1950s to the Present
This is an illustration from a 1950 promotional calendar, printed for Bush Hardware and Furniture Company of Kent WA. It was put out by Dutch Boy Paint.
In 1952, Kent Meridian High School had a band called "The Moonshiners"! The members were Ken Helfenstien, Ken Simon, Wally Burge, Jack Becvar and Bill Ruth!
Cornucopia Days Parade 1954, kids dressed like Davy Crockett
Thanks to Karin F. we have these great photos of the Allentown Covered Bridge! A bit out of Kent, but still some great history of our area! Not sure of the year, but before 1956 when her Uncle made a painting of it.

(The one with the cow is hilarious for some reason!)
Danny Pierce was a painter that lived right here on East Hill! He has work in the Smithsonian and he painted many of our murals downtown. In the Kent News-Journal on Dec. 16, 1959, a letter he wrote back home when he was in Alaska was printed, describing his experiences there.
1960s
C & C Produce - Cash & Carry Fruits and Vegetables and S.T. Produce. This was on Railroad Ave, north of Smith St. (c.1960's)
A real bird's eye view! That's the Seattle Space Needle that we know and love. It was described as: "Jewels gleamed from the intellect and imagination from some of the finest minds of America". In the 1962 world fair, it drew over 2.3 million visitors, when nearly 20,000 people a day used its elevators. Now you can eat at the SkyCity restaurant, and really feel like you are on top of the world!
This is a letter recalling Mr. Harry Waid's years at the Taylor School just outside of Kent. It was published in installments and we only have one of them, but it shows what it was like going to school in the early 1900's. It was printed in Aug. 1963.
Taylor School letter continued. Teacher Mrs. Failor is pictured as is Faye Hart -- the smallest one in the front row.
A wise man once observed, “Liberty means responsibility. This is why most men dread it.” But if you dread it and ignore it, how long can it last? Freedom, like a receding hairline, isn’t lost all at once. It goes gradually. If you can spend a few minutes each day using hair tonic to save your hair, can’t you spend a few minutes each year at the polls to save your scalp?

This seemed very pertinent to us all these days! It was found on the back of an industry booklet put out by Carnation Milk back in 1964. Remember to Vote!
This is a story that ran in a local newspaper in July 1966, about George Whall and the cabin he was born in on Aug 15, 1890, still standing at that time. It was located on 132nd Ave SE., Kent, WA.

Not So Many Years Ago

George Whall, 75, told Ron Snow, nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Snow, 24409 132nd Ave. S.E., that the log cabin at the rear of the Snow house was built just after the Seattle fire. Whall ought to know — he was born in the cabin August 15, 1890.

July 1966

80-Year-Old Log Cabin on East Hill
Still Sturdy — So Is Man Born In It

isn't even interested in selling off any of the 20 acres they still have.

"We want to keep the land around us, to keep us busy," he said.

"In the old days, most of the families had dairy farms and those who didn't worked in the sawmills or logging camps. Over where Ky Fox's resort is there was a shingle mill. The area was logged off about 1905, and they used the timber for shingles. Calhoun had a mill where the gravel bunkers are, and Bereiter's mill was over near Berrydale," he continued.

"On the North Road, where the Bergs live, Nordahl had a mill where Gus Johnson worked when he came over from Sweden."

The Whalls have two children, a son, Col. Winston G. Whall, now at Ft. McPherson, Ga., and a daughter, Mrs. James Wright, in Tacoma. There are six grandsons . . . and they like nothing better than to visit Grandma and Grandpa Whall's farm.

1997.125

George Whall took time on a last week from a paint job on the roof of his home, 28510 130th Ave. S.E., to make a quick jaunt by car to visit the log cabin in which he was born.

The cabin still stands at the rear of the Whall's farmhouse owned by the Snow family, 28500 130th Ave. S.E.

"The trip by car took about five minutes. En route, Whall recalled that as a boy, living in the same area, he used to walk a trail from the Whall property across the road from the Meridian Elementary School to the Mead farm where he helped clear logs and once worked for the timber company."

"There was a trail running 200 yards from here to the Tanner School (now a house on the corner of 132nd Avenue Southeast and Road 2840 Street) Whall recalled."

"When we wanted to go into Kent, we walked along that trail to South 240th Street, and then down 208th to Kent," he said.

The log house, still sturdy, serves as a storage place and a playhouse for the Snow children. Keenly abloom around the "easy" and there is a big old plum tree which has been in the yard many years for the children to run around under the shade out of their kitchen.

Whall said the house was built by Hans Moo shortly after the Seattle fire — which caused Moo to move out to the Kent area. The Whall family came to Kent about the same time — both families had lived in Minnesota previously and were friends.

Whall's father, Julius, settled up about 40 acres north of Lake Meridian (then known as Cow Lake). When George was born, his mother went to the Mead house so she wouldn't be alone, and Mrs. Moo served as nurse.

"A long time after the Mead built a larger house, which in turn was replaced by the beautiful, square white farmhouse purchased five years ago by the Snows from Harold Sorenson."

The trail which led to the Tanner School later was supplanted by the completion of South 284th Street (The Middle Road). Whall remembers the construction of the roads well, for his father was county road supervisor for many years and George worked on the road crews beginning at the age of 15.

"I helped work on most of the roads built in this area, he said. He also worked in the shipyards, for the Grange Warehouse, and later Pacific Car & Foundry.

He attended the Tanner School and then Meridian High School, which was just north of his present home. There he met his future wife — and they were married 49 years ago this month.

Whall has lived on the same land all of his life. He served as a director for the Meridian School district for 16 years, held various offices in the Meridian Grange, and was superintendent of the Sunday School of Zion Lutheran Church and a teacher for many years.

What does he think about what is happening to the Valley? He's not happy. And he
A terrifying story that ended well was printed in the Kent News-Journal on March 13, 1968.

Fireman Saves His Child, Hanging by Root On Cliff

A young Kent fireman, accustomed to rescue operations, found himself called on Monday to save his own 3-year-old son, hanging desperately to a root 20 feet down a steep cliff overlooking Central Avenue.

Little Richard W. Storment, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Storment, 520 Guiberson St., was feeling fine again Tuesday, unaware of all the commotion his little trip had caused.

The lad wandered away following his big white dog, Chico, Monday afternoon.

His parents and neighbors had been searching more than an hour when Storment made his way down the canyon from the top of the hill to Central Avenue. In the 600-block of Central Avenue, he looked up and saw the tot clinging to a root part-way down the 100-foot cliff.

Storment made his way up to the boy, used his belt to make a sling through Richard’s arms to hook him papoose-style on his own back, and as Patrolman Dan Danielson held a limb down in lieu of a rope, Storment managed to haul the boy to the top.

“I asked him if he was hurt, and he said ‘No, but I’m scared,’” Storment said.

Chico, the dog, had stayed near the top of the cliff to watch over his young master, said Mrs. Storment.
1970s
In our collection is a bunch of newspaper articles and photos about the fishing derby that used to be held in downtown Kent for the kids. These ones are all from April/May 1971, from the Kent News Journal.
According to their ad, you could even board your pet rock in 1976 at Kent's Holiday Kennels!
1980s
The Spring 1989 Jr. Achievement Class at Kent Jr. High
1990s
Boy Scouts visiting the Mayor's office in 1990.
Who remembers the Apple Barrel Country Store on Meeker? (I know that's where my Mom & I learned how to make Applehead dolls! ~Michelle)

Here is a photo and an article from Oct. 1994 about this charming store.

or: [https://www.motherearthnews.com/diy/applehead-dolls-zmaz80jazraw](https://www.motherearthnews.com/diy/applehead-dolls-zmaz80jazraw)
The next 5 slides are from the program was from the last day at the races at Longacres Park, Sept. 21, 1992.
Photo of the original Greater Kent Historical Society members: Donna Frio, Rae Reitan, Audrey Sells, Al Sells, Dorice Wolfrom, Jim Biggar. The only one missing is Jack Becvar. c.1993.
History

...Continued from page A1

by accident. A lot of work went into this, and a lot of people deserve thanks for their assistance. It was an effort in which the entire newspaper participated, and to which people from all over the community contributed.

Valley Daily News County Bureau reporter Mike Archibald was the initial editor on the project, and he deserves credit for much of the coverage and content as well as some of the design elements to be found. Even after he was reassigned (and not because of his work on this section), his talents were just needed elsewhere. Mike was a frequent source of advice and encouragement.

The entire reporting staff also contributed to the project, as well as our photographers, numerous freelance writers and the other editors here at Valley Daily News. The advertising department, too, was a key member of the project, and advertisers were generous in their support of it. And the Valley Daily News graphic production staff worked extremely hard to put this project together, especially Cathy Blauvelt.

In the community, special thanks go to Walter Cook of the White River Historical Society, without whose assistance we would have lacked many of the photographs you see in this publication. Thanks also to the many people who contributed small details, including our "Slice of Life" survey respondents, James Bergema, who mailed us the copy of the County Commissioners minutes on their vote on Kent's charter, and Stan Swafford, who provided several facing-page stories he had discovered during his research.

If you look closely enough, undoubtedly you will find mistakes, or versions of history different from those you have heard before. The details of history can get garbled over the course of 100 years; different sources often say different things about the same event. The photographs, too, offer some incompleteness. Frequently, a photograph has survived but its caption has not, so what and who and where are still matters of investigation and guesswork. Walter Cook, who received a degree in forestry and became a professor at the University of Washington, is particularly interested in the history of the local area.

This project would not have been possible without the support of the Kent community. Every effort was made to ensure that the project was a success. We hope that everyone who contributed to the project was pleased with the final result.
While researching for the next newsletter, we came upon Tim Noah's name & photo in a Canterbury Faire booklet from 1994! He was THE children's musician when we were kids!

He is still recording, performing, & he transformed a hundred-year-old church into Tim Noah Thumbnail Theater in Snohomish, WA (http://www.thumbnailtheater.com/)! You can read all about him here: http://timnoah.com/biography.htm