

2329 Fairview Avenue East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone: 325-1132

Number 119

*Newsletter*

Summer 1992

'92 Tour

# *A Walk on the West Side*

**1992 Houseboat Tour Sunday,  
September 13, Noon to 5 p.m.**

Eight floating homes on three Westlake docks will be open to the public on Sunday, September 13. Tickets are \$10 each and proceeds benefit the Floating Homes Association.

The houseboats on this year's tour range from oldstyle to remodels. As usual, they represent the diversity and individuality of houseboat life. Marty Alexander is chair of the tour and we take this opportunity (ahead of time) to thank her and the participating houseboaters:

Margaret Bullitt & Andrew Schmechel (2420 WL)

Jan Eisenhardt & Roger Willsie (2420 WL)

Paulette Bruenner (2420 WL)

Tom Edwards & Zimmie Caner (2460 WL)

Karen & Bill Evenden (2460 WL)

Teresa Ward & Tom Monahan (2466 WL)

Phil Hall & Marty Taylor (2466 WL)

Sharon Evered & Phil Webber (2466 WL)

Houseboat merchandise will be sold and refreshments provided in the parking lot at 2466. We need volunteers to work inside the houses, to monitor the traffic flow on the docks, to sell cottage industry, to buy and prepare food for the hospitality tables, to distribute balloons at the participating docks, etc. etc. etc. Anyone who would like to volunteer for part of the day should contact June Fauchald at 285-1103 or Marty at 281-0927.

Our houseboat tour happens every two years and it's always a hit but publicity is the key. We do as much media as we can, but you can do your part by telling your friends about it. A flyer is enclosed. Call the office at 325-1132.

## **Sausalito Similarities**

By Bill Keasler

I had lunch with Doug Lawrence the other day. He's the president of Sausalito's Floating Homes Association. He has business in Seattle occasionally; and, when he's in town, we sometimes get together to commiserate and swap strategies.

We're both struck by how similar our communities are. We're about the same size, around 500 homes. We each have a high proportion of quirky residents and moorage owners.

Politicians and bureaucrats tend to be a problem. Bankers and insurance agents don't understand us.

Right now, for instance, Sausalito is grappling with an outfit called the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. This BCDC was apparently formed back when it seemed like a good idea to create land for suburban housing and other crucial developments by filling in San Francisco Bay. According to Doug, they were apparently given juris-

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## NEWSLETTER 2

...from page 1

### Sausalito

diction over "covering the water."

When filling in the Bay somehow lost its popular appeal, BCDC turned its gimlet eye to floating homes, which, as we all know, do cover the water. The problem is that BCDC has recently decided to not renew some permits. This has spooked the usual cast of characters including those bankers, insurance agents and moorage owners, not to mention the poor houseboaters themselves. Sorting out this mess is among the Sausalito Association's most pressing priorities. The Association brings level heads, political clout and a sense of the big picture to what might otherwise be a free-for-all.

All this may remind you of what our own state Department of Natural Resources tried to do a few years ago. You'll recall that DNR launched a threat to evict over thirty homes because their state leases were expiring. At the same time, however, DNR was very much aware of the Association's ability to muster the legal and political resources to fight the evictions. They also knew they preferred to find a solution by negotiating with a single organization rather than thirty fractious houseboaters. Now, after a little posturing and a few heart to heart talks, we're getting new leases at water dependent (low) rates instead of eviction threats.

Governments aren't the only problem. Evidently, moorage owners and floating home owners don't get along any better in Sausalito than they do here. A long history of abuses, disagreements and legal maneuvering finally led the Sausalito Association to propose the "Floating Homes Residency Law," their version of the Equity Ordinance. They then organized an impressive lobbying campaign and got it passed into law by the California State Assembly. Sound familiar?

The key to survival, Doug and I agreed, is organization. This may not be a surprising conclusion coming from two people who have a combined tenure of nearly twenty years as presidents of their groups. But, as the crises have come and gone, it turns out to have been very handy to have our Associations there to deal with them.

One danger of not having an organization is that you might miss the crisis altogether, like Seattle's old Houseboat Owner's Association. They organized in the early 1950's to pass a law formally legalizing floating homes in response to an attack by some Montlake uplanders who were offended by what they considered the dubious character of the nearby water dwellers. The houseboaters won their law, threw a party and, having a tendency to anarchy anyway, promptly disbanded. So, when the next crisis occurred in 1957, they were asleep at the switch. They didn't know it, but, as part of a city-wide rezone, houseboat moorage had just been made illegal. A few years later, when some office and apartment buildings, the 520 freeway and "progress" in general began to

eliminate existing moorage, they found to their dismay that there was no place to go. Over a thousand homes were lost before the new Floating Homes Association was organized to do something about it.

Since then, we've thrown a few parties, but we've also remembered what happens when we relax. Far from disbanding this time, we just celebrated our thirtieth anniversary at our April membership meeting.

So what do you do between the crusades and crises to hold the organization together? Once again, Seattle and Sausalito seem to find similar answers. We practice. We both hold auctions and tours and other events to keep the pot stirred up and the volunteer lists up to date and maybe raise a little money. Organizing a tour of homes isn't a whole lot different from organizing a lobbying campaign.

Sausalito's tour is getting pretty famous. So is ours. This year ours is on September 13. Doug and I agreed that, aside from all their strategic advantages, tours are actually kind of fun. So come help us practice vigilance this fall. You might even have a good time.

### **1991-92 FHA Board**

President: Bill Keasler (2037 FV)

Vice President: Chris Sherman (2321 FV)

Treas: Ed Waddington/Julia Forbes (2339 FV)

Secretary: June Fauchald (2466 WL)

TRUSTEES:

Marty Alexander (2466 WL)

Peggy Stockley (2331 FV)

Phil Webber (2466 WL)

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Ann Bassetti (2420 WL)

Caroline Cropp (2235 FV)

Nancy Macdonald (2600 FV)

Kirvil Skinnerland (1213 E. Shelby)

Susan Susor (1409 N.E. Boat St.)

OFFICE MANAGER: Sheri Gotay

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Peggy Stockley, editor 329-7973

John Nelson, production

### **OFFICE HOURS**

**9-1 Tuesdays and Thursdays**

(The Floating Homes Association office is located at 2329 FV at the head of the Tenas Chuck Moorage dock, roughly two blocks north of Lynn Street. Phone 325-1132)

*HELP WANTED: Someone in the houseboat community to occasionally help with newsletter layout using Mac Page-Maker. Call Peggy Stockley at 329-7973.*



## Lilly Pad

by Bob Lilly

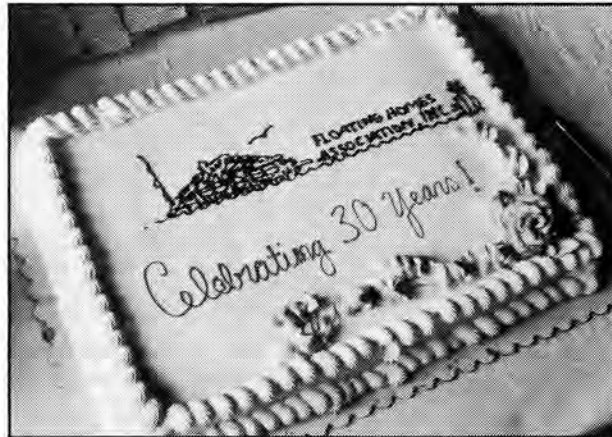
*(ed. note: Bob Lilly (2331 FV) has lived on his houseboat on the Tenas Chuck Moorage for over 20 years and knows what works in a garden afloat and what doesn't. Professionally, he's with Charles Wilson Company, brokers and sales reps for perennials for growers.)*

It's Seattle's real summer - August - the month we have the least rain. Keep up the watering but remember you can't water your lawn! (Aren't you lucky to live on a Houseboat?) At this time of year, don't depend on any rain anyway. It won't water your pots at all. Keep feeding them through the middle of the month with your water soluble fertilizer and keep old flowers picked off but stop both by Sept. 1st. The plants won't need the food and probably won't produce much more color. Save what you have. Outdoor vacationing houseplants must be inside by Sept. 15th because of cool nights and to get them adjusted to the lower light level. The next color available will be Mums and Pansies, Cabbage & Kale. There are many varieties of Chrysanthemums, some early and some late. If you buy them in full flower, they will last about 3 weeks, then they begin to look "over-the-wave". Pansies are longer term and if old flowers are constantly picked off will have some flower all winter and a spectacular spring show, but don't plant where the geese can reach them.

# Annual Meeting



**Del Langton & Marty Alexander chat**



Photos by Chris Sherman

**The FHA Turns 30**



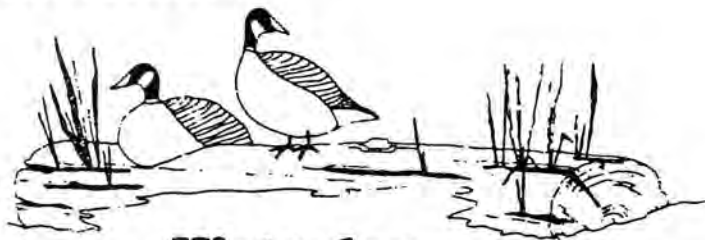
**Sharon Evered and the Lake Union Duck**



**Dave Bortz of the DNR explains state lease lines**



**Kathy Sherman assists FHA president Bill Keasler cut the cake**



## Waterlog

by Sheri Lockwood

Well, 4th of July just wasn't the same, was it. Tell me again how we're having a drought... I always wondered what I would do with 30 people at my house from 2:00 to 12:00 midnight on the 4th if it (horror of horrors) RAINED! Anyone for charades? The fireworks are exciting to share with family and friends and it looks like Cellular One will bring them back to Lake Union for the next three years. They haven't made any promises about rain though... where did we store those Monopoly games???

### WELCOME ABOARD

Log Foundation on FV welcomes Melanie Markle and Gerry Basheim and their 13 year old son Alex, and Dox Co-op FV welcomes Anthony Bash.

### SPLICE THE MAIN BRACE

The Log Foundation had its 23rd Annual Bastille Day Pig Roast Luau on July 18; they rocked to the music of the Marc Bristol Band. There have been sightings of nude rowers down at the south end of the Lake... No — they were sighted BEFORE the Pig Roast.



### KNOTS TIED

Carol Wood & Tim Wood (2240 WL) were married February 22, 1992, in Washington, D.C. at 2:02 p.m.

### ANCHORS AWEIGH

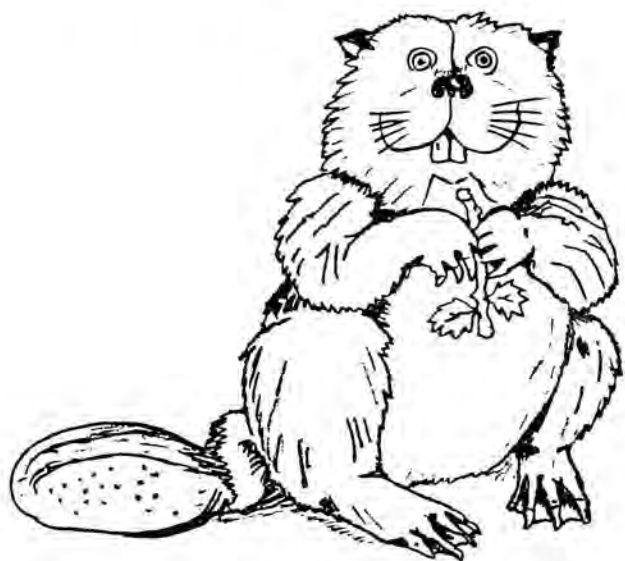
Laurie Balistrieri and Richard Blank (2207 FV) spent two weeks in Wales enjoying the gossip about the Royal Family. The whole family went as a gift to Richard's parents to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary... Butch Smith and Elise Ernst (2219 FV) enjoyed the sun at Club Med in St. Lucia in the Caribbean... Julie Weisbach went to her GRADE SCHOOL reunion in Cincinnati... (I can see small town kids pulling that off, but CINCINNATI... sounds like fun)... Ruth Coffin and Bob Schroeder (2219 FV) visited France... Greece and Turkey appealed to Jack and Carol Hilton, Linda Knudsen, and Caroline Cropp (she added Egypt to the itinerary) from the Dox Co-op who visited at different times this summer... Bob and Marty Alexander (2640 WL) went to Barkley Sound for the Norpac Race... Mike Myers and Carol Flagg 92235 FV spent a month on their boat in Desolation Sound... Charles Ying and Jill Gardner (2207 FV) took their 65 foot yacht to San Francisco for the summer... Jean Elmer (2351 FV) overheard neighbors leaving on vacation. As they got in the car they said they were leaving for Thailand. She didn't get to talk with them but left for the same place three days later. She's been spending a bit of time there. She went first when a friend won a five day trip to Singapore. They ended up staying for five weeks. She bought a jacket there that friends at home raved about, so when she went back in November she bought more thinking maybe they would sell in Seattle. They did! So back she went in June this year, by herself, and found herself in the Bangkok Uprising. Apparently a woman traveling alone is not common, and the customs inspectors were so suspicious they nearly cut the heels off Jean's favorite shoes. She braved the trip well, and the jackets she brought back are doing well. They are black cotton with ornate metal and embroidery design made by the Lisu tribe. She says they can look either dressy or casual. I want one... Debbie Boyer and George Yeannakis and daughter Thea spent a week in Montana and Yellowstone. It was both business and pleasure but Debbie got a middle ear infection and was prescribed Seldane and erythromycin the same day the FDA announced that the combination can cause life threatening abnormal heartbeats. Debbie did a keynote speech and radio and TV appearance thinking she would pass out. She says "My heart was pounding so hard I felt like I could drag a train up and down the Rocky Mountains."... I'm sure you don't want to hear about flying down to Tahiti with a lunar eclipse, sailing around the French Polynesian Islands of Raiatea, Tahaa, and Bora Bora, scuba diving with manta rays, moray eels, sharks and barracuda, snorkeling, sunbathing, and drinking rum punches as the sunsets turn from yellow to orange to red so I won't mention my greatest vacation ever -

*Waterlog continued...*

in Paradise. No, don't get me started... Jim and Barbara Donnette (2331 FV) are sailing back from Hawaii aboard the 50' sailboat Lucy which took part in the Victoria-Maui race.

#### FLORA AND FAUNA

An otter was spotted on FV docks... Has anyone seen our FV turtles?... The beaver is still active on FV; now he climbs up on the chicken wire trunk protector to chew on the branches. But the most precocious if not politically incorrect thing he's been chewing on lately is the deck of the Floating Homes Office itself. Really!... There's a muskrat on FV and



in Portage Bay. The Portage Bay muskrat has been dubbed "Murphy" and he's got organized daily rounds he makes so you know where to watch for him... Portage Bay also has mother bass watching over their hatchlings, and FV has mother perch doing the same. Hope they aren't watching 'til they are big enough to eat... Is anyone else's milfoil getting thicker, taller, denser and closer to the surface? Suggestions?

Does anyone else think it's a good idea to quit feeding the Canadian geese? This summer we had 150 geese and goslings of various sizes sitting on the lawn next to Little Lynn Street Park at one time. We used to have all kinds of ducks scaups, coots, and grebes but they won't take on the geese (me neither). Jewel Bergen-Brumbaugh notes that when the folks at Wapiti Point near Lake Chelan stopped feeding their ever growing flock they headed for greener pastures. Wouldn't it be nice to see the western grebes do their elaborate mating dance again and count the different species of waterfowl at the park?... Dox Co-op was saddened at the loss of our little dock greeter. Phoebe a frisky, curious and gregarious Siamese cat lived with Linda Knudsen and was hit by a car July 9. She lived at the head of dock so we were all welcomed home by her every night. We'll miss her.

#### FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

Myrna Cordova (3126 PBPI) is the Asst. Musical Director for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society's presentation of "The Gondoliers" at the Bagley Wright Theater. She also directs an English Music Hall group called "Cakes and Ale". They perform for private functions... Debra Boyer (2235 FV) was featured on the "Today Show" March 5. They discussed her research on "Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Abuse"... Shelby Street residents are working with the city since they discovered that the new plans to contain the sewer overflow storm drain problems included closing the street end that is the only vehicle access to their five houseboat docks. They are also facing losing all their big old trees in the street end. It's a problem that has to be addressed as the sewer storm drain overflows and cascades down the steps to the lawn of the park and into the lake. The city planners and arborists have been very responsive and concerned. Leaving five houseboats docks with no access or emergency services is a serious consideration... Donna Zorn (2235 FV) graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a BA in Communications. Now it's back to grad school at SPU for a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy. Donna's daughter Sherri married Todd Seidner April 25. Both Sherri and Todd graduated from Medical School June 5 and are now doing their residency in Salt Lake City, Utah... Donna's neighbors Darlene and Mac Madenwald's daughter Tamra married Alexander Zatko in Anacortes on June 20. Alex is Slovakian and they married the day of the "Velvet Divorce" that separated the Slovaks and Czechs. Mac and Darlene brought the family over for the wedding, and both families shared the honeymoon sailing and camping in the San Juans and Olympic Peninsula.

Jackie Hightower's sons have both graduated from law school now. Tim who lives on the houseboat and graduated last year from University of Puget Sound is moving out so brother Dana who just graduated from Hastings in San Francisco can move in... What do you get if you cross a lawyer with a Mafia don? Someone who makes you an offer you can't understand... I'm sure they've heard them all... but now I've offended 1/4 of the houseboat community. Oh well, it won't be the first time. It kind of makes up for all the blond jokes and Norwegian jokes I've had to hear... Photog, tattoo-sporter and houseboat remodeler (who isn't?) Phil Webber (2460 WL) was covering a story for the PI on the "return of the milkman" (home deliveries are making a comeback) when the truck jogged one way and Phil jogged the other. This left Phil rolling on the road toward the tires of an oncoming car. It stopped... Phil says "Hmm, news?... well, I fell off a milk truck (pause)... why does everyone laugh?" Aside from bruises from port to starboard on his butt, raspberries all over, bashed knees and elbows and separated ribs - he's fine. Later, they even sent him up in a balloon for photos... and he didn't fall out!

*continued on page 6...*

## NEWSLETTER 6

*Waterlog continued...*

Portage Bay houseboats made the news when the shock waves from the big California earthquake hit the docks in the early morning. People rushed out in their pajamas expecting to find a big boat spreading a wide wake. What they SAW was a calm though surging lake. What they HEARD was sailboat rigging clanging, houseboats tugging and groaning at their connections and what sounded like tearing, separating wood. A houseboat at the end of the Shelby Street Dock broke loose. The popular opinion is still that houseboats will be a very good place to be during a quake as the water will absorb so much of the motion. Dock connections will be the "weak link". For more information on how to prepare for and survive the aftermath of a major earthquake, contact: the State Department of Community Development, Division of Emergency Management, 4220 Martin Way, Olympia WA 98504, (206) 459-9191... Haven't heard of any drought damage yet... have you?... 1213 Shelby is proud of their docksters Bob Forman and Tracy Madole who completed the

STP, Seattle to Portland Bike Ride June 27 and 28... 2420 WL dockster, Kris Salzer climbed Mount Rainier with Lou Whitaker and a team from Jan Sport (they made the summit).

Bob and Marty Alexander (2460 WL) went to the Jungle Fever fund raiser for the Woodland Park Zoo and brought home a wonderful trophy from the auction. It's a 6 foot topiary (that's a sculptured shrub) gorilla. A hose runs up the middle and it spouts water (only on odd days) from the top of it's head. They think they should have Name the Gorilla Shrub Contest. My suggestion... Sigourney... is already taken... There is a fellow selling gorgeous photos of Seattle houseboats taken from a helicopter. If you'd like information his name is Doug Pollack, Heritage Aerial, 1-800-477-4136 or 682-9011... On Tenas Chuck Moorage, the name Liz is synonymous with champion horsemanship. Liz Crowell (2339 FV) took high point in the amateur owner hunter champion category at the Bainbridge Classic in June and Liz Bohlin (2331 FV) and her horse, Russell, have been in the ribbons at local hunter/jumper shows, most recently in the Michelob

*continued...*



Photos by Phil H. Webber

### THE CASE OF THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE

June and Nortie Fauchald on Westlake North ran into an unexpected problem during the remodel of their houseboat. The new spiral staircase would not fit down the stairs at the head of their dock. Houseboaters are, out of necessity, improvisers and so an alternate plan was devised. The stairs were delivered to the neighboring SeaRay dock, loaded onto a raft on loan from Phil Webber and tied securely. A buoy was also tied on just in case the unthinkable might happen. With the help of Art Zimmerman, the stairs were towed by Nortie to his dock. After removing the front door, the two men joined by another, attempted to get the staircase inside. The manufacturer assured them that it would fit. Not even close. The stairs were then hoisted up the outside of the house to the upper deck, carried across the unfinished flooring and finally dropped thru the pre-made hole into its final location. Another example of a simple project getting out of control.

Classics in Bend, Oregon won. Liz C. breeds, raises, shows and competes horses. She is chair of the Evergreen Classic benefit horse show August 4-9 at Marymoor Park in Redmond and is pursuing her Master's Degree in Business at the UW. Liz B. is a science teacher at the Overlake School in Redmond... Alfa McClung, long-time houseboater and Tenas Chuck's sock-knitting, cat-loving 92-year-old continues to hold her own at the Ballard Convalescent Center, 820 N.W. 95th St., Seattle, WA. She loves postcards. Send her one from home or on your travels... Seven students from Seattle's sister city of Tashkent, here for a 3-week institute at the UW School of Social Work, enjoyed a taste of houseboat life with Jan Knutson on Tenas Chuck. They stayed with host families around the Seattle area but Jan fed them a few times and got them to the Intiman Theater production of Catherine... Over on 2025 FV, Leslie Rubicam is having her houseboat painted a Cape Cod gray Olympic overcoat with Spanish terra-red trim and a touch of forest green. Not too shabby. It fits in well and has personality (according to one critique).

### HOLLYWOOD HOUSEBOATS

2460 WL and 2466 WL, the Nesicka Chuck Co-op, is the location for part of a movie being shot in Seattle called "Sleepless in Seattle," starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. The dock has been compensated for the disruption of their lives and it is exciting but the excitement may be wearing off. The dock is starting to call itself Camp Tri-Star... the plot involves a single dad (Tom Hanks) whose son suggests he call a late night radio show to get involved in life again. He does, frequently, and thus gets nicknamed "Sleepless in Seattle"; then somehow he meets Meg Ryan. Anyway the original little boy is not working out so they have to find a new one and reshoot all the other one's footage, and their presence on the docks will be prolonged.

The movie makers don't show up every day, but when they do they are accompanied by 12 semis, 50 assistants scurrying around and a giant flood light that stays on 'til 4:00 in the morning. They can shoot simple scenes up to 20 times. Docksters watched Tom Hanks run up the railroad tracks shouting about 15 times. When he finished he'd turn to them and shrug and say "That's it, that's all!" Apparently he's friendly and rows around between the houseboats chatting between takes.

This is bizarre. They've completely changed the interior of one of the dock's houseboats – rugs, walls everything. But they aren't going to shoot inside the house. That's just so that shots taken from outside the real house will match the shots of the inside done on a set inside. When they're done they'll redo the inside of the house back to what it was before. This is why it costs \$7.50 a ticket, folks.

The movie takes place at Christmas which is why you see all those Christmas lights on the houseboats and sailboats over there. Ironically, Marie and Leonard Johnson have always left their Christmas lights up year-round and been

kidded about it. This year (nothing to do with the movie) they took them down. You can't win! To make it look wintry, they took all the plants off the dock and hired a florist to take care of them during the shooting. Due to a breakdown in communication, residents thought (for a tense time) their plants were gone for good. A sincere written apology eased the situation by explaining that all plants were being carefully stored and tended by Saxe Floral and would be returned when the filming is completed. By the way, the Johnson's turquoise house (a familiar sight on the Lake) was painted brown. It'll all be over in mid-August. Then Nesicka Chuck will get their plants, their landmark and maybe some of their summer back.

### WOMAN OF THE HOUR

Neighbor Vonnie Nyland (3110 PBPI) rescued Don and Paula Brownlee's sheepdog, Panda, when it jumped out a window and into the lake during a lightning storm.

### HIATUS FROM HAITI

Returning to their missionary work in Haiti on July 31 were Sandra and Ray Van Der Pol who have been staying in the Tom Grime/Ruth Vega houseboat on 2321 FV. The couple works for the Haiti Medical Teams which is sponsored by the University Presbyterian Church (where they became acquainted with their houseboat hosts) and the Yakima Free Methodist Church. They also work for the Dessalines Rural Health Program in a networking effort to facilitate medical care in a country that is poorest in the Western Hemisphere but second to Beverly Hills, CA, in concentration of wealth. What does that tell you about greed? The Van Der Pols were forced to leave the country for a time due to political unrest and the embargo. "I have a little bit of apprehension going back," admits Sandra, "everything here is so convenient and predictable." But she's ready. Working with the people in Port-au-Prince, she speaks Creole. A benefit dinner and concert is set for September 18 at the U Presbyterian Church. Reservations for the Haitian dinner at \$5 is limited to 300 and must be made by Sept. 14. Call 542-3705. The 8 p.m. concert features the Festival Singers (including renowned local tenor Bob McGrath).

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It's getting harder to call all of you when you're off globetrotting and sailing and goofing off on your decks. When you or your neighbors do something interesting give me a call. I have a little file for gossip and that way I won't miss so much. My number is 322-4536 and when I remember to turn it on, I have an answering machine. Here's hoping for a sunny summer where no one (me included) goes aground!

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Floating Homes Association  
2329 Fairview Ave. E.  
Seattle, WA 98102

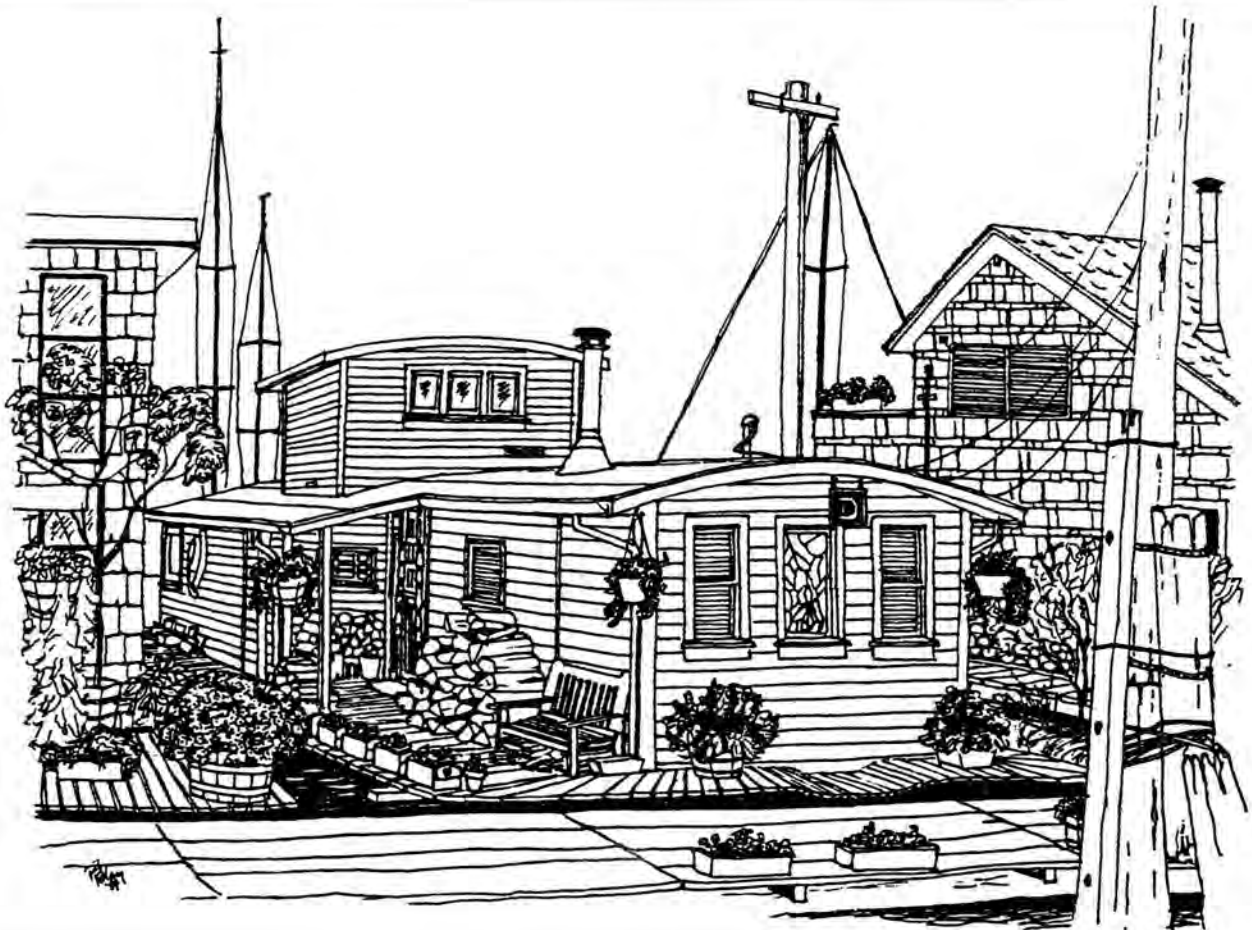


Illustration by Peg Boley

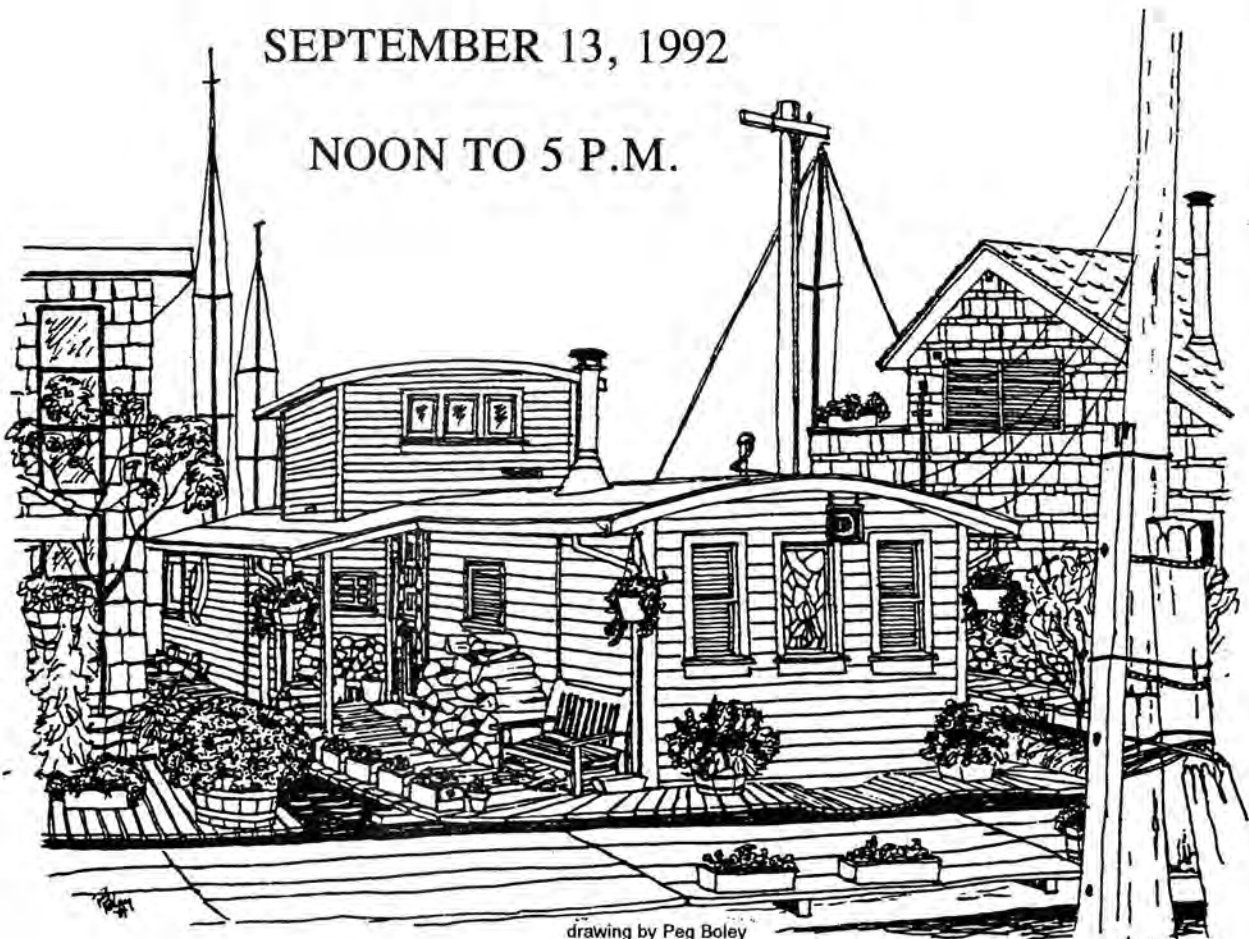


# HOUSEBOAT TOUR!

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13, 1992

NOON TO 5 P.M.



drawing by Peg Boley

For Tickets and Information call Floating Homes Association at 325-1132

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$10.00 each. Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Make check payable to Floating Homes Association, and mail check to 2329 Fairview East, Seattle, WA 98102.

Send tickets to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

TICKETS AND MAP WILL BE MAILED AFTER AUGUST 15, 1992