



2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone 325-1132

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Newsletter

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HOMEOWNERS BUY 2460 WESTLAKE



Thirteen floating home owners at 2460 Westlake Avenue have become moorage owners in a co-op venture. The property includes 150 feet of waterfront, moorage for thirteen floating homes and eighteen boats. The houseboat owners have leased the dock as a co-op since 1973. Thoughts of buying the dock were initiated two years ago by one of the co-op members. An offer for the property was made at that time, but rejected. A year ago a new offer was tendered. The offer was accepted and the purchase closed in August.

The co-op hired attorney Bill Appel to help with the purchase. As a specialist in co-op law he provided invaluable assistance with the details of the purchase. The co-op is currently revising its by-laws. Changes need to be made to cover problems which arise for

owners, such as allocation of property and payments.

Financing was made available by Rainier Bank at 17½%. Purchase price is about \$22,000 per household. Owners will pay an average of \$378 per month to cover loan payments and operating expenses. The property does still have several encumbrances upon it.

Tim Nolan, one of the co-op members, feels several things helped the owners in their new venture. Their previous experience in operating as a co-op has produced good group dynamics. They know they can function well under stress and in meetings. He recommends that floating home owners interested in buying their dock as co-op hold regular dock meetings to develop a sense of working together.

Don't Miss the Boat — See Back Page

Inventory Targets Houseboat Community

Do you know how many floating homes make up your community? How many of the traditional sprung-roofed houseboats remain? What are the physical characteristics and eccentricities that make our homes and way of living so appealing to others? These questions and others are being answered by a survey of houseboats that is currently being conducted by members of our community in conjunction with the city of Seattle's Office of Urban Conservation.

Modeled after earlier neighborhood inventories conducted on other parts of Seattle by both the city and the organization Historic Seattle, we are seeking to accomplish similar objectives: uncover the special physical qualities of our neighborhood and then share this information with others. We hope to have the inventory and follow-up research completed by January so that the results of our work can be presented to the floating home community.

Because our community is so special and unique — and we feel sure that the completed inventory will give physical substance to this statement — we are also exploring the possibility of establishing an historic houseboat district. Earl Layman, Historic Preservation Officer for the city, will work with us on what options are available and, this too, will be included in the January presentation. Then it will be up to all of us to decide what future course of action we want to pursue.

Now, however, we are concentrating our energies on completing the inventory. We are in the middle of the process of surveying Lake Union and have asked our volunteers to inventory their own moorages. In this way we have only had to ask each person for a limited time commitment to complete the forms. We will soon begin inventorying moorages along the ship canal and Portage Bay and are looking for people to survey their own docks. If you can help, call Rob Anglin at 323-0872 or leave a message at the Floating Homes Association office at 325-1132.

Backflow Preventors Required

Floating home owners are discovering what backflow prevention means. The City of Seattle is continuing its efforts to protect the health of water consumers and has begun to enforce regulations requiring dock owners to install backflow prevention devices. Backflow preventers are installed at the service connection where the dock water system departs from the city water supply. The preventer acts to counteract back pressures and back siphonage so that pollution of the water supply is avoided.

Most people are not aware of the health hazards and dangers that can occur from back siphonage. A garden hose connected to an atomizing spray device containing fertilizer, weedicide or pesticide poses a sinister threat. A boat hose left dangling in lake water, or in a dock planter could produce dangerous consequences without the protection of backflow prevention devices. The preventers guard against the unwanted introduction of bacteria and chemicals into our daily water supply. Thus we are guarded against pollutants that cause illness, disease or death.

According to Mr. Al Taylor of the City of Seattle Water Department, approximately 70% of the houseboat dock owners have installed the backflow preventers. Houseboaters have become aware of the installation of the valve in various ways. Residents on 2235 Fairview E. saw side connection hoses being blown off houseboats with water spraying like miniature Old Faithfuls. One resident remarked he had put a cup under the faucet and it was blown out of his hand. Residents on 2349 Fairview E. experienced a severe decrease in the amount of water available. As a consequence, their half inch water pipes were replaced with inch and a quarter pipes.

The cost of backflow preventers ranges from \$120 to several thousand dollars depending on the size of the water line. Most houseboat docks are fitted with preventers in the \$120 to \$180 range.

The introduction of backflow preventers into the floating homes community is a welcome one. Despite some problems and adjustments, the benefits derived from safeguarding the purity of our water supply can be appreciated and enjoyed by all.



by Sheri Lockwood

Water, water everywhere and all of it dripping on us. That's how we felt waterslogging through June and July. But by August dock parties and sales were flourishing and even early September offered respite from the feeling that mildew and algae were creeping up our toes and ankles . . . and someday . . . perhaps . . . would . . . take over . . .

The 2420 Westlake dockers: Susan Wall, Sandy Fenn, Betty Campestrini, Nancy Cox, Karen Winquist and Barbara Nelson had a nearly week long party preparing South American "empanadas" for the August 29th Virginia V Summer Cruise. They were joined by 2770 Westlaker, Betty Kendall. Needless to say they had a "good time". And the sensational food was enjoyed by over 100 partygoers. Kudos to Beverly Anderson and her whole cruise committee!

SOUTH AMERICAN SEGUE: Abbie Adams, of 2460 Westlake, just returned from a South American adventure in Peru and Ecuador. She visited both the mountains (Macchu Picchu in Peru) and the jungle (a three-day boat trip on the Amazon). Gone five weeks she was tempted to tell her husband to "rent the houseboat and come down here for a year". But she says she's glad to be back and is looking for a South American couple to tutor her in Spanish and other people interested in improving their Spanish in this manner. Call her at 284-6770.

2025 Fairview's Annual Bastille Day Party in July was a success as usual. Although it rained during their party fund raiser (a rummage sale in June) the sun graced their party, the pit roasted pig was the best ever and South American music was provided by "TOCA". Greg and Carol Smith (of 2017 Fairview) have a son in



A water ballet performed by Debi Boyer, Ted Evans, and Amy Condon highlighted this summer's "Annual Fishing Derby" at 2219-2235 Fairview.





Shoppers take advantage of a break in the clouds at 2025 Fairview's rummage sale.

the band.

2035-37 Fairview had a summer of 70th Birthday Parties. Elizabeth Jackson turned 70 in May. Her houseboat friends and friends at St. Mark's where she does volunteer work turned out for her party at St. Mark's. The Great Excelsior Jazz Band lead by her son Bob Jackson performed for the celebrants (and for anyone else Sunday's at the Owl Tavern in Ballard.)

Jim Wandesford, oil painter, celebrated his 70th birthday with a dock party given by his daughters and grandchildren on August 9th.

Not to be out done, Dutch Schultz, wood carver and newly turned smithee, partied in his 70th year on the dock with the Great Excelsior playing "Happy Birthday".

The August 9th scorcher provided the perfect incentive for water revelry at George Yeannakis and Debi Boyer's "Annual Fishing Derby" on 2210-2235 Fairview. There was an actual fishing competition, air mattress races, diving competition, team water basketball, a variation of the match-my-shot basketball game called HORSE, (water rules change the name to TUNA) and believe it or not a stirring rendition of "Party Girl" by our own water ballet revivalists: Debi Boyer, Ted Evans, and Amy Condon.

2420 Westlake celebrated a "Hillbilly Party" on August 15th, replete with food, refreshments, a jug band, and sky divers.

But according to Jeff Acorn of 933 N. Northlake, their July 4th Dock Party lost its punch without Ivar's fireworks to liven it up. (This reporter misses them too . . .)



Lois Oswalt, of 2207 Fairview, spent 6 days of classes and travel in West Virginia at the Elder Hostel. The Hostel offered classes in religion, the constitution, poetry, square dancing (east coast style), and folk arts. She learned of it through the Columbia Club where she does volunteer work. She says it is a great bargain for those over 60 years of age. Her stay and classes cost only \$140, she provided transportation to and from. There are Elder Hostels in England and Canada and all over the U.S. including Alaska. To receive a catalog, write: Elder Hostel, Suite 200, 100 Boylston St., Boston, Mass. 02116.

There were Dock Rummage Sales on 2025 Fairview, 2235 & 2219 Fairview and at Houseboat Harbor, 3200 Portage Bay . . . and all over Eastlake. After all that rummage was traded around are we going to see it all again next summer? Better not to ask.

Cyndie Kranz had a coffee klatch for city council candidate Virginia Galle August 25th. Cyndie and her husband Phil and their lovingly put together home were featured in the P.I. magazine Northwest People, Sunday, September 6.

Barbara Nelson, 2420 Westlake, held a coffee hour for Seth Armstrong, candidate for state congressman on October 5.

2019 Fairview had celebrated birthdays, and graduations and other parties. Incidentally, the windsurfers with those beautiful sails you see shooting across Lake Union are probably someone from 2019.

Marlee Draper, a friend of Mary Gey's (2017 Fairview) will be offering aerobic dance classes in our area soon, from 5:30 to 6:30 on Monday and Wednesdays. Call Mary (329-7729) if you're interested.

The rumor is true. Gordon Jeffery has put 2219 & 2235 Fairview on the market. He'll sell if you can come up with 2.3 million dollars.

WELCOME NEW HOUSEBOATERS:

On 2031 Fairview, David Sullivan and his son and daughter Catherine and Robert Thayer. They have recently moved here from Greece where Mr. Sullivan worked for Union Carbide. They are remodeling their house . . . themselves . . . and deserve our commiseration and support.

On 2235 Fairview, Gwendolyn Phillips, she lived most recently in Katmandu, Nepal, and runs and owns a medicinal herb shop in the Pike Place Market and works at a women's health care clinic.

WELCOME ESPECIALLY NEW HOUSEBOATERS:

Allison Brownlee, 2235 Fairview, born July 10th and William Elmer, 2351 Fairview, born May 31st.

At 2818 Boyer, Leo Mehler is fixing a fiberglass boat in the parking lot and is a good resource if you have questions. Dan Brackett, on that dock knows about fixing cars . . . and Connie Jump formed a lasting friendship with two Stuttgart architecture students who were perusing her dock this summer They were assigned to do research on alternative housing — if you'd like to refer suggestions to them, call Connie, 322-2566.

Something to think about: In Hong Kong they use ducks for burglar alarms . . . Watch ducks, I guess you'd call them . . . but what about a burglar with a bag of bread crusts . . . ??

I know I must have missed some wonderful floating events . . . please keep me informed, my number if 322-4536.

 * We have an answering machine to help *
 * us handle telephone calls and provide a *
 * quick response to members' concerns. If *
 * you have information or a question, call or *
 * leave a message. We'll be happy to call you *
 * back. *
 * 325-1132 CALL US ANYTIME *

City Light Weatherization Almost Too Good To Be True

No one wants to think of winter when we have a fall that begins with sun and 95 degree weather, but like it or not we all know the cold is coming and along with it higher fuel bills.

It's time to take advantage of a City Light offer that is hard to refuse. They have made weatherization loans available:

- 1.) at no interest
- 2.) with no payment for five years (after which you get five more years to pay it back)
- 3.) PLUS you're eligible for a federal energy tax cut
- 4.) and if you pay right away they'll lop off 30%

Weatherization includes insulation, weatherstripping, caulking and storm windows. To qualify you must own your own home, be a City Light customer, and your home must be all electric.

All you do is call City Light (625-3800). They'll send out a representative who will spend 1½ to 2 hours checking your home for areas of heat loss. Then they will discuss with you cost effective ways to remedy the situation. Don't worry, they have experience with the unique problems associated with houseboats. They will leave a list with you of approved contractors and an eligibility form. This form tells you the mandatory energy savers you must have (R-30 insulation in the attic or ceiling, R-19 in the floors and a hot water tank setting of 130 degrees with a water heater wrapper) in order to qualify for optionals such as storm windows.

They offer loans for both the mandatory and the optional energy savers. They do keep a lien on the property until the loan is repayed (up to 10 years) but don't forget you'll receive 30% off what weatherization costs if you make an immediate payback.

They also offer FREE grants so low income people can get the insulation, caulking and weather stripping they need if their primary heat source is electric and their income is:

- 1.) single: \$14,287 or less per year
- 2.) family of 2: \$20,410 or less
- 3.) family of 4: \$25,537 or less

Call for a FREE home energy check at 625-3800 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Your December and January could be as warm and cozy as our early September.

Houseboaters Talk Kid to Kid

by Jennifer Frost

When people imagine life on a houseboat they usually don't include children in the picture. But surprisingly enough, children account for a large number of the houseboat population in Seattle. Although disadvantages such as falling off on a cold day, or no yard (or basement) exist, the advantages far outweigh these minor problems. For instance, Jenny Hansen, 10, Fairview Ave., says that she prefers life on a houseboat because "Who else can jump off of their front porch and go swimming when they get hot?"

Boating also plays an important role on summer days. Zandra Ambrose, 10, Portage Bay, says that she even taught one of her friends to row, and after traveling in circles for an hour, she got the hang of it.

A lot of friends like to visit the houseboats. When asked about this, Brooke Zylstra, 10, Fairview Avenue, said that a lot of her friends love to come over, but some get sick when the house rocks.

Enough space can be a problem, especially on the smaller houseboats. "It's a hassle when I have to walk through the master bedroom to get to the bathroom, and trip over everybody's feet," says Brian Hollar, 14, from Westlake. But Brian's younger brother Shawn, 7, says he doesn't mind at all.

Eviction could be a worry too, say Erik and Mark Johnson, (both 13, of Fairview Ave.) who told me about the problem of moorage rents becoming too high and forcing people to move elsewhere.

All in all though, I'm sure that Mark and Erik and all of the others would never give up their bouyant homes to become "ordinary" kids.

(Ed. — Jennifer Frost is almost 15 years old. She is interested in writing and this article is her first.)



Baby Boom Hits Lake

by Mary Gey

Have you noticed the effects of the "mini baby boom" on your dock? Although children have always been a part of our community a number of established houseboaters have recently become parents, and many of them are finding ways to cope with the problems and considerations peculiar to raising young children on a houseboat.

The first challenge, because most houseboats are small, is to create a space for the new family member. In small houseboats with only one bedroom, another room or a niche must be created. Bill and Jean Elmer of the Phoenix moorage on Fairview had to make room for Bill junior last May. Since there was no space for another bedroom, young Bill is sleeping comfortably in a built-in crib adjacent to an outside wall in the kitchen which has its own view window facing the lake. Allison Brownlee, born in July, has a similar built-in crib with a nautical twist: fish net crib sides.

In the Gey houseboat a room for Jennie Gey was created out of Mary Gey's art studio when a new partition wall and door were added. The small room, about 8x10, is just pint size for a baby. The high 12 foot ceiling accommodates a sleeping loft the size of a queen size bed which is suspended over half the room. This solves the problem of where Jennie will sleep when she outgrows the crib.

The next consideration for children raised on houseboats is safety. In most cases with infants and toddlers, a fence is a must. The fence must be constructed so that the baby cannot get his head through the slats, tall enough, and nonclimbable. The fence on Bob and Mary Kapp's floating home on Fairview to keep Sisi from tumbling into the water is 42" high and constructed out of shrimp net stretched tightly and stapled at top, bottom, and sides and held together by lath and 2x4's. This type of fence seems to be the most popular, for one can still see through the shrimp net which is unobtrusive, lightweight and inexpensive. The mesh is small enough (1" square) so that it cannot be climbed. Jerry and Ann Powell built the same type of fence around their Flo Villa home this summer to keep daughter Celeste aboard. Gates are used with catches or special spring latches on the outside. The Knights on Fairview said their son figured out the latches, so padlocks with combinations locks were used.

Another consideration is toys. Linda Knight suggested that toys used outside be floatable as her son found great amusement in throwing them overboard. Noise is also something to consider when buying toys for children on houseboats. Tricycles ridden down the dock are not too popular with the neighbors.

When the child is old enough, most parents feel more comfortable knowing their child can swim. Swimming for babies as young as six months is offered at both the Evans Pool at Greenlake and at the Queen Anne Pool. In addition to swimming lessons, life jackets are a good idea. Mary Kapp said the new flatter life jackets are now available for children as small as 18 months. The less bulky life jackets are more comfortable and do not obstruct movement as much as the thicker ones.

When precautions are taken, houseboat living can be a unique experience for small children and a positive one for parents.

Unique Lifestyle Enriches Family Experience

by Sheri Lockwood

Raising children on houseboats probably strikes terror into the hearts of most land dwelling parents. But, in interviews with five houseboating families we found a resounding vote in favor of the experience, and consensus on the advantages and disadvantages of houseboat childrearing.

The obvious major disadvantage is that children *must* know how to swim. As it turns out, that's not always as big a problem as it seems. Larry and Tru Ambrose had a gate across the door and a very high lock on the door and never let Zandrea (who is now 10) out of the house without a life jacket. Clyde and Sandy Fenn used the same life jacket tactic with Shawn 7, who was terrified of the water when they moved on to the lake. Both found that the children didn't like the life jackets and learned to swim very quickly. Primarily, it seems, to get rid of the encumbrance.

Parents mentioned other advantages to being near the water. All the kids interviewed were skilled at handling their own boats or rafts. Jenny Hansen, 10, even sails a catamaran on her own. Living on the lake helps them to become more aware of the character of our city. They daily see an industrial waterway with tugs, barges enroute to Alaska, NOAA ships, fishing boats, sailboats and windsurfers. Another plus, it's easier to become in tune with the seasons and the weather . . . "storms are most exciting, or even frightening . . . you actually feel the weather through the house."

All the parents mentioned problems with space, storage or just moving things up and down the dock. But surprisingly the focus wasn't on space to put things but on personal space. As Nancy and Roger Johnson mentioned . . . "there's no pouting on a houseboat" . . . In close quarters, personal differences can't be avoided, consequently they get settled out of necessity. A walk by the water can be a great calmer, others find a visit to friends diffuses difficulties.

The Ambroses and Hansens have dealt with storage space uniquely. Zandrea Ambrose's bed folds into the wall and Jenny

Hansen's bed sits high so wood can be stored under it.

All had wonderful stories of interactions with wildlife. The Fenn's sons Brian and Shawn love having a mother raccoon and her babies under the house and the one-eye duck named Popeye who pecks on the door for treats. The Zylstras tell of a grebe with a rubber band around its neck that had pinned its beak against its breast. The grebe saved itself despite their friends' noble efforts. The Hansens have a bittersweet memory mentioned in the last newsletter. "Their raccoon" killed a sitting mother duck, so they hatched the eggs at home. To her credit Jenny still likes raccoons. It was just being itself, and hatching the baby ducks was an unforgettable experience.

Although there were minor irritations mentioned: no pets, no yard, no work space; they were outweighed by considerations such as:

"They are active . . . they aren't bored."

"If I can't be home when they are, I *know* there are caring neighbors who *are* there and will help."

"Not having a yard is offset by having neighbors who will take you sailing or kayaking."

"You can tell them to go play in the basement."

"It's safer than where we used to live, . . . adjacent to a highway."

Summing up, the most mentioned positive aspects of houseboat childrearing seemed to be the independent spirit the kids develop, the diversity of the community, and having the advantages of both nature and the cultural assets of the central city.

They are exposed to a diverse 'slice of the world' type of population. The neighbors tend to treat them as people, or individuals, not 'just kids'. As Roger Johnson explains it: "The broader spectrum of people they are exposed to is a tremendous educational experience. Any kid who could live in a houseboat would have a better perspective. Moving here was a positive experience . . . besides, it's fun!"



Celeste Powell



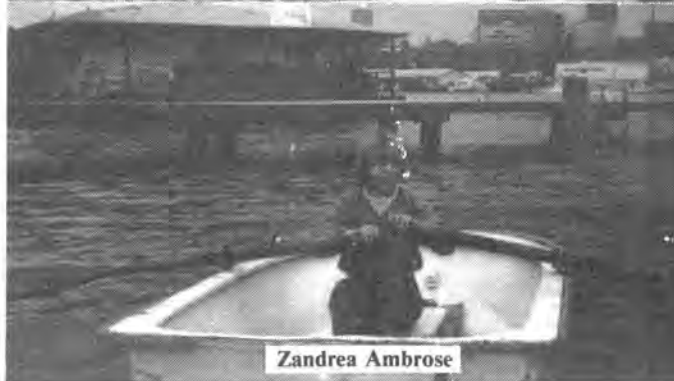
Brooke Zylstra



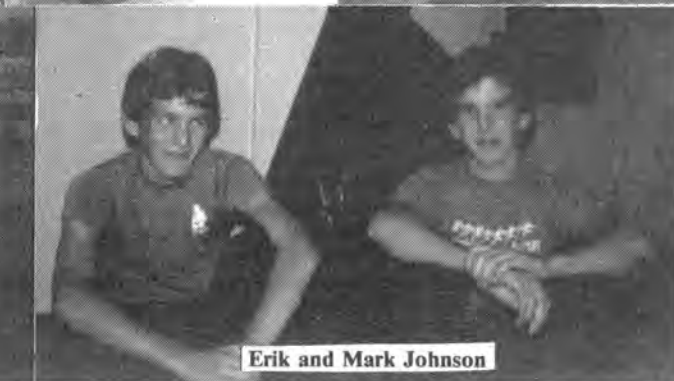
Jenny Hansen



Brian Hollar Shawn Fenn



Zandrea Ambrose



Erik and Mark Johnson



Matters of Concern

by Bill Keasler

On this page is a report of an exchange of letters between Bill Fritz, lobbyist for the Lake Union Association, and Paul Kraabel, president of the City Council. Fritz's point, that the Equity Ordinance is taking a beating in the courts, is a superficial one. Kraabel has no trouble refuting it by observing that simply being in the courts is a far cry from taking a beating by them.

But the questions lingers: why is it, that after so much apparent progress in the past few years, the Association and its members find themselves embroiled in a seemingly endless succession of disputes, trials and appeals?

A measure of how deeply our community has become involved in the judicial process can be found in the \$24,000 in legal bills the Association has accumulated since the latest version of the Equity Ordinance was passed in the summer of last year. Some of this figure represents support for our legislative efforts here and in Olympia. Most of it, however, has gone to resist unfair exploitation of the monopoly and to ensure that the ordinance itself is afforded the best possible defense against constitutional challenges. Individual members, defending their security, have spent at least as much as the Association. We can only speculate on what the LUA crowd's bills have been, propelled as they seem to be by greed and principle into shotgun-style attacks on the law, but their expenses must be very high.

All of our neighborhoods are touched by this turmoil. At the very moment when we expected to find some relief from 20 years of fighting for our existence, we find ourselves camped instead on yet another battleground, the courts. Once again, everyone is involved because if a moorage owner can stick it to your neighbor, he can stick it to you.

The answer to the question of why litigation consumes so much of our energy and resources can be found by recalling the gains we've made. Obviously, we wouldn't be in court if Mayor Clinton had succeeded in eliminating houseboats altogether back in the 60's. Things would be very different if we hadn't bootstrapped ourselves into "respectability" with our own self-financed urban renewal project in the 70's. Prospects for the 80's would likewise look a lot worse without the Equity Ordinance. We'd be in the courts anyway, but the current reports of encouraging progress would be replaced by echoes of Judge Holman's verdict in 1977 when she said, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing I can do."

Down in the trenches, surrounded by rancor and bitterness and fatigue, it's an effort to lift ourselves up far enough to take a longer view of what's really going on. The fact is that the situation looks rather good. Our organization is as strong or stronger than ever. The will of our leadership is unbent. Since August of 1980 we've enjoyed the protection of a law which bridles the apparently irresistible urge among some of those who control moorage sites to press the advantage of their monopoly. Our legislative and judicial records speak of remarkable success in its defense.

What's occurring is the natural response of our system's structure of checks and balances to precedent-setting legislation. We are in the process of consolidating a position that is the end result of years of effort. The stage we're in necessarily involves the courts. The very act of demonstrating our will to use the law makes it that much stronger. The City Council has done its job, we must now do ours.

The next few years will no doubt be difficult and expensive. The Association is going to need your 13th month's rent, not to mention your time and energy. Those of our neighbors bearing the brunt of the seige require our support and sympathy.

But, be of good cheer. In the context of its history, our struggle is nearly over. And, despite what some might say, we're winning.



Dock owner James Lee is trying to evict this Portage Bay houseboat owned by Juliet Sauvage. The superior court trial ended in a hung jury and will be retried.

Ordinance Withstands Court Challenges

Like any new regulatory legislation, Seattle's Equity Ordinance is attracting its share of legal challenges. Since its passage in August of 1980, it has been challenged by at least five moorage owners in ten superior court cases. In all but two of these cases, the court has upheld the legality of the ordinance.

One area under attack has been the provisions regulating moorage fee increases and the CPI formula devised to provide "pass through" increases for the benefit of moorage owners. The courts have uniformly upheld the legality of these provisions in the ordinance.

An overall challenge to the constitutionality of the ordinance was dismissed for technical reasons before the court reached a decision on the merits of the case.

The eviction protections of the ordinance continue to be the subject of much heated litigation. A King County Superior Court judge ruled in favor of moorage owner Frank Granat in an eviction proceeding against two homeowners on his Boston Rose moorage. The court overruled the ordinance provision which permits a moorage owner to relocate a floating home to a different moorage site only if the moorage owner intends to use the vacated space for his own residence. This ruling is currently under appeal.

In another eviction action brought by moorage owner James Lee, the court held that the ordinance could not require a moorage owner who takes a moorage space for his own residence to compensate the floating home owner for the value of his home when there is no alternative site available. Despite this ruling by the judge, the trial ended in a hung jury and will be retried.

Since the city was not a party to either of these cases, the city's ability and authority to enforce the ordinance is not affected by these decisions.

Two other recent eviction cases involving moorage owners Helen McGinnis and Ken Kennedy resulted in victories for the home owner defendants.

The Equity Ordinance is far from being nullified by the courts, as was claimed in a recent letter from Bill Fritz, moorage owner spokesperson, to city council president Paul Kraabel. Kraabel replied that "the Floating Home Ordinance fairly and equitably regulates floating home moorage relationships . . . Any controversial police power measure which regulates relationships previously unregulated is subject to legal challenges, some of which will be sustained by the courts. We are generally encouraged, however, by the court's treatment of the Floating Homes Ordinance. In only two of the ten cases have the courts found substantive provisions of the ordinance unlawful and these decisions may be reversed on appeal. Under the circumstances, I see no need to discuss 'compromise' amendments."

Living Afloat

by Connie Jump

The summer and early fall months are supreme times to live on a houseboat, and most of us are well aware of this as we host an unending series of visitors . . . the friends from Tacoma who have been planning to visit me for months, the people I met on the train trip to Portland last winter, the woman who serves on a monthly committee with me. I relish the visit, but find my life is continuously disrupted as I serve iced tea, pour wine, or throw together an unexpected lunch for the third time in a week while drying towels in the dryer so that my guests can take advantage of my back door swimming pool!

In talking with other houseboaters, I've discovered several methods for controlling visitors, so that people come when you have the time and energy to entertain. One friend has a colorful flag which she flies from the roof of her houseboat whenever she is "at home and available" — if the flag is not flying, unexpected visitors read a notice on her door explaining that she appreciates their telephoning before arriving on the doorstep, and indicating when they are welcome to return to see her. Another friend, who works at home, has set aside certain days and evenings when he is receiving guests. He encourages friends to bring food and drink to share, and sets up his slide projector to view slides which people bring — this makes a real occasion out of his entertaining time.

I am less creative. I have designated one evening, Thursday, as "Boating Night" and my friends are encouraged to come for supper, bringing their own meat to put on my hibachi (I light it about

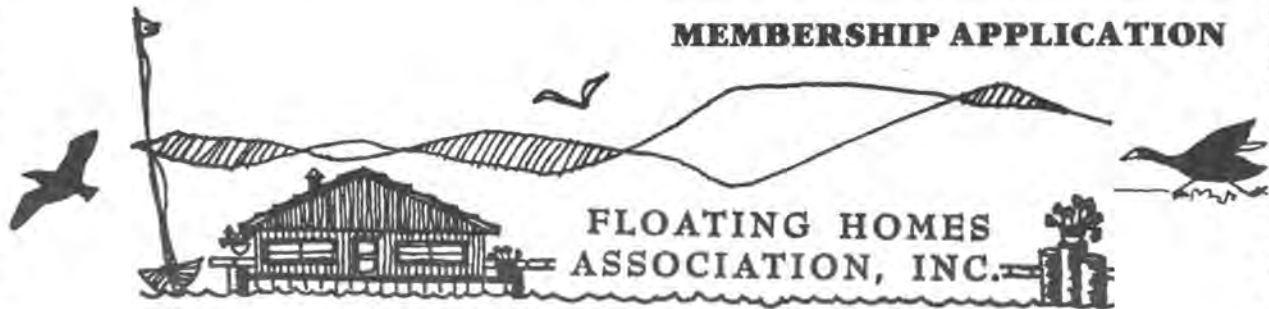
5:30 p.m., so that the coals are glowing and ready by the time we are ready to cook), their own beverage (my wine and beer supply remains more or less intact with this plan!), and some contribution to the common potluck table. This arrangement means less work for me, and has provided some marvelous meals and fellowship. People are welcome to use my canoes, a small "sailing bathub," and some loaned kayaks, as well as paddling in some classy inner tubes. The resulting fleet has caused smiles and greetings from many of you as we explore the houseboat community on Portage Bay.

Some friends come to spend the night. My houseboat is small, and even floor space is limited, so I have recently installed hooks in my living room walls from which to hang a string hammock . . . a traditional sleeping arrangement which most of us in North America have never experienced. My hammock is the most popular place to sleep in the house at this point, and I may need to install additional hammocks to handle the demand!

Overnight visitors are fed breakfast and sent off to explore the city . . . sometimes I accompany them, sometimes I let them explore on their own, depending on my schedule. I keep an extensive file of Seattle and Puget Sound sights and experiences, and try to clip articles and coupons which people might want to use, as well as maps and bus schedules. Generally, I meet my visitors for dinner, either on the houseboat (seafood is a favorite menu!) or at some local restaurant (I prefer the small hole-in-the-wall variety). Sometimes we do a "progressive meal," having a drink and snackies at some expensive place with a view, and then continuing on to another restaurant for the main course, ending up at a coffee house for coffee and a decadent dessert. Fun!

Entertaining guests on my houseboat is a joy, and I like sharing my life style with less fortunate land-dwellers. It has been a challenge to coordinate the entertaining with other demands on my time and energy — I wish you all good luck in your efforts to do the same!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION, INC.

2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

325-1132

- Make checks payable to the Floating Homes Association.
- Dues payment covers all adults in the household.
- If more than one membership card needed list names below
- Dues payments cover the 12 months from date of joining.

- \$24.00 Regular Household Dues
- \$16.00 Retired Household Dues

(New members will receive a complimentary copy of Howard Drokens illustrated history (\$4.95) "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats.")

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____

Name(s) _____ Moorage No. _____ Phone _____

"To protect Seattle's old and colorful Houseboat Colony."



FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE AN



OLD FASHIONED COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

**SAT. – DEC. 19
7:00 to 11:00 P.M.**

DRESS UP IN YOUR COUNTRY WESTERN CLOTHES &
Cruise aboard the historic Virginia V — Boarding at 6:30 — Fisherman's Terminal



ENJOY THE MUSIC OF "WILLIE & THE TAILGATERS"

Delicious Country Bar-B-Que with all the trimmin's

Beer, Wine, liquor and soft drinks may be purchased separately at our no-host bar.

All this for \$20.00 per person — non-refundable.
Proceeds go to the Association's Legal Fund.

— For Members & Their Guests —

DON'T MISS THE BOAT

Only 200 tickets will be sold

CLIP AND MAIL

RESERVE

OR

ORDER NOW

For information or reservations call
(24 hour number) 325-1132.

I (we) want to be aboard the Virginia V for the holiday cruise
December 19. Send _____ tickets at \$20 each.

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____



Make Checks Payable to
Floating Homes Association 2329 Fairview, Seattle, WA 98102