

Kent Chronicles

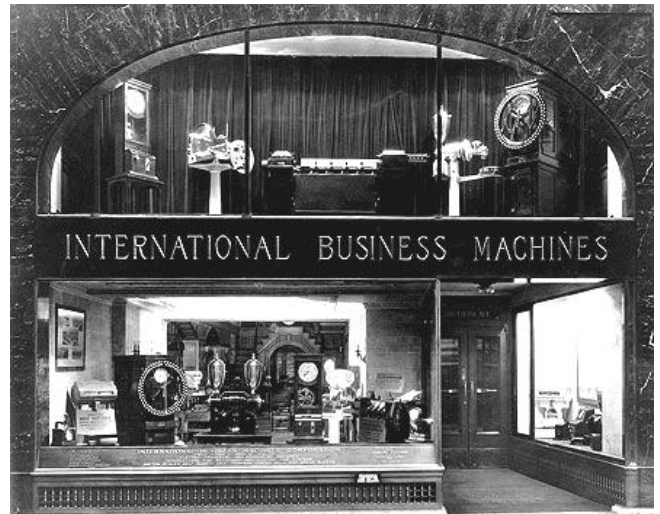
1924-1927

- ❖ **1924**—This major technology company is founded in New York City:
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- ❖ **1925**—This weekly magazine now known for its political cartoons and fiction issue publishes its first issue:
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- ❖ **1926**—This iconic U.S. highway from Chicago to Los Angeles which inspired a popular Nat King Cole song is established:
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- ❖ **1927**—This popular “just add water” soft drink mix is invented:
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- ❖ This actor (*left*) is one of the biggest stars of the silent film era:
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- ❖ This artistic and architectural style (*example at right*) is at its peak in the mid-1920s:
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Inside the Berlin Brothers Kent store, 1926

RIDAY, MAY 29, 1925

A. N. BERLIN TO BUILD NEW WAREHOUSE AND STORES

The big A. N. Berlin mercantile establishment is going to add a new feed warehouse and two new stores to its menage, the work on moving the old frame warehouse off the site now being under way. The new store-room will occupy the site of the old feed building, and will have three stores fronting on Meeker St. One of these will be occupied by the Berlin feed warehouse and the others will be rented. It is understood that the new stores have already been spoken for, although no announcement to that effect has so far been made.

Founded in 1890, Berlin Brothers General Merchandise store was at its peak in the 1910s and early 20s, well-known all over the state for its role in making Kent a center for business and industry. However, by the 1960s the store had disappeared from Kent.

Why do you think general stores like Berlin Brothers had started to decline in popularity in the late 1920s, even in smaller towns like Kent?

Man, Crazy by Moonshine, Runs Wild and is Shot

Edward Jones, who resides eight miles southeast of Kent, between Taylor-Lacey hospital, Auburn, re-Grass lake and Lake Sawyer, is at covering from gunshot wounds in the head and upper body inflicted by Charles Stimple at daylight Tuesday, as a result of a neighborhood feud.

From a statement made by Jones at the hospital Stimple and Jess Thompson, another neighbor, had taunted him because of his having served time in the county stockade.

Jones, according to Deputy Sheriff's Charles Elliott and Mike Holmes, who with Chief of Police F. M. Imhoff, visited the scene of the shooting Tuesday morning, started the fight Monday evening by firing at Stimple and Thompson with a 32-calibre pistol. The two men armed themselves and followed Jones to the woods.

The trio remained in the timber all night. At daylight, it seems, Jones appeared and opened fire on the two men. Stimple returned the fire with a shot gun, seriously injuring Jones. Jones then staggered into the forest and Stimple and Thompson went to the nearest telephone and notified the sheriff's office.

CHICKEN THIEVES CAUGHT RED HANDED BY POLICE

Chief Fred Grant and Patrolman F. M. Imhoff last Thursday morning captured a man who gave his name as C. L. Blair, while he was stealing chickens from the L. Y. Williams hen-house north of town. The thief was stalled along the road and was tinkering with his engine when Grant and Imhoff came along. While they were inquiring the why and whereabouts of the man they heard a chicken squak. It turned out to be a rooster confined in a sack hid just inside the Williams fence. There were 28 others in captivity with him. Blair had a pardner, he said, who escaped without being seen or heard by the officers.

New Books At Library

The following books have recently been added to the collection of the Kent Free Public Library:

Adult, non-fiction:

Green—Dick Byrd Air Explorer.
Page—Everybody's Aviation Guide.

Fiction:

Brown—The Father.
French—Great Sea Stories.
Gibbs—Harness.

Van Dive—Bishop Murder Case.
Juvenile non-fiction:

Dakin—Great River of the World.
Lerville—Little Grey Goose.

Fiction:

Alcott—Little Men.
Antin—Little Black Sambo.
Gag—Millions of Cats.
Lomen—Taktuk an Artic Boy.
Meigs—Clearing Weather.
Stockton—Captain Chop.
Stevenson—Treasure Island.

The Kent Advertiser-Journal articles on the previous page are a small sampling of what you might read in Kent's newspaper in the mid-1920s. What stands out to you about these articles? Are they at all similar to what you might find in a newspaper today? Which do you think is the most interesting, and why?

A Brief History of the Newspaper in Kent

Excerpted from *History of Kent, Washington* by C. E. Cameron

Towns were proud to have a newspaper in their midst, and in consequence the merchants and businessmen felt it their duty to support the paper. Many of them did not consider advertising from a business standpoint. They would merely insert an advertisement in the paper at intervals to do what they felt was their part to keep the paper going. Appeals made by the editor in the personal column for delinquent subscribers to pay their accounts were frequent. If the subscriber was unable to pay, almost anything he had to offer, such as wood or farm produce, was more than welcome...

In 1889, before there officially was a City of Kent, residents of the Green River Valley community numbered but a few hundred. In that early day we note "old Beriah Brown" came to Kent to give the village its first newspaper: Kent Recorder. The first issue made its appearance on May 11, 1889, just seven months before the Territory of Washington was admitted to statehood in the Union...



Employees outside the Kent Recorder offices on 1st Avenue, 1892

On February 1, 1918 [the Kent Journal was sold] to A. A. Risedorph. Risedorph had re-entered the newspaper field in Kent several years before, with the publication of the Advertiser. When he acquired the Journal in 1918, he combined the two and named it the Kent Advertiser-Journal. He continued operation of the Kent Advertiser-Journal until his death late in 1928.



Frederick Rau owned a shoe repair shop in Kent in the 1920s. It was located on Meeker Street, across the street from the Arney building. The photo below shows Rau in his shop in 1925; above left shows him in the doorway, about 1920; above right is his business card.

Rau's Shoe Repair



How the Roaring Twenties Changed Hair Forever...

The Bob

Historically, women in the West have usually worn their hair long. Although actresses and a few “advanced” or fashionable women had worn short hair even before World War I, the bob style was not considered respectable until given impetus by the inconvenience of long hair to girls engaged in war work. Popularized by film stars Colleen Moore and Louise Brooks in the early 1920s, the “bob” was seen as a somewhat shocking statement of independence in young women.

By the mid 1920s the style was the dominant female hairstyle in the Western world. As the 1930s approached though, women started to grow their hair longer, and the sharp lines of the bob were abandoned.



Actress Charlize Theron, 2011



Zelda Fitzgerald, 1922

Since then, the bob has come back in style in various forms at different times. In the 1960s, Vidal Sassoon made it popular again, using the shape of the early bob and making it more stylish in a simpler cut. And in recent years many women have asked their hairdressers for the “A-line bob,” which features longer, straight hair in front and shorter, often layered hair in back, as well as the more traditional, finger-wave styled bob.

Electrified

The handheld, household hair-dryer first appeared in 1920. Even in the 1920s the new hairdryers were often heavy, weighing in at approximately 2 lbs, and difficult to use. They also had many instances of overheating and electrocution. It was also only capable

of using 100 watts so it took a lot longer to dry hair (the average hairdryer today can use up to 2000 watts of heat).

It was also the first domestic electric appliance to utilize Bakelite, an early plastic that could be molded in a variety of colors. It was this modification that made the dryer not only functional, but a fashion accessory as well.

