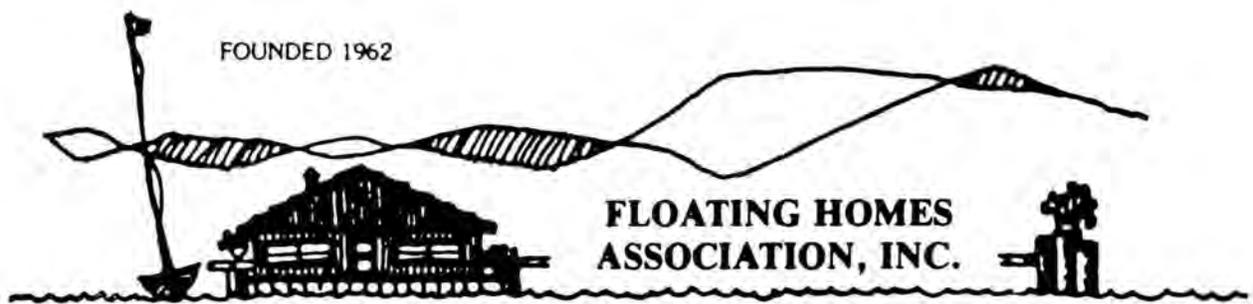


FOUNDED 1962



2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone 325-1132

Number 113

*Newsletter*

November 1989

# AUCTION '89

The Floating Homes Association Presents

A Houseboat Holiday Auction

Saturday, December 2, 1989

at the Mountaineers  
300-3rd West

Tickets are \$20

Tickets are limited so reserve yours early.  
You may also reserve a table. Each table seats 8.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. for silent and live auction  
pre-viewing  
Sit down dinner will be served at 7 p.m.  
Live auction at 8 p.m.  
No host bar available

Menu choices

#1

Roast Breast of Turkey Napped with Bordeaux Sauce

#2

Baked Cod with Vermouth Butter Sauce

a complimentary bottle of  
red and white wine will be at each table

AND

a surprise treat for each table  
after dinner

For tickets and information call:

Jann McFarland: 323-3489

Linda Knight: 329-7530

Marty Alexander: 281-0927

Carol McInnis: 325-7658

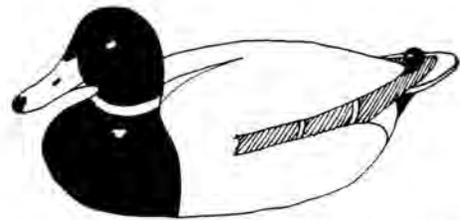
or the Floating Homes office: 325-1132





# Matters of Concern

by Bill Keasler



I've been asked a number of times in the last few weeks why we continue to do fundraising events such as the upcoming auction on Dec. 2nd. Aren't we in a period of relative peace? Why do we need the money now?

The last three or four years have indeed been distinguished by their lack of desperate, survival situations. At least, the laws we passed earlier in the decade seem to have provided a structure for resolving the problems which have arisen lately. From my point of view, however, our community constantly totters on the brink of new conflict.

For example, until recently, condominium conversions from rental moorages to purchased sites have been perceived as positive developments. Roughly a third of the moorages around the lake have gone coop or condo since 1980. The benefits and security of owning one's own site have usually overcome any difficulties regarding price and organization. Lately, however, prices proposed to the tenants at one particular moorage have taken a substantial leap over comparable sales elsewhere on the lake. This development has aroused the concern of other houseboat owners who are afraid that the fact they have nowhere to go will be used to unfair advantage if their dock owner decides to convert the moorage to a condo.

Using the moorage monopoly to gouge excessive prices for condo sites from floating home owners doesn't look much different to me than what was happening ten years ago when the monopoly was used to extract unjustifiably high rents. But if worse comes to worse, the Association, as always, will be there defending the rights and property of its members. Unfortunately, these defenses are never cheap.

This is not to say the Association doesn't have a

direct effect on your own finances. Some of the more prominent ways we've affected your security and pocketbook lately:

\* If you've bought or sold a houseboat in the last 5 years you paid the real estate excise tax (1%) on the transaction. Before the Association lobbied the legislature for a change, houseboat sales were charged the full sales tax rate (8.1% these days). Think about how much that's worth to you.

\* We pay the "water dependant" rate (about one third the upland rate) for our state-leased land. This is not an accident. The Association worked long and hard to convince the state that we deserved this rate even though they classify us as "non-water-dependant."

\* Our recent ongoing project to normalize state leases for every houseboat dock on the lake not only sidestepped potential evictions for some 30 homes on Portage Bay (consider that for a moment if you think you are completely secure in your condo or coop), but also established the fee for the new leases at the water dependant rate. The state might have decided to charge a much higher rate for these areas beyond the Construction Limit Line in spite of the legislated rate for property inside the line.

There's more, of course. We are constantly helping and intervening in little situations (important to the people involved!) around the lake where the government or whomever has decided to lean on our members. The clout of the Floating Homes Association can often resolve these conflicts before they get too far along. Which brings me to our ulterior motive for doing an event every year whether we "need" the money or not: Practice.

Our clout depends not

only on us being a strong organization but that we be perceived as strong. A high visibility event like the upcoming auction, done with the panache we usually achieve, sends a powerful message to the lake community that we are still here, still capable of organizing for a common goal and still intent on "preserving and protecting Seattle's old and colorful houseboat colony."

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Is there anyone out there in houseboat land who might be interested in pursuing the idea of producing our newsletter by desktop publishing? It could be your contribution to the community and help us communicate more often with our members. Call Peggy at 329-7973 if this is something you'd like to do.

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The Eastlake Community Council is interested in identifying the senior (60 and above) population of Eastlake; their social and health care needs. In that regard, Carolyn Bonamy (a resident and registered nurse) has developed and distributed a questionnaire. Results will be available through the ECC. If you would like to respond yourself and haven't yet been contacted, please call Carolyn at 323-5810.



The Floating Homes Assoc. has an answering machine to help handle telephone calls from the public and respond to the needs of its membership. If you have a question about the floating life or information to share, don't hesitate to call or leave a message. We will get back to you.

325-1132 CALL US ANYTIME

# HOLIDAY SHOPPING LIST

## GREAT GIFT IDEAS FROM THE HOUSEBOAT COMMUNITY COTTAGE INDUSTRY

FLOATING HOMES SWEATSHIRTS \$20 adult  
\$18 child

Classic 4-color design, line drawing of houseboats -- by Bob McPake; in navy and lilac for adults, navy for children.

Commemorative 3-color round anniversary logo  
(red/black/blue) in light grey, adult sizes only.

MATCHING SWEAT PANTS, \$15

Available in navy or grey, adult sizes only.

FLOATING HOMES T-SHIRTS, \$11 adult  
\$ 9 child

Classic crew-neck style, 4-color line drawing of houseboats  
in navy only.

SEATTLE HOUSEBOATERS' COOKBOOK \$10

A delightful collection of recipes, tall tales, photos &  
sketches from folks in the community. "The funniest  
federation of flotsam & jetsam published hereabouts."  
John Hahn -- Seattle P.I.

SEATTLE'S UNSINKABLE HOUSEBOATS \$6

Written by Howard Droker and illustrated by Victor  
Steinbrueck; a fascinating history of the houseboat  
community, its origins and politics. (Remember,  
first-time members receive a complimentary copy of  
this book when they join the FHA)

SEATTLE HOUSEBOATS -- LAKE UNION & PORTAGE BAY \$1.50

Beautiful photo color brochure of the houseboat community by  
Phil Webber & Marcia Tobin. Ideal to send to the folks "back  
home" for Christmas.

HOUSEBOAT NOTECARDS 10 for \$3

Charming notepaper; includes 2 scenes, one humorous, and one  
traditional -- on buff bond paper with matching envelopes by  
Becker Design Associates.

### EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS AT:

FAIRVIEW (LINDA KNIGHT) 329-7530  
WESTLAKE (JUNE FAUCHALD) 285-1103  
PORTAGE BAY (CAROL MCGINNIS) 325-7658  
or leave a message on answering machine  
at FHA office, 325-1132.

Prices include Washington State Sales Tax



## Our New Jersey counterparts

This past September, an article on Seattle's floating homes appeared in the New York Times (nationwide and worldwide!). As a result of this article, Jann McFarland of the Log Foundation got a call from Karl Mueller of Mariner's Cove Marina situated across the bay from Atlantic City, New Jersey. He resides there in one of 53 houseboats making up their floating homes community. Since then, Karl and Jann have exchanged photos and information about their respective communities. He has put together this "history" of Mariner's Cove for our newsletter and Jann shares it with us.

Mariner's Cove Marina is a year-round Homes-a-Float community with 53 custom floating homes as well as 18 conventional houseboats. It offers a 70' inground pool, additional laundry facilities, showers and a "common room" for private meetings and gatherings.

By land, Mariner's Cove is located just off the Garden State Parkway at Exit 36 on the Margate Causeway. By water, it's on Risley's Channel about 3 miles from the Great Egg Inlet of the Atlantic Ocean which is 3 miles south of the famous Atlantic City casinos.

The marina overlooks the bay between the mainland and Absecon Island. The island is



populated by the towns of Atlantic City, Ventnor City, Margate City and Longport. Of course, the most beautiful view is that of the skyline of Atlantic City by night.

There are various models of floating homes--the Californian, the Sundowner, the Bay Roamer, Mariner II and Mariner III. Of course, there are homes with additional "custom" improvements making them even more unique. One is a three-story with everything from a spiral staircase, stained glass and

Photos courtesy of Karl Mueller

french doors to a custom-built observation deck with open decks on either side. The largest floating home has a total of 3700 square feet with 3 floors, 9 decks, a sauna, as well as a formal dining room and an upstairs jacuzzi. It even boasts of a free-standing fireplace and, believe it or not, a baby grand piano in the living room.

Mariner's Cove was originally created by John Best. His travels around the U.S. to California, Florida and yes, even Seattle, gave him the idea that New Jersey should also go down in history for having its own Homes-A-Float community. Of course, this was easier said than done. First, the original site (zoned for shipbuilding) was banned and the production had to be moved to Mays Landing, N.J.. Then came the major controversy over property taxes. After long and hard litigation, Best won in court and no taxes could be levied as with a "normal" house. And why should they be taxed--they're a boat, right? Anyway, no taxes, no revenue to the school district. You got it. No children were allowed on a permanent basis.

But wait, it's not over. Our floating homes became so popular that the state of New Jersey decided that if Best was allowed to keep on building them, it would diminish too much area normally available to the average "pleasure boater". With a final do or die, Best was allowed to build 54 floating homes for Mariner's Cove Marina but no others would ever be allowed to be built in the state of New Jersey again.

Well, thank God, there are people like Best in the world who are not afraid to fight for fresh new and unique ideas so that people like us don't have to live like conventional landlubbers and do dumb things like mow grass!

It's not over yet; it may never really be over. I am sure there will be continual battles on improvement rights, township sewage, etc. But Best hasn't tired yet after over 10 years; it's my bet that he'll go on forever.  
--Karl Mueller





by Bill Keasler

The Lake Union Seaplane Agreement between operators, community representatives and the city was signed on May 3, 1989, yet Lyndy Caine, chair of the Seaplane Environmental Coalition (SEC), reports that people are angrier than ever. It appears that the problem has only moved from one set of backyards to another.

Caine, 2017 Fairview, is a founder of the group which formed to block a new seaplane base at the south end of the lake a few years ago and which has stayed together since to push for a permanent solution to the alarming increase in seaplane traffic. "The Agreement specified what we thought were the least intrusive flight paths," she says. "But now, instead of buzzing Fremont and Ballard, they're buzzing Queen Anne and Magnolia. We've had a pretty good turnout from those areas at our meetings lately."

Eastlaker Claude Chambers is mad, too. "The Agreement isn't working," he says. "I can't even enjoy my patio in the summer when there's a seaplane every ten minutes. They still take off and land after dark. I've seen them land on the lake after dark and the moment they touch the water they turn their lights off. If it's this bad by this time next year, I'm moving away from the area."

Although so far the SEC is a moderate group dedicated to finding a way to live with

## Seaplane Reporting Line:

684-8811



Photos by Phil Webber

seaplanes Caine says the new members don't have the same historical connection to seaplanes as houseboaters and other neighborhoods close to the lake and would just as soon see them gone forever. She warns that "if we don't get some real relief pretty soon, these new people and a lot of those who have been with us up until now are going to get impatient and just try to ban 'em."

Caine claims that legally, if not politically, a ban would be relatively easy to do using the city's zoning power. It's only when a community tries to regulate air traffic that problems arise. This is primarily because the FAA preempts nearly all aspects of air traffic regulation including noise,

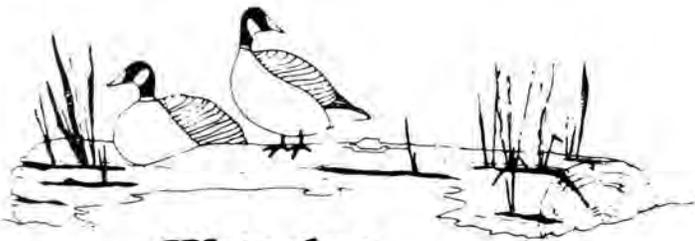
numbers of flights, flight paths and hours of operation. The FAA is also not particularly inclined to impose business restrictions beyond safety regulations on seaplane operators but jealously guards against any further restrictions by other agencies. A ban would sidestep the problem of regulation because, presumably, there'd be nothing to regulate.

Whether a ban would fly politically is yet another question. Seaplanes have been around the lake almost as long as houseboats. Business interests, not to mention the operators themselves, would surely cry foul.

These murky waters inspired the SEC's attempt to find a solution through negotiation. The Agreement signed in May covers hours of operation, flight paths and noise abatement, among other things. It does not cover numbers of flights per day. It does specify that the city will periodically monitor compliance and report to a committee which meets several times a year.

Elmer Dixon, newly appointed director of the city's Citizen's Service Bureau, reported at the committee's October meeting that they had people monitoring only ten days from May to September with a few more days spent monitoring flight paths along the canal. His figures showed that about 6% of the flights did not comply with the terms of the agreement. When Tom Susor of the Floating Homes Association examined the raw data, however, he found a number of flights recorded as in compliance when the data seemed to show they were not.

Meanwhile, the SEC is pursuing a strategy for dealing with the escalating numbers of flights which they believe exaggerate all the irritating aspects of the seaplane traffic. City Councilman Jim Street has been sent a formal letter written by SEC attorney Peter Eglick outlining some legal opportunities and pitfalls for the city. Street has handed the letter to the Law Department for their comments and has promised action when they respond.



## Waterlog

by Sheri Lockwood

Wood smoke, red, orange and yellow leaves spinning in eddies; crisp even air; houseboats shifting, groaning and humming in the wind; crackling, snapping woodstove fires accompanied by pelting, splattering rain on windows and roofs. Fall is back, along with armloads of wood toted down the dock and stacked on decks, chimney cleaning, springlife and chain checks, location of storage space for barbeques and deck furniture and finally an end to the ceaseless spring and summer flower watering. We've battened down the hatches again--no more chatty conversations on the dock, we're doing well to keep from slipping on it--or off it. All in all though, we've found a pretty good space to fend off the coming six months of gloomy Seattle grey.

One up-and-coming lively diversion is the Annual Floating Homes Holiday Auction, December 2. We have some fights coming up so if you haven't donated an item, a service, a dinner on your boat, an adventure you can guide, or an art or craft work, maybe you have a friend who is sympathetic to our plight who you could ask for a donation. The imagination our members put into their donations is what has always made the auction such fun. Put it on your calendar now--you'll have a great time.

### MEDIA STARS

This reporter isn't the only one tattling on the doings of fellow dockmates--after all, inquiring minds want to know and usually I get scooped, to wait:

Mary Gey, her daughter Jenny and husband Fred McCulloch; Sharene and Zac Elander; Eugene Morris; Jann McFarland and Linda Knight were featured in a two-page photo story in the New York Times. The story ran in all 50 states, Western Europe, Tokyo, it even hit the Paris Herald Tribune . . . Robert Fulghum (FV) is everywhere with both his books "All I Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" and "It Was On Fire When I Lay Down On It" on the bestseller list . . . Wendy Kinderfather-Acorn (NL) will be in the cast of the Bathhouse

Theater's "Holiday Big Broadcast" Dec. 15-Jan. 15 . . . Researcher Debra Boyer (FV) was quoted in a local newspaper report on teen pregnancies . . . Jenny Hanson (FV), a freshman at UC Santa Cruz got through to her parents (Steve and Ellen) letting them know

she was OK soon after the "Pretty Big One" in the Bay Area. She then did reports via the telephone for KING Five News and for Mike Seigel at KING 1090 Radio. Most UC Santa Cruz buildings were fairly new so only three buildings were damaged as opposed to 60% of the buildings in the older section of Santa Cruz which were destroyed. Since Jenny had no frame of reference for what she was experiencing at the time, she couldn't tell if it was a "big deal or not" until later. It was frightening but she's OK. One happy side effect, says mom Ellen, is "she tends to stay in closer touch with us now" . . . Gwen Caldwell's (WL) "rustic breads" were featured in the NY Times. The Como loaves are prepared with a special starter from Italy and have become tres chic and trendy. Now she has customers calling from New York and New Yorkers arriving in the bakery, crumpled NY Times article in hand, after searching Pioneer Square for her. According to food critic John Hinterberger of the Seattle Times. "This bread is so wholesome that it resists tearing; bread with a crust so thick and genuine that it is not easily bitten. It must be torn and knawed." Ask Gwen about it at the Grand Central Bakery, 214 1st Avenue So., -- it's \$2.75 for a 3 lb. loaf and \$2 for a mere 2 lb. snack . . . Richard Patton and Cathy Major (WL); Larry and Pat Carver (WL) and Rob Anglin and Peggy Hackney's (FV) homes were included in a photo story in the October 29 Seattle Times Pictorial.

### KNOTS TIED

Dillon Jackson and Misha Halversson (FV) were married August 19th. They spent their honeymoon sailing the San Juans . . . Life had surprises in store for Julia Margaret Bullitt (WL). She moved onto the dock and lovingly restored and refurbished her houseboat. She then met her love, Andrew Schmechel but couldn't bear to move away. Romantic Andrew bought the house across the dock from her. They married in July and yes, they are happily sharing only one houseboat home.

### ANCHORS AWEIGH

Shirley Lashua and Rosemary Parker (FV) visited ex-dock neighbor Sue Drum in Hawaii where they volunteered to help with the Kailua Kona Iron Man Competition. They were surprised at how many of the grueling biking, swimming and running event's competitors were over 50 years old . . . Jim Grey's (Shelby St.) Ooompah band, "The Tyrolean's" played Oktoberfest in Honolulu--he's the tuba player . . . Jean Elmer's (FV) rowing team along with another team from the Seattle Yacht Club won gold medals in the World Championship for Masters in Vichy, France, in September . . . Christy Robinson (WL) spent 2-3 weeks in New Zealand . . . Shelly Felker (WL) is working aboard cruise ships in the Caribbean while Beth Morrison rents her house . . . Dawn Vyvan (FV) spent 3 weeks in England . . . Helen Nelson was in San Francisco during the quake and survived . . . Linda Knudsen (FV) visited family in

## ...more Waterlog

Oregon . . . Debbie Boyer, husband George Yeannakis and daughter Thea were in San Francisco a week before the quake and also visited Harrison Hot Springs in Canada.

### MORE ADVENTURES

After being set adrift on their first vacation plans, Tim and Andrea Easton (FV) decided to relax in the Caribbean. Unfortunately the hurricane hit, but they had a great vacation anyway. The hotel had so few guests they were treated like royalty . . . Janeel Eddie and Tom Carlson's (WL) vacation in Spain featured Tom's daring running with the bulls in Pamplona. He survived and Janeel offered encouragement. A week later, their luck held when they survived a fairly serious car accident with painful injuries that thankfully were not life threatening . . . Bob and Marty Alexander (WL) made the trek to Vancouver to catch the Rolling Stones concert with four other friends-- the Stones played all the great old songs for 2 1/2 hours straight-- "it was terrific" says Bob. A highlight was the amazing stage show that included two 55-foot tall inflatable women that arose during "Honky Tonk Woman" . . . Jim and Joy Tangye (NL) began November with their annual "elk migration". Their neighbors don't call it hunting because the elk migrate too --so usually there's no harm done" . . . Tracy Madoli's (Shelby) bird hunting trip to Eastern Washing bagged unexpected game. He got a 3-foot rattlesnake as it slithered three inches past his foot. Apparently it was good eating . . . This reporter visited the Bay Area for a Halloween Party disguised as an armadillo and accompanied by friend Marney Reynolds as an 8-foot tall suguaro cactus. The ground seemed a little unsteady but that could have been a result of serious partying.

### SPLICE THE MAIN BRACE

Ann Bassetti (WL) celebrated Halloween with a pumpkin carving party that offered lots of great costumes and 60 friends and 20 kids . . . 15 kayaks "trick or treated" the Portage Bay houseboats on Halloween. They had excellent costumes, lights and kayaks glowing from lights within . . . Cindy Robinson hosted a pumpkin soup dock gathering on Halloween. She served refreshments in her gorilla (or were they sasquatch) feet . . . Nancy and John Routh hosted a newly formed coop assoc. meeting on

3136-48 Portage BP. A highlight was the lovely spider web cake. They've also gathered for clean-ups on their grounds . . . November 4th Linda Knight, Jan and Sid McFarland and Marty and Bob Alexander co-hosted the big Holiday Auction Kick-Off Party on 2025 Fairview.

### WELCOME ABOARD

There are new neighbors on the Shelby St. dock. "Mike and Joe" are welcomed to the community--sometimes it's awhile 'til we're on a last name basis . . . Julian Besag is welcomed to the DOX Co-op at 2219-2235 FV. He teaches at the UW . . . also welcomed aboard at DOX are Mac and Darlene Madenwald--they've moved over from 2019 FV and now live in the house where the famous "Lake Union Monster" was photographed.

### FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Someone is leaking detergent from their washing machine on a dock south of DOX (2219-2235 FV). Attempts to find the culprit haven't been successful yet but the Harbor Patrol is on the lookout. So if you haven't checked your fittings lately--take a look--you'll save yourself a ticket besides protecting the lake . . . Congratulations to Beth Means (FV) Her new book "Everything You Need To Learn in High School About Writing--but were in love, you weren't listening, they didn't tell you, or all of the above" is out and will be available soon at the University Book Store . . . Peg Boley (PB) does personalized pen & ink drawings of your houseboat and has notecards as well. Call her at 329-9631 for more info . . . The seal is still frequenting Portage Bay and they've sighted Barrows Goldeneyed Ducks . . . Betty Sigmund (NL) is home now and recovering from a stay in the hospital . . . Fred Bassetti and Gwen Caldwell have an apple tree growing in a tub that was grafted from an apple tree grown in Foster 70 years ago. It produced 6 record-sized apples weighing up to 2 lbs each. They have frequented fairs and talked with gardeners but still haven't been able to identify the type of apple they are growing . . . another Lake Union Mystery to go with the unsolved monster question.

McNair Smith (WL) survived a terrifying ordeal. A burglar crept in his unlocked door across the room and started up the ladder to the room upstairs where McNair had been sleeping. As he neared the top of the ladder, McNair shouted, decked the guy and sent him sprawling down the ladder. The culprit got up and ran leaving behind a Panama hat and a dockster who now swears by locked doors.

So much for fall news . . . to make sure your dock news is featured, call me at 322-4536. I'm not proud, I'll take anything that passes for news. Have a cozy Thanksgiving . . . one dock plans a food drive on their dock to make a happier Thanksgiving for others too. Sounds like a nice idea. See you at the Auction, December 2nd.



