crossing over into the spirit country. Chief Shelton of the Snohomish tribe gave a welcome speech, after which he and his daughter introduced dancers

from their tribe. Chief Tannishua of the Yakimas did the same. Other tribal leaders following suit included Black Thunder of the Skykomish, Mary Starr of the Lost Rainier and Ennick of the Darrington.

The re-enactment ceremony, written by Joseph Hillaire, was very well received. Many of the prominent Indians present portrayed their ancestors, while members of the American Legion filled in as Governor Stevens' entourage. To accommodate the thousands of attendees, the Legion had installed lighting effects and a loudspeaker system so that all present could see and hear c l e a r l y .

After the re-enactment, tribal dances continued on into the night. The combination of firelight and artificial light danced across the trees and tepees, and the echo of tribal drums and singing voices rang louder along the hillsides of Juanita than ever they had before or have since.

This article was previously printed in the Kirkland Courier.

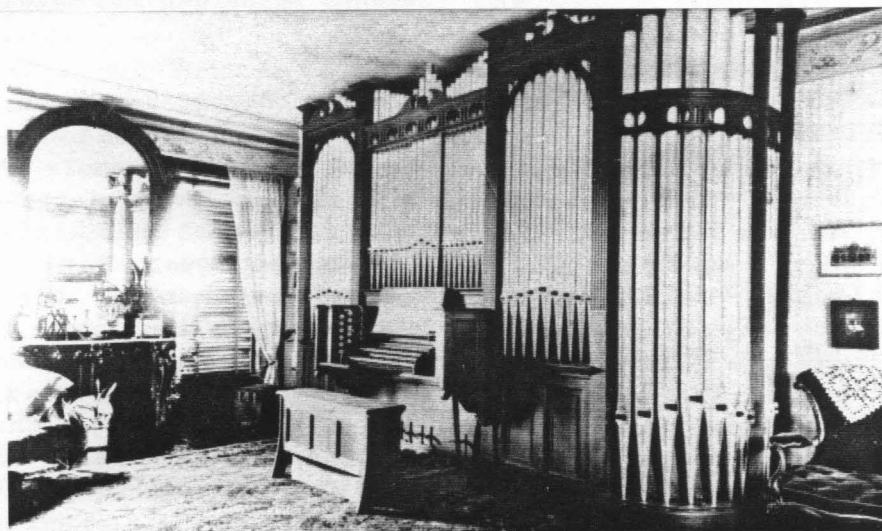
Peter Kirk Descendents to visit Kirkland

We have received word from Chuck Morgan that the great great niece (Jacqueline from New Zealand) and nephew (Robert from St. Catherine, Ontario) of Peter Kirk will be in town at the end of this week (June 28th or 29th). Their father, Jeffrey, obtained a part of the mahogany banister from Kirk's home in England (Bankfield) prior to it being demolished. Robert would like to give it to us. We would like to arrange a ceremony, perhaps by the marker on Waverly for this occasion. Hopefully we will have more information at our meeting Wednesday night.



Upper photograph is Bankfield built in 1875 by Peter Kirk and his brother-in-law, Charles James Valentine. In front is Peter Kirk, Jr. kneeling, with his cousin, Charles Valentine.

Right is the massive pipe organ on the third floor of Bankfield.



Kirkland Heritage Society
André Collection.

**K I R K L A N D
HERITAGE SOCIETY**

DIRECTORY

OFFICIAL ADDRESS:

304 - 8th Avenue West
Kirkland, WA 98033
Phone: (425) 827-7194

OFFICERS AND BOARD

President: Bob Burke
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827-6676
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At Large Member:
Christina Brugman 821-3605

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives

Sue Carter 822-5486
Don Winters 827-2650

Oral History

Christina Brugman 821-3605
Lorraine McConaghy 827-2927

**Historic Buildings
and Planning**

Vic Newhard (206) 949-6457
Velda Wilson 641-0528

Membership and Funding

Melissa Thirloway 889-9120

Programs

Shannon Harris 822-2478

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Exhibits:

Vic Newhard (206) 949-6457

Web Site:

Kelli Adam 827-5255

CALENDAR

June 24

Board Meeting
6 p.m.
KHS Program
7 p.m.
Heidi Bohan Bennett,
*Daily Life of the
Coast Salish People*

June 28th or 30th

**Peter Kirks' rela-
tives here, ceremony
possibly at marker on
Waverly. Call Bob Burke
for information. 827-6550
W, 828-4095 H.**

June 30

AKCHO Meeting
9:00 a.m.
Good Shepherd Center
Historic Seattle

July 18 - 19

SummerFest
Marina Park
*Call Vic Newhard, (206) 949-
6457 to volunteer to help at our
booth.*

July 29

**NO KHS PROGRAM
THIS MONTH**

August 3

Oral History Meeting
7:30 p.m.
*Christina Brugman's house:
11122 NE 132nd, call 821-3605
for more information*

August 26

KHS Program:
Baskins House Tour
Paid up Members only!

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999

KHS now qualifies for tax exemption under 501(c)(3) and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. We now qualify for match contributions by those employers who offer this benefit.

- Individual \$20
- Family \$25
- Senior/Student \$15
- Supporting \$100
- Life Member \$1,000
- Organization/Government \$100
- Professional/Business \$125
- Corporate \$250

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

My Company Matches Contributions
Contact: _____

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
- _____ Newsletter, Blackberry Preserves
- _____ KHS Web Site

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 _____

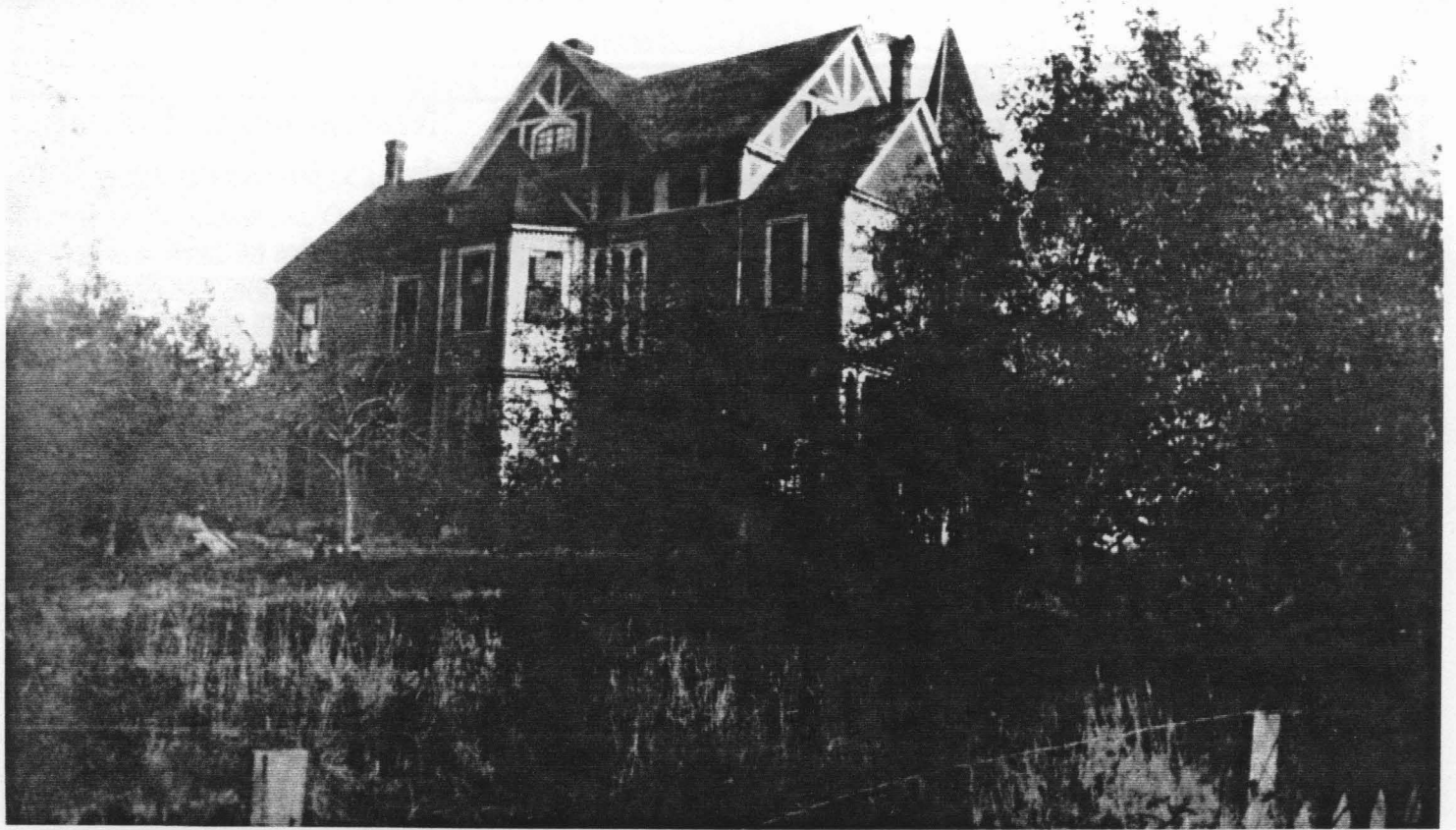
Address _____

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



*The Back of Peter Kirks'
Kirkland Home*

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, Publisher, (425) 827-7194 or E-Mail: bloomis@msn.com



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