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!)





2 Kent (Wn.) News-Journal Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1959 (Sec. 2)

With Danny Pierce-

Piercina Alaska

spite of having had the car here. You know the type, large "winterized," it wouldn't start beautiful flakes that look like today. The tow truck tried leathers from a pillow. I don't

One of the professors it om thought of going on our own the university was in the gard im sure.

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I'

which sixth way swells in this area have well and the search way and the work of the which sixth way swell turn desert have a chance to be which sixth way swell and the soil. He was the work of the

True

the whole world

over

er like this.

A few weeks ago three parties of us went out on a wiener in or in bake. Julia and I couldn't be the courtey she could be the country-side into a with the idea. The day before well be he have no fee for

had been right balmy. We'd We will be having ice fog

letter received by Fred weather then this day was Meadowcroft from Danny warm 20 degrees above zero. Pierce, head of the art de. Just about the time we were partment at the University of leaving it began snowing and Alaska. He tells of the rigors the further we went the harder of an Alaskan winter, and a it snowed. The lead car finally wiener roast in a. snow storm.)
storm. storm

Forty degrees below zero! We we soon had a roaring fire goare feeling the bite of living in ing. The snow was coming down the far north country now. In in the wettest flakes I've seen pushing me for a mile but to know when I've enjoyed an outno avail. ing more. We would never have One of the professors from thought of going on our own

put it off.

We are buying or haul our got out of the ear the snow on drinking water from Pioneer it was covered with dust. It's so Wells or the university. Most of dry and cold I guess the moistnesselb is this research

ture has reached 40 degrees below or more. The old timers "watch out then." It's so cold to be out and the added dangers of not being able to see beyond the windshield makes it

worse.

The sunshine even on clear days is mighty short. The sun rises at 9.35 a.m. and go es down at 1.35 p.m. Julio last reached the sunshine sun as they do in the higher Arctic, but it doesn't pay to depend up-on natural light sources here. This doesn't bother me as long as I have a place to work. I'm accustomed to artificial light

for working anyway. Another winter hazard is having the gas lines freeze up on you. This happened to us on e day going into Fairbanks. It was fortunate I had had this happen to me in the Adiron-dack mountains of New York state when we were there. A little canned heat, (alcohol) does the trick. You just pour it into minutes and away you go again. To someone who has never experienced this it's really aggravating I'll tell you.

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!



Former Pupil Writes History Of Taylor School

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.



By HARRY E. WAID

The Taylor School, as it was called, should not be confused with the "Little Red School Houses" of song and story, being neither red nor very little. Organized a few years before the turn of the century, it was somewhat more advanced and progressive than its classic prototype, though retaining some of its best features. It was situated on an acre tract at a convenient cross roads a mile and a half from the then small town of Kent, Washington on what was long since the first paved highway between Seattle and Tacoma, though in those days it was a gravelled dirt road, partly planked and trestled over the swampier portions, being muddy in winter and dusty in summer. Thousands of frogs infested the ponds and swampy acres and set up a thunderous chorus during the summer nights, the



spring and the fall nights. During the day, in season, flock after flock of wild ducks and geese flew over, often alight-

ing nearby.

The school house was about thirty feet wide by sixty feet long, surmounted by a beign near the front or north end. A front porch led into a corridor, from where the bell was pulled by a rope. To either side were the cloak rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls, each provided with tall window of many panes, fronting onto the

The large school room was entered through doors from either cloak room. There were five of these same tall windows on either side of this room. equally spaced, with short black-boards in between. A long black board spanned the windowless south wall and one on the north or front wall, between the two entry doors. Also at the north end was a raised platform, dominated by the teacher's desk. Also, on this wall were roll-up maps and physiological charts. The maps showed the continents, our state and country and a few statistical charts anent populations, industries, political racial and religious aspects of various regions. The other harts depicted the human body and its functions; the nervous system, skeletal system, digestive, circulatory and muscular systems. One showed the effects of alcohol on the internal organs when taken in varying quantities. A large terrestrial globe and many wooden geometrical solids

Harry E. Waid, now living in Blaine, Wash., was born in Kent, where his father arrived in 1889. Waid attended the old Taylor school Idaho, Washington and Alaska for a time before entering the Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1929. He retired in 1960 and daughter, Margo, now married and living in Seattle. They also visited ten countries in Europe. Waid recently submitted the following article on his recollections of the old Taylor School. The school was located at the intersection of the Taylor Road and West Valley Highway. The article will be published in several installments.



were, in their turn, despotic, benevolent or maybe intermediate but each and all of them overworked, underpaid s and forever beset with the problem of educating and disciplining a rather rugged and somewhat cosmopolitan group of country lads and lasses. By rugged, I mean these pupils had no fancy clothes, no costly habits, entertainment or privileges and no outstanding talents or distinguised manners. They were, however, strong and healthy and for the most part, honest, thrifty, tolerant and considerate. In their overalls, hand-me-down coats, homemade shirts and gingham dresses, they represented young America at the grass roots level. And they were regimented. Patriotism, virtue, industry, charity, temperance, respect for labor, even humility, were practically brainwashed into them in their songs, their copy books, their language lessons and readers. All were used to hard work. The boys had to milk cows. plow, cultivate, chop wood, hoe potatoes, make hay, clean stables and build fences. The girls had their household chores, sewing, darning, mending, churning butter, washing, ironing or otherwise helping an overworked mother and sometimes with the outdoor farm work.

(To be continued next week)

were contained on a table at l one corner of the platform, although geometry, of course, was never included in the l limited curriculum of this eight-grade, one-teacher institution.

Cast-iron Heater

Near the center of the room was the large conventional pot-belly cast iron heater, with the stove pipes suspended from the ceiling, leading to the chimney at the south end. The double seats with desks attached, were of maple, with let-down tops and with book troughs underneath. There were four rows of these, each accomodating two boys or two girls and about six or eight to the row, the smaller desks being near the front. There were two long recitation seats at either side of the room, near the teacher's desk.

A large kerosene lamp, with a shade and a large round wick, was suspeaded from the ceiling near the center of the room. This was used during some night or evening events, such as a Christmas program, basket social or an election. On the walls, above the blackboards were the usual pictures of Washington, Lincoln, Landing of Columbus, and the likes.

Rugged Pupils
Like a small empire, the
Taylor School rose, flourished
and fell. Like a small empire, it
was ruled by teachers who

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?

THE RESIDENCE IS PROPERTIES.

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!

Not So Many Years Ago

George Whall, 76, told Ron Snow, nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Snow, 24869 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.

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 thothing better than to visit Grandma and Grandpa Whall's farm.

George Whall, 76, took time R out last week from a repair job con the roof of his home, 25820 fc 140th Ave. S., to make a quick si jaunt by car to visit the log Geabin in which he was born.

The cabin still stands at the 11 rear of the big farmhouse occupied by the Dale Snow family, the 24869 132nd Ave. S.E.

The trip by car took about sl five minutes. En route, Whall h recalled that as a boy, living & in the same area, he used to walk a trail from the Whall S property (across the road H from the Meridian Elementary n School) to the Moe farm where T the Snows now live.

"There was a trail running a diagonally from here to the Tanner School (now a house on in the corner of 132nd Avenue a Southeast and South 240th Street? Whall recalled.

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

ne said.

The log house, still sturdy, v serves as a storage place and 1 a playhouse for the Snow children. Roses bloom around the "stoop" and there is a big old stove inside which Mrs. Snow has used in past summers for preserving to keep the mess out of her kitchen.

out of her kitchen.
Whall said the house was built by Hans Moe shortly after the Seattle fire – which caused Moe to move out to the Kent area. The Whall family came to Kent about the same time – both families had lived minnesota previously and were

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

midwife.

It wasn't long after that the Moes built a larger house, which in turn was replaced by the beautiful, square white farmhouse purchased five years ago by the Snows from Harold

The trail which led to the Tanner School later was augmented by the completion of South 256th 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

"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

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.



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 slong 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's

scared." Storment said.

Chico, the dog, had stayed near the top of the cliff to watch over his young master, said Mrs. Storment.

A terrifying story that ended well was printed in the Kent News-Journal on March 13, 1968.

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.

Hey Kids! Fish, Fish Fish, Fish

Starting at 11 a.m. Saturday. the Kent Jaycees will sponsor an annual fishing derby for Kent youngsters aged 4 to 12.

All the kids need to do is show up in Kent Memorial Park with their poles and hooks. The fish will be there, planted in Mill Creek by the Washington State Game Department from the Soos Creek hatchery.

Johnny Fletcher, Jayone chairman, said the kids will line up along Mill Creek, which flows on the east border of Memorial Park, and start fishing when the whistle blows. Prizes will be donated by Kent merchants for various categories of fish and fishermen.

Judges for the fishing derby will be Dick Gilbert, incoming JayCee state regional vicepresident; police chief Dave McQuery of Kent: Ted Strain of Strain's Auto: and Bob Barrows, sports editor of the Valley Publishing Company.





Lonely Vigil

Usually, when fishing derbies are held for the kids, it always seems that the parents, especially dad, steal the show. Such was the case Saturday at the Kent JayCee Fishing Derby down by the old Mill Creek. However, this little chap. Keith Jones of Auburn, managed to do his fishing on his own and at the end of the stream where the fish were practically non-existent. Keith's our kind of fisherman.

Staff Photo by Harvey Brown

1946.225, 832





Fishing Derby just for kids

The Kent Junior Chamber of plained chairman Harry How-businessmen will be picked as Commerce will again throw ell. judges later in the week. Mill Creek open to children 3 Competition will also be

through 13 years of age when split into age groups, some- Oh, and one more thing the Javeress sponsor Kent's thing that wasn't done last parents can help their children annual Fishing Derby on May year. The tentative breakdowns in the 5-7 year old category but are as follows: 3-7, 8-18 and 11- once the little tykes have a

grasp of the situation, parents east of the Kent City Park and The Derby will last two will be asked to leave the wawas the scene of last year's hours beginning at II a.m. The ter's edge. Last year, photos Kent Jaycees will also have the revealed that there were as However, the rules have support of downtown mer-many parents as children tak-been changed somewhat and it chants and the State Fisheries ing up the fishing space. Perappears that the kids will bene- Department, which will dump haps, the parents' own fishing fit most. "Parents will have some 500 fish in Mill Creek just hole will solve that problem their own fishing hole," ex- for the event. Three prominent this year,





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.





pplehead dolls lend their own spice 'n character







mas," Bob says of his Santa series, "Polish, Scandinavian - it really makes it fun."

But the potential for applehead creations is boundless.

"I love to do professionals," Bob says of his creative projects. He's carved and molded apple people to resemble lawyers, complete with briefcases, and doctors in white uniforms.

"I've always got six or eight going at a time," he says. "We do make a lot of them for

"We do make a lot of them for people who have come from the Orient," Bob says. They appreciate the American handicrafts. SCHOOL III VCHI

He even spent some time in froof the KING-TV cameras for a p. gram series called I Like Myss. "It went on for 10 or 12 weeks. TI was a fun experience."

His German grandmother—
Mennonite lady" - started him
the right path to carving applehe
dolls, Bob says. When he was list
she used to urge the children
carve their apples before they a
them. He's just passing along ti
craft — with some additional tip
Children are big fans of the at
because there's no bad applehea
just a work in progress. Bob says.

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.

Don't know what an applehead doll is? Here is a link on what they are and how to make your own! http://www.crizmac.com/.../index.php/2011/11/24/make-an-appl.../

or: 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.





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Charles Ser Herricano Ros-

and Kathy Walds. "It was impos-

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country will complete the season as the top owner in	History of the Belle Roberts Handicap	

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including the Westington Championship and Belle Roberts Handicap. The entire show will be regined Wednesday. September 23 at 8:00 p.m.

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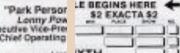
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Photo Michigan, Photo Inc.

Detailed rules powerring the conduct of the racks are published by the Washington Harse Racing Commission and their offices can make then available.

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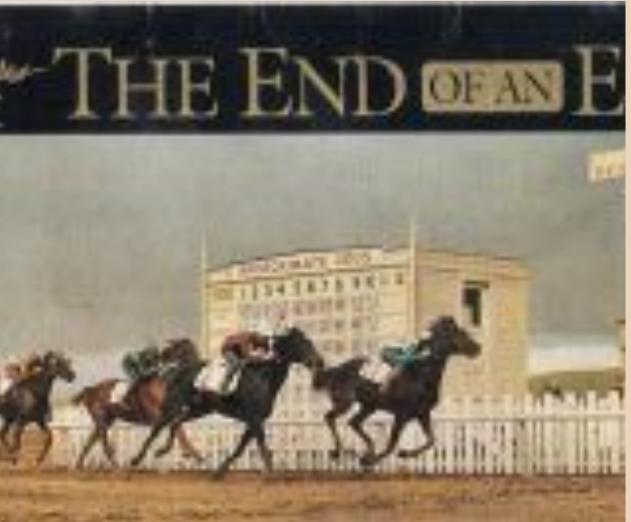




Photo of the original Greater Kent Historical Society members: Donna Frio, Rae Reitan, Audrey Sells, Al Sells, Dorice Wolfrom, Jim Biggar. The only one missing is Jack Becvar. c.1993. B68 History

History only looks like it's in black and white

By T.M. SELL

istory sometimes seems to have happened in black and white. The reams of old photographs and newspapers are all black and white. Life sometimes doesn't look like it was in color until about the time The Wizard of Oz came out, and even then it was only in color intermittently until color television became wide-

Maybe it's the grim expressions on the faces. Rarely do you see anybody smile in an old photograph; occasionally a child in a picture lets a smile slip through, but anybody over the age of 14 seems to have been permanently grim. Somebody suggested that's because early photographers and their cameras were slow, so that it was tough to keep up a smile, especially if you hadn't been to

Maybe it was the times. You can't get through life without some tragedy, and the Valley has had its share. A lot of it seems to have stemmed from the clash of cultures whites and Native Americans, whites and Asian Americans. I hope that in looking at Kent's history, we can at least learn that there's room for all kinds of people in Kent.

Maybe it's just the photographs. If I have any conclusions to draw from the work of early photographers, it is that they had lousy equipment and questionable perspective. But



The mystery photo: who are these people, and where were they?

We're fortunate they took pictures at all. looking closely at the pictures gives one a like their subjects, they were pioneers, and Despite the many fine articles contributed to clue that history wasn't black and white.

smiles among the stalwart grimaces, the obvious charm and warmth of one teacher and the overwrought dignity of another.

Things tell a colorful story, too: the amazng size of logs, nearby streets and hillsides stripped of most of what sits on them today, modes of transportation that remain now mostly as memories and pictures.

It's too bad those pictures aren't in color. would be fascinating to see the raw color of hops and hop houses, of wooden shops and homes on boardwalk-lined streets, of everyday people in their finest and in their

That's part of where the stories come in. Larger stories provide the muscle and bones of Kent's history, and the smaller ones flesh

What usually happens in publications like this is that people race through, reading the shorter pieces and dwelling largely on the photographs. I hope that you will take the time to read some of the longer pieces. won't pretend that this publication will tell you everything about Kent, but if you read the whole thing you'll get an idea of what happened in at least a broader sense. And although this project relates specifically to Kent, you'll find plenty that tells the story of Renton, Auburn and the rest of South King

If you spend some time with our tribute to Kent's 100th birthday, maybe you'll discover a little color in our history, too.

ROA



History . . .

Valley Daily News County Bureau reporter Mike Archbold was the initial editor on the project, and he deserves credit for much you will find mistakes, or versions of history of the coverage and content as well as some different from those you have heard before. of the design elements to be found. Even The details of history can get garbled over after he was reassigned (and not because of the course of 100 years; different sources his work on this section; his talents were just often say different things about the same needed elsewhere), Mike was a frequent event. source of advice and encouragement.

editors here at Valley Daily News. The a matter of investigation and guesswork.

In the community, special thanks goes to centennial Walter Cooke of the White River Historical have lacked many of the photographs you ture before," as he did with the farming see in this publication. Thanks also to the photo on the preceding page. Who are these many people who contributed small details, people? Where were they? When was this including our our "Slice of Life" survey photo taken? nating little stories he had discovered during that information with the rest of us. The

Thanks also to the many Kent-area stutogether by accident. A lot of work went into dents who submitted essays about Kent. If it this, and a lot of people deserve thanks for seems we have published essays from only a providing assistance. It was an effort in few schools, it's because those were the only which the entire newspaper participated, and ones we received. The same is true for the to which people from all over the community poems that readers also generously contrib-

If you look closely enough, undoubtedly

The photographs, too, often come incom-The entire reporting staff also contributed plete. Frequently, a photograph has survived to the project, as well as our photographers, but its caption has not, so that what and who numerous freelance writers and the other was in the photo, and when it was taken, was

advertising staff outdid themselves to sell the Walter Cooke revealed to me, for project, and advertisers were generous in instance, that one photo I was considering their support of the section. And our produc- was actually of a business that was in tion staff worked extremely hard to put this Auburn (the Red Rock Creamery), which project together, especially Cathy Blauvelt. meant it was better saved for the Auburn

Then again, you know you're in trouble Society, without whose assistance we would when Walter says "I've never seen that pic-

respondents: James Bergsma, who mailed us Perhaps one of you knows, and will write the copy of the County Commissioners min- in to tell us. I hope that any of you who do utes on their vote on Kent's cityhood; and find items that need clarification and correc-Stan Flewelling, who provided several fascition will write letters to the editor, and share



A lovely clipping from the Valley Daily News May 20, 1990, their paper in honor of Kent's Centennial.

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



Tim Noah's show is one-ofa-kind musical extravaganza. An Emmy award-winning songwriter and producer, Tim Noah is known for his colorful, high energy performances. He combines a positive message of self-worth, imagination and the pursuit of one's dreams with outstanding