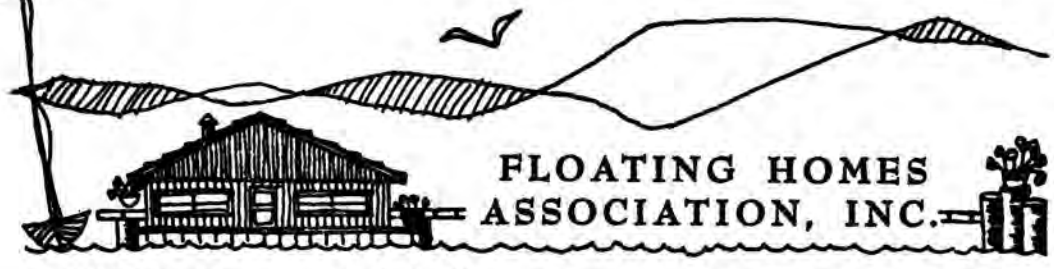


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2329 Fairview East Seattle, Washington 98102 Phones: EA 5-1132 or EA 9-1517

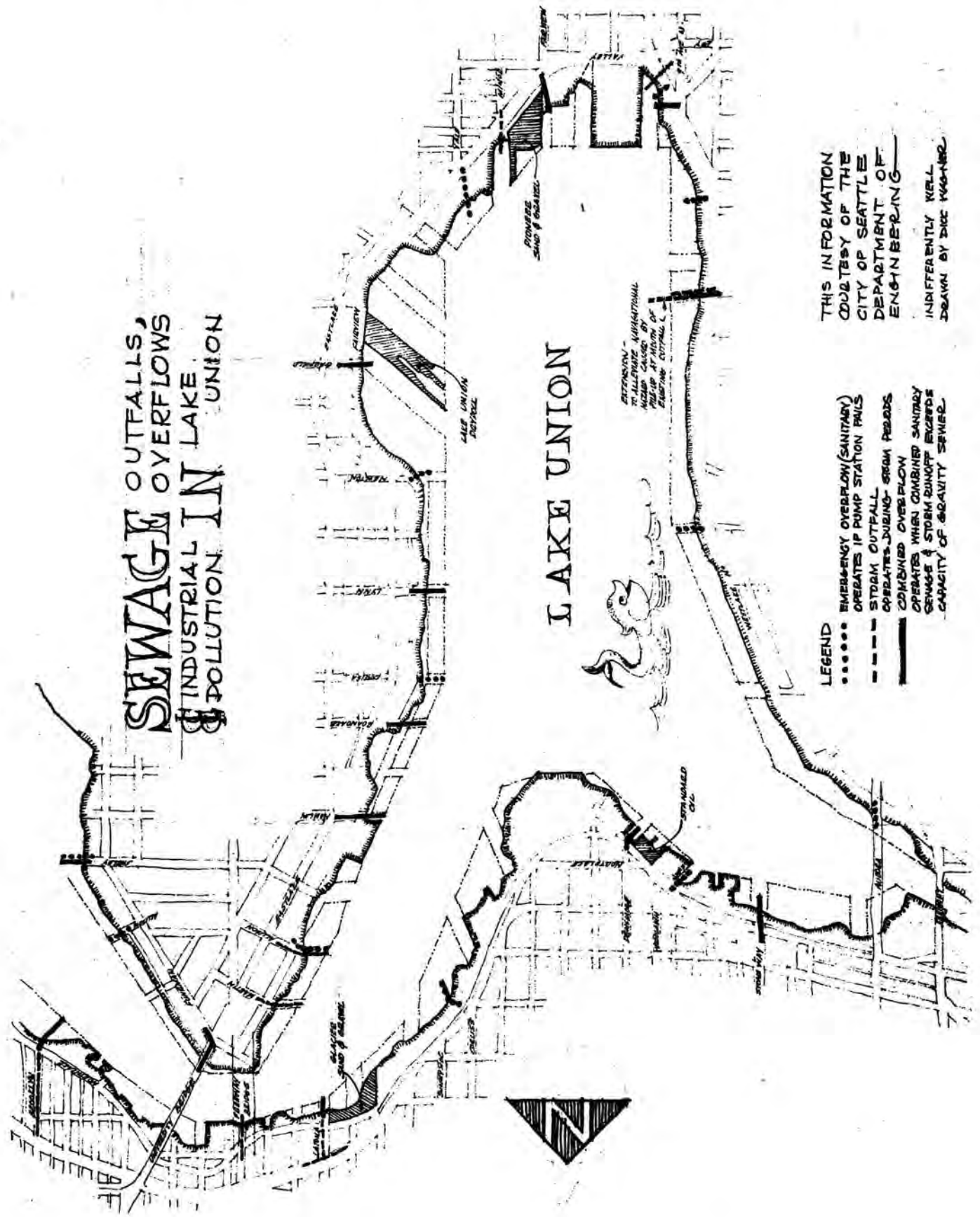
Number 39

Newsletter

November, 1969

IN LAKE UNION & PORTAGE BAY:

MAJOR SOURCES OF POLLUTION



UNDERWATER SEWER OUTFALLS AREA'S MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM

The map on page one illustrates the major (but not all) sources of human waste and industrial pollution in Lake Union and Portage Bay. Our purpose is not to point an accusing finger but rather to bring the total problem to public attention. Not all the pollution sources are shown on the map. For example we have omitted (1) Floating Homes who are making good progress with a correction program (See NEWS LETTER, October 1969) and (2) water craft, both commercial and pleasure.

Because of their visibility, houseboats and water craft have long been convenient whipping boys. (After all, you can't see an underwater outfall emitting millions of gallons of raw sewage). Our Association is proud of the fact that we are the first in the country to connect our floating dwellings to sewer systems. In respect to water craft corrective measures are in the offing. The State Pollution Control Commission in its September 1969 "Information Bulletin" says in part: "A report assessing the magnitude of this problem and recommending effective control and preventative measures prepared by the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration is currently being presented to Congress. It is anticipated that the report will result in suggested uniform regulations which can be considered for adoption by the State Pollution Control Commission."

But the public should have no illusions that the elimination of all sewage from floating homes and water craft will materially reduce pollution or bring about anything faintly resembling adequate water quality standards. That is why we feel it necessary to graphically illustrate the major pollution sources:

EMERGENCY SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS: These, along with 13 pumping stations, were installed with the eight-inch sanitary sewer around Lake Union and a portion of Portage Bay under the Local Improvement District created by the City Council in 1963. They will permit sewage run-offs in case of mechanical failure. However, some claim that these outfalls will also take care of any overload as more and more buildings are connected to the small lateral sewer line.

STORM OUTFALLS: There are eight of these to take care of surface drainage and as the storm water disposal problems increase there could be more. Studies show that drain water carrying the filth and oil from streets as well as chemicals and pesticides from lawns and fields is a serious and growing pollution problem.

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION: Our map shows only four out of the many industrial installations cited by the State Pollution Control Administration. They were selected only because they are typical. (1) Pioneer Sand & Gravel, 901 Fairview N. (2) Lake Union Drydock, 1515 Fairview E. (3) Standard Oil Tank Farms, North Northlake Way and (4) Seattle Ready Mix Concrete, 2501 N. Northlake Way. The Pioneer Sand & Gravel Company washes its trucks with the residue draining directly into the lake and it also dumps unused concrete mixes into the water. Over a period of some 20 years it has created a concrete fill some 200 feet in depth. The company is reportedly preparing a correction program for submission to the State Pollution Control Commission.

COMBINED STORM AND SANITARY SEWER OUTFALLS: By all odds here is the No. 1 culprit. There are 13 such underwater outfalls dotting the shoreline of Lake Union and Portage Bay. Even with a light rain they pour millions of gallons of raw sewage from adjacent communities into the lake. The problem is further compounded because many structures connect their outside drain pipes to the already overloaded sanitary sewer system.

The problem of combined storm and sanitary sewers is city-wide and is not confined to Lake Union and Portage Bay. (It is a problem Seattle shares with some 3,000 other communities in the U.S.) It is a major source of pollution of the Lake Washington and Puget Sound waterfronts. Some light was shed on the enormity of the problem when the Forward Thrust \$70 million bond issue to "separate storm and sanitary sewers" was presented to the voters and approved in 1968. Our Association supported this proposal although early in the campaign we were dismayed to learn that it would take care of only three of the 13 outfalls in Lake Union and Portage Bay. This was revealed when the City Council on December 18, 1967 adopted Ordinance No. 96327 allocating the funds should the bond issue be approved. The Ordinance listed some 31 projects concentrating on Lake Washington and the salt water shorelands. The Lake Union and Portage Bay projects in the Ordinance are:

"UNIVERSITY: Separation of combined sewers tributary to Portage Bay at Brooklyn Avenue N.E. \$1,041,000.

"LAKE UNION SOUTH UNIT NO. 1: Separation of combined sewers for approximately 600 acres along the west slope of Capitol Hill and First Hill east of the Central Freeway that are tributary to the existing Minor Avenue North storm trunk and are located between East Roy Street and Union and Jefferson Streets. \$2,126,000.

"LAKE UNION NORTH UNIT NO. 1: Separation of combined sewers for approximately 500 acres of the westerly portion of combined sewer systems tributary to Lake Union located west of Stone Avenue North and South of Woodland Park. \$1,934,000."

In January, 1968, our Association petitioned the City Council to adopt a program looking towards the elimination of all combined sanitary and storm sewers. This was referred to the Streets & Sewers Committee. After a report from City Engineer Roy Morse we were notified that our petition had been placed "on file". On February 2, 1968, Mr. Morse wrote a detailed explanation to our Association in which he said the Forward Thrust program would "reduce the overflow of sewage" into Lake Union and Portage Bay and adding:

"Forward Thrust considers that the cost of a separation program system sufficient to eliminate all combined sewer overflows in the City of Seattle could be approximately \$225 million at 1967 prices! The six year \$70 million separation on the ballot February 13th will provide separation of storm waters from raw sanitary sewage in those combined sewers in the City tributary to receiving waters where high water quality standards are required. With priority given to solving the most critical separation problems we will advance toward the goal of improving the water quality of our local waters and ultimately achieve accepted quality standards."

Following approval of the \$70 million bond issue Mayor J. D. Braman, on February 21, 1968, responded to our petition as follows: "As you know all the projects under Forward Thrust were scheduled on a planned basis over a 12-year period in order to utilize the growth of bonding authority under the constitutional limitations. At this particular moment I cannot say as to the exact position in the program of the work around Lake Union; but certainly real consideration will be given to removing, in so far as possible, all overflows and outfalls into this community asset."

Last October (Seattle Times 10/23/69) The Engineering Department announced details of the separation program with Metro contributing \$6 million to the \$70 million bond issue. Metro funds are also involved in the project, now underway, involving the 48-inch outfall emptying into the Galer Street waterway on Westlake Avenue North. This project calls for (1) extending the four-foot outfall 400 feet offshore into 45 feet of water and (2) installation of a regulator station which will reduce the overflow. Engineers say this outfall, which is eight feet under water, discharged 6.4 million gallons of sewage during a monitoring period. The regular station is expected to reduce this to 2.7 million gallons.

By extending the outfall 400 feet into the lake it will eliminate a sewage buildup in the channel which has interfered with the passage of boats into the adjacent moorages. Galer Street is between the Marina Mart Building (1500 Westlake Ave. N.) and the large covered moorage installation to the south. Both properties are owned by the Fisher Company (Fisher Flouring Mills, KOMO, etc.) Five years ago boats began going aground on a sewage "shoal" in the channel. The situation became so bad that in 1964 the Fisher Company went before the County Board of Tax Equalization and was granted some relief because of the damage this outfall was doing to its property.

Water pollution is a major city-wide problem. The State Pollution Control Commission, following a public hearing in Seattle September 30th, has established water quality standards for Lake Union, Portage Bay and the Ship Canal. Among other things, state regulations say: "No standard will be considered which allows any waste amendable to treatment control to be discharged into any intrastate water without treatment or control regardless of the water quality criteria and water use or uses adopted."

When the \$70 million bond issue was adopted there were expectations that the federal government would help out with matching money from anticipated appropriations to carry out the objectives of the highly touted "Clean Water" legislation and the creation of the Federal Water Pollution Control Commission. But more oratory than money has come out of Washington, D.C. Pollution control experts say that a minimum of \$10 billion annually is needed from the federal government to mount an effective anti-pollution campaign in conjunction with local governmental units. Last year Congress appropriated \$200 million. This year Congress "authorized" one billion. In his budget President Nixon cut this back to \$214 million. The House has suggested \$600 million and the Senate is still holding out for the full one billion. What the outcome will be is anybody's guess. We can be certain of only one thing. Under the present order of priorities for the expenditure of federal funds, the amount allocated for clean water will fall far short of what is needed.

To date Metro has spent \$134 million and among other things, we have saved Lake Washington. The people voted a \$70 million bond issue for sewer separation. Few areas can match that record. But without more local concern as well as aid from the state and federal governments we are going to continue to wallow in our own waste.

OUTSIDE LIGHTS WORK WONDERS (OVER THE WATER, THAT IS)

Once again the Executive Committee is urging all floating homes to string some outside lights for the holiday season. Lights reflecting on water make elaborate decorations unnecessary. Each year the number of pleasure craft cruising our waters during the holiday season is on the increase. Our lighted moorages, the view of the city skyline from the water, makes a scene our community can be proud of. All the information on our two holiday cruises is on page 4 except that for the FAMILY CRUISE we will have a group of Madrigal Singers in addition to Balladeers John & Sally Ashford.

TRIAL DATE FOR APARTMENT HOUSE SUIT INDEFINITE

No new trial date has as yet been set for the suit challenging the legality of the building permit for the over-the-water apartment at 2307 Fairview East. The action was brought jointly by our Association and Flo Villa Corp., a joint ownership floating home moorage. The case was to have been heard September 15th but the state asked a delay.

"SAVE-OUR-SHIPS" NEEDS MONEY, MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

Members of this remarkable organization are up to their ears restoring the historic schooner WAWONA (a neighbor on Lake Union). The organization also owns the RELIEF, the last of the steam lightships (circa 1904). It needs members, contributions and volunteers for all manner of work. Those interested (and we hope a lot of you are) can contact Marian Farrell, 1143 Federal Avenue East, Seattle 98102 - EA 3-0887.

THE OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE NAMES OF NON-MEMBERS

Since we organized in 1962 the membership turn-over is averaging about 20% a year. (We live in a very mobile society). This means we have to run pretty fast even to stand still. Everyone can help by sending in names and addresses of non-members. (If you aren't sure send it in anyway.) Also remember renters are eligible for membership and we have found that most of them want to join and participate in our common efforts to keep a marine environment.

YES, WE DO HAVE EXTRA COPIES OF OUR NEWS LETTERS

Have anyone in mind who should have a copy of this NEWS LETTER? Let the office know and we will mail. Also there are still extra copies available of the October (Design Concept for Waterway 14) and July (Advocate Plan for a Park at the Gas Plant Site). Both of these stories were picked up by the daily and/or community newspapers.

BY THE WAY, MANY HAVE FOUND THE CRUISE TICKETS MAKE EXCELLENT HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR THOSE "LAND LOCKED" FRIENDS OR RELATIVES.

SEE LAKE UNION AND PORTAGE BAY
AT THEIR

HOLIDAY BEST

Once again the Floating Homes Association will offer two unusual holiday cruises. The MV SIGHTSEER (with Captain Don Moss, commanding and commenting) will rendezvous with the lovely Park Department's CHRISTMAS SHIP (21st season) and greet Chet Gibson's famed SANTA CLAUS SHIP (27th season). Each year the flotilla of gaily decorated craft increases. The SIGHTSEER's glass enclosed observation deck is heated but you will probably want to go topside so dress for it.



PARTY CRUISE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th

\$4.00 Fun Package

THE SIGHTSEER will cast off from the beautiful HUNGRY TURTLE at 8 p.m. and return at 10:30 or thereabouts. Tickets include drinks "Tom & Jerry" (for real). Nothing to buy.

Entertainment by the lively TALL TIMBER GANG. Paul Wiley, banjo; Don Mills, guitar; Barney Munger, bass; Vivian Williams, fiddle; and Phil Williams, mandolin.

FAMILY CRUISE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

Sailing time 7:30 p.m. from the HUNGRY TURTLE and return to port at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$2.50 Adults, \$1.00 Children (5-12). Includes refreshments, mulled cider, coffee and goodie for the youngsters. Nothing to buy.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND FOLK SONGS by John and Sally Ashford.

YOU WILL LIKE OUR HOME PORT

Lake Union's newest waterfront restaurant (formerly the Riviera) is at 1501 Fairview Avenue East (foot of Roanoke. Ample parking.

You can have dinner, drinks or snacks before or after the Cruise.

Entertainment in the TORTOISE ROOM until 2 a.m.

Make dinner reservations by calling :

EA 9-6333



HOW TO GET YOUR CRUISE TICKETS

Send payment to the Floating Homes Association, 2329 Fairview East, Seattle 98102. \$4.00 each for PARTY CRUISE.

\$2.50 Adults and \$1.00 Children (5-12) for FAMILY CRUISE. Order early. Supply limited. For information call EA 9-1517 or EA 5-1132, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98102