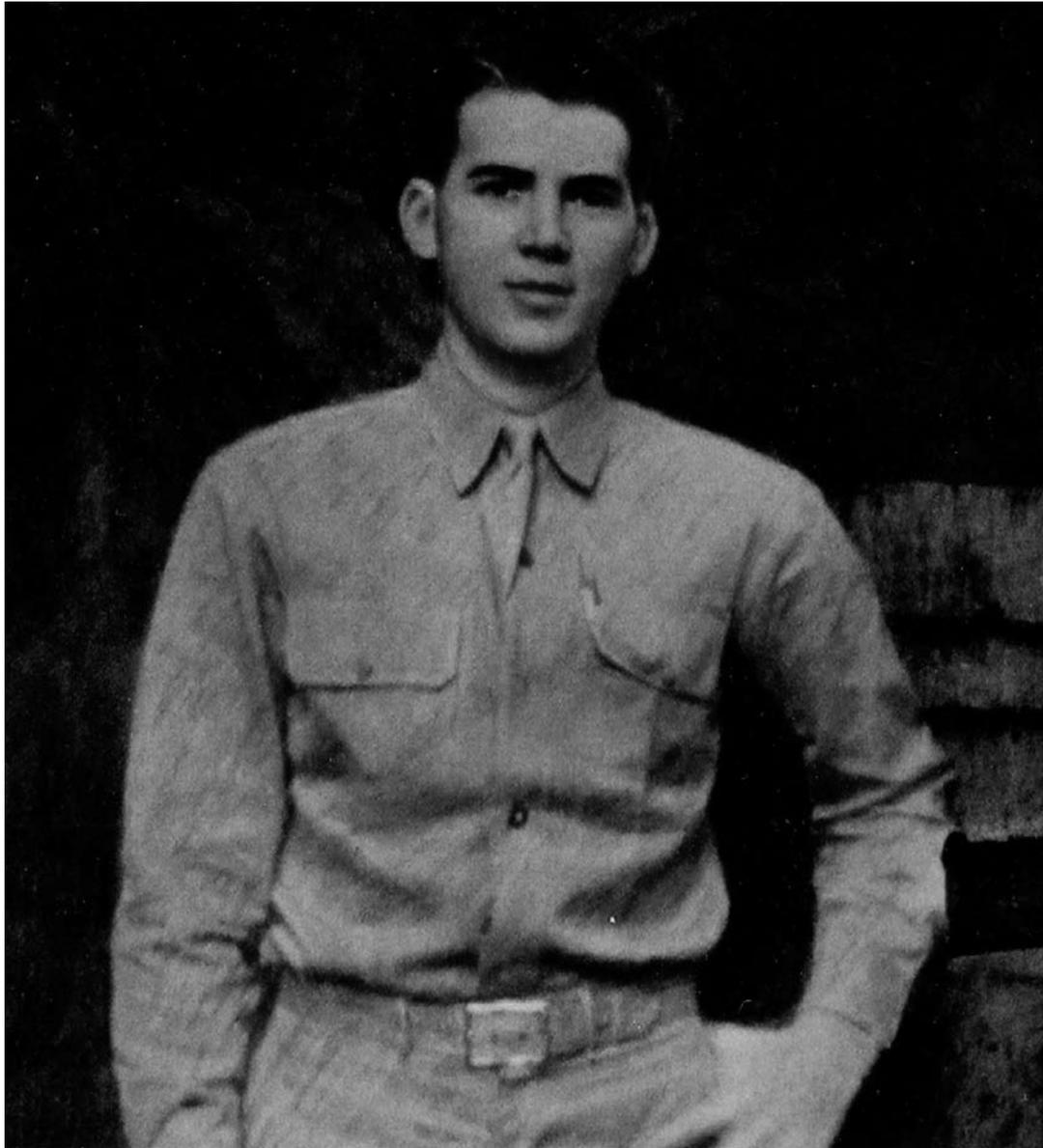


BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



**In Memory of
Lee Caldwell Ragsdale**
1921 - 1943

Photo from the Lee Ragsdale Bates Collection
Story by Loita Hawkinson on page 2

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www.kirklandheritage.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

LOITA HAWKINSON

Two years ago I wrote my last presidents letter and Bob Burke was again taking the reins of KHS. With Bob's sudden death just days before the election, last minute adjustments where necessary. Lynette Weber agreed to serve as VP and Glenn Landguth joined the board. I agreed to serve for another two years.

During the past two years, KHS has changed and gotten stronger as the board has worked as a team. Glenn applied for and was awarded a grant from 4Culture for the 2016 History Month. The City is once again giving annual support. 4Culture has doubled their sustained support. Members are generous. With history coming in from every direction, it is a comfort that we do not have to fundraise as well. The KHS bills are being paid.

I am so grateful to everyone who have taken on their own task. Because of Linda Jatton and Karen Schickling KHS has programs. Linda has spoiled everyone with her fresh baked goods. Our hello girls work quietly in the background and get little credit but members love those phone calls. Karen keeps the facebook page fresh. Glenn works diligently on the pavers, the grants and is going to serve as a valuable backup for our Pastperfect Database. Glenn has a passion for the technical side...much needed since losing Dale. Stony must consider his health and cannot attend meetings but his love of Kirkland is felt with frequent emails.

Tori Dennis, our intern, has agreed to join the board. She will add youthful energy. We have to thank Lynette Weber for always being there in a time of crisis. And David Sherbrooke is proving to be of great value. He has deep Kirkland roots, a keen sense of humor and a SUV! Janeen is a treasure in her role as treasurer. She has decided to not serve again in that capacity but will continue on as Membership Chair. Vic Newhard has managed to make time for the AKCHO and other meetings and gives the board reports of what is happening.

Don't know what we would do without Hazel Russell and Margie Denton. Hazel keeps the bills paid and the money deposited. She also makes sure all the government reports are done in a timely manner. Without her, KHS could not exist. And Margie is so uncomplaining about mailing the newsletter. She thinks it is a big nothing. To fold, tape, label and stamp a newsletter may sound easy.... and it is. But 250 newsletters takes the "easy" out of it.

To all of you, and anyone else that I have left out, I thank you. I have found little joy in being president but I have found and hope to continue to find great joy helping preserve and record the history of Kirkland.

In Memory of Lee Caldwell Ragsdale

1921 - 1943

Lee C. Ragsdale first caught my attention because he had two obituaries. The first was in 1943 and again in 1949. In each the cause of death was fighting guerillas in the Philippines during WWII. Both times, his mother was Bonnie Ragsdale, making it clear that the obituaries were for the same Lee Ragsdale.

Now flash forward to February 2015. One time Kirkland resident, Tom Parry, came to visit KHS and rekindle some memories. He mentioned Lee Ragsdale and wondered if Lee's family ever knew he had been a WWII POW and died while imprisoned. Tom researches WWII and happened upon this history. I assured Tom they probably knew any history. I then searched the newspaper archives and did not find any hint that Lee had been a POW. I did learn from the *Seattle Times* that Lee had died in 1943 and his body was recovered in 1949. His mother, Bonnie Ragsdale requested that her son be brought home. In 1949, Lee Caldwell Ragsdale was buried in the Kirkland Cemetery.

A few more searches of Military databases confirmed that Tom Parry was correct. Lee was captured in 1942, survived the Bataan Death March and died in captivity in 1943.

The Jatton's are friends with Lee Ragsdale Bates and got us connected. Lee had no idea that his uncle for whom he is named was a POW. Many emails followed and then a photo. It will be framed and displayed at the KHS Resource Center. Char Ragsdale Bates, Lee's mother, adored her brother. We agree that she would not have wanted to know the fate of Lee. But the Bates family did want to know the truth.

So, as we honor **Memorial Day 2015**, let us hope **Lee Ragsdale Bates**, KHS class of 1940, is resting a little easier now that his family and community are aware of his sacrifice.

To all who lost a member of your family or a treasured friend while serving our country, we thank you,

KHS Monthly Program

7:00 p.m.

Heritage Hall

May 27, 2015

Please join us for an evening lecture with State Architectural Historian Michael Houser.

Mr. Houser will be sharing his knowledge of Post WWII design and construction and how a variety of local and regional designers

helped shape the built environment of Kirkland during the 1950s and 60s. Learn about typical styles and features of ranch houses and split levels, as well as more upscale designs from Pacific Northwest Regional and Meisian. Also joining the discussion is noted architectural historian Mimi Sheridan who will be recording mid-century resources in Kirkland later this Spring. Learn about her project and how you can get involved in preserving this unique aspect of Kirkland's history.

June 24, 2015

Election Night

Plus it will be show and tell night. Please bring an item from your Kirkland past to share. It has been several years since we have had this fun evening.

KHS receives 100% commission from the sales of Bob Neir's *A City Comes of Age* and Steve Lamson's *The Power of a Dream*. Both are available at Parkplace Books.

Karen Schickling edits our Facebook account named:



Kirkland Heritage Society and Museum.



If you use Facebook, please give us a look and a like.



Captain Bill Hoover had fire department history galore. Wonderful photos. KHS and the KFD will be sharing. We have photos and dates they need. They have photos and history KHS needs. It was a great evening.



New owner, Carl Bradley gave an update about the Kirkland Cannery. It appears to be in good hands.



That is Floyd Berkey's fireman cap on Russ McClintick's head. In his hand is the Board of Education that hung on his office wall while he was Principal. The paddle was never used on any behinds but Russ thinks the fact that it was there made for a better student body. He had promised the paddle to KHS long ago. It is now again on a wall for all to see. Russ now lives in Bothell and is sorely missed in Kirkland. Photo by Nancy Bock

A Little Piece of Finn Hill History

by Victor Bahna

I had known this barn and house for my entire life, because I lived across the street from them. I loved them. They had many sentimental and historical values to me. Upon seeing that many of the older houses in my neighborhood were being demolished, I decided to try to preserve the history in my neighborhood, particularly the barn and house.



The barn had many sentimental and historical values to me.

I did an oral history with the owner of the property at that time. Her name was Jean. I learned from Jean that the barn was 105 years old. It was built in 1910 as a horse barn. Since the animals were the most important thing on the farm, the barn was built first. While the house was being built, everyone slept in the hayloft of the barn. Just above the hayloft door was a bar used for pulling hay up to the hayloft. The house was built in 1913. It was a little farmhouse with paneling and brackets on the inside. Jean said that the paneling in the house is not made anymore. The basement was originally a Finnish sauna. Then it was a little skullery. In the 1960s, an artist moved into the house. He had his ceramics studio in the barn's original hayloft. He cut a hole in the barn's chimney for a vent to let out the dangerous carbon monoxide from the kiln. He used the barn's ground floor as a garage. He also added an addition to the house in 1964. In this addition he added a kitchen. When Jean bought the

property, she turned the little skullery into a full basement, and she redid the kitchen added in the 1964 addition. She also used the barn as a garage.



Looking at the back of the house, the 1913 house is to the left of the tree, while the 1964 addition is to the right.

When inside the house, I looked around. In the 1913 portion of the house, there was the original paneling and brackets. In the hall, the paneling and brackets were painted white. In the living room of the 1913 house, the paneling and brackets were a shade of brown. They weren't painted. There was a square bay window in the living room that protruded from the side of the house. In the bathroom, there was nothing interesting besides a stained glass window. It is thought that the stained glass was created by the artist that lived in the house in the 1960s. The concrete stairs surrounding the house were made out of concrete test tubes. When people were testing the strength of concrete, they created cylinders out of the material. When they were done with the cylinders, the cylinders were incorporated into the stairs. The house was painted a tealish color, while the barn was painted white with sea green window and roof trim. The inside of the barn was surprisingly intact. Jean led me through a tall door with a window. I was now in a portion of the barn with a much lower ceiling. In one corner, the walls were plate glass. The staircase to the hayloft was in this little room. We went up the narrow staircase. Jean flicked a switch and the lights turned on. There was a little window in the back of

Continued on page 5

The 27th in the series tells us how Kirkland had grown during the past five years. The automobile stages were luxury cars. Below show the Lutes Duvall, Novelty and Kirkland Stage leaving the ferry



Continued from page 4.....

the barn and a dormer window on the side. Despite the fact that the dormer window had sash windows, it is probable that it was barely ever opened, because the window was very high up. The hole was still in the chimney from when there was a ceramics kiln. The hayloft door had different color paint splattered all over it on the inside. However, overall, the barn was quite nice and roomy.

But the barn and the house were too much for Jean to handle. She sold the property to a developer in January. On Wednesday, April 22, the barn and all its history fell with a large crash. Upon looking out the window I saw the wrecked barn. It was a shuddering sight. The next day the 1964 addition of the house was knocked down. The day after that, the 1913 house came down. I hope that someday soon City realizes that leading examples of Kirkland's history like this barn and house are being destroyed.



SEATTLE'S
MOST

KIRKLAND

IMPORTANT
SUBURB

Another infallible sign of the growing influence of Kirkland is the way it is becoming the center for that great stretch of back country which is filling up with the desirable kind of settlers. When Burke & Farrar, Inc., bought Kirkland townsite, two buckboard stages, drawn by buckskin ponies, cared for all the travel inland. Now 20 automobile stages regularly meet the Kirkland boats to handle the passenger traffic. Kirkland is real—so are the opportunities there. Been over yet?

Every day in the classified section of The Times you can find some property in Kirkland described.

BURKE & FARRAR, Inc.
 Owners of Kirkland Townsite.
 CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$1,000,000.
 2d Floor N. Y. Block, Over Dexter
 Horton National Bank.

LITTLE STORIES OF KIRKLAND
No. 27.

Seattle Times-- Sept. 30, 1915

Last minute words from the President.....

Thank you Vince Armfield for the Kirkland history in issue 2. KHS received many calls thanking for the walk down memory lane. And we have to now thank Victor Bahma for this issue's feature about Finn Hill. Victor is an 8th grade student at Leadership Preparatory (LEAD Prep) Accademy in Kirkland. Contributed articles are so much appreciated by the readers.

The 2015 KHS board and officer election will soon be upon us. As some find they must step down, others have stepped forward. Frank Rosin will serve as Treasurer, working with Hazel Russell who keeps the books and pays the bills. I am sure that Glenn Landguth will have fresh ideas as he serves as President. David Sherbrooke will record our minutes as Secretary. Karen Schickling will serve as Vice-President. The balance of the board will be: Linda Jatton, Tori Dennis, Janeen Ryseff, Vic Newhard, Loita Hawkinson.

A letter will be mailed to all paid members before the election. The newly elected start their terms July 1, 2015.



Captain Hoover had a table of Fire Department photos and newspaper clippings. We will date their clippings and they will share their photos. Photo by Glenn Landguth



Ray Lincoln had a date with wife Clare so missed photo night. Ray has made up for it by spending hours at the hall and has identified a nice stack of photos so they could be scanned and entered into the database. Photos are of little historic value if the people are not named. Ray graduated from Kirkland High School so has memories that are now being preserved as well.

The two boxes of photos that went missing have been found (in plain sight but moved) so next year we will have to do the program again.



Twice a year, the east side history groups get-together and share ideas and concerns. It was KHS's turn to host the meeting in March. Woodinville, Bothell, Duvall, Kenmore, Redmond and Kirkland are all volunteer organizations and we all left with a positive view of our future.

Blackberry Preserves

President:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
Vice-president	Glenn Landguth	425 890-9058
Secretary:	Vic Newhard	425 892-8388
Treasurer:	Janeen Ryseff *	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Clarence Stone *	425 827-3446
At-Large	Tori Dennis*	425 827-3446
At-Large	Karen Schickling *	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Linda Jatton *	425 827-3446
At-Large:	David Sherbrooke*	425 827-3446

Committee Chairs & members

Archives & Collections:	Loita Hawkinson*	425 827-1950
	Karen Schickling	425-827-3446
Controller	Hazel Russell	425-827-3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
	Marjorie Denton	
Pavers	Glenn Landguth	825 827-3446
Grants/Funding	Glenn Landguth*	425 827-3446
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatton*	425 827-3446
	Cathy Radcliff	
	Corrine Hieb	
	Margie Denton	
	Marilyn Johnson	
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
	Guest Writers	
Programs:	Linda Jatton*	425 827-3446
	Karen Schickling	425 827-3446
Time Keepers	Marin Harris*	425-827-3446
	Shannon Harris	
Membership	Janeen Ryseff*	425-827-3446
Oral History:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
	Clarence Stone	
Planning and Historic Sites:	Lynette Weber*	425 890-9058
	Tom Hitzroth	425 823-2981
Scholarship Committee	Jim Neir*	206 478-3173
	Kris Woods	425 827-3446

* Chair or Co-chairs

** During WWI, the Hello Girls were ladies who served as telephone operators. For KHS, these sweet ladies call and remind you of the next meeting or event.

* Kirkland Natives or deep roots serving on the KHS Board.

Webmaster: The late Dale W. Hawkinson.

Kirkland Heritage Society

www.kirklandheritage.org

425-827-3446

**KHS is 100% volunteer with no paid staff.
Your memberships make it happen.**



2015 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

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

Membership Category

_____ Senior / Student	\$20
_____ Individual	\$25
_____ Family	\$30
_____ Supporting	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$1,000
_____ Organization/Government	\$100
_____ Professional Business	\$125
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provide the signed Matching Gift Form!**

Name

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

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Checks should be made payable to and mailed to:

Kirkland Heritage Society
Heritage Hall, Lower Level
203 Market Street
Kirkland, WA 98033.



TO RENT HERITAGE HALL

Call Kevin Ball at Kirkland Parks

425 587-3398



This 1910 barn on Finn Hill was built as a horse barn
Story on page 4. Photos by Victor Bahna

Blackberry Preserves is produced by the **Kirkland Heritage Society**, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. **Loita Hawkinson, Editor.**
For information on KHS - visit our website: www.kirklandheritage.org,
or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.

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Kirkland Heritage Society

Kirkland Heritage Society, est 1977
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