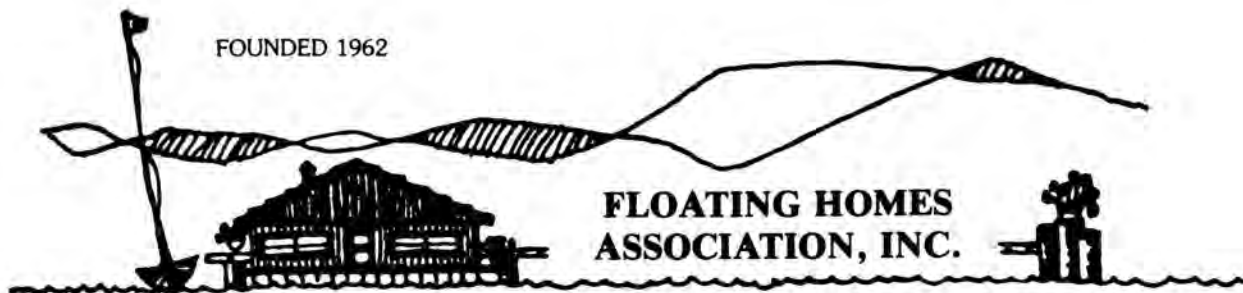


FOUNDED 1962



FLOATING HOMES  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone: 325-1132

NUMBER 102

Newsletter

APRIL 1986

## Status of Rentals Clarified in Equity Ordinance

In response to a number of cases of illegal moorage fee increases for rental houseboats, the Floating Homes Association is sponsoring legislation to "clarify" certain sections of the Equity Ordinance.

Most of the disputed increases have occurred at the Tenas Chuck moorage, 2331-2339 Fairview Avenue East.

Tenas Chuck has experienced a series of sharp disputes between tenants and moorage owners since the current owners, Lakeshore Moorings, Inc. (LMI), bought the property in 1980. These have ranged from a protracted battle over an early general fee increase to an attempted eviction because of a remodel. The latest altercations appear to stem from LMI's determination to ratchet up their fee structure by targeting the special status of rental houseboats in the Equity Ordinance.

Todd Warmington, Vice President of LMI, reveals the basis for their attack on rentals with his claim that, "Moorage owners have the right to evict a rental houseboat in any case. Why shouldn't they simply evict a houseboat instead of facing a hearing over rental disputes?"

The Association disagrees with this claim. The Equity Ordinance states in Section 3.F. that rental houseboats are only subject to eviction if they are rented for more than 24 months out of any given 5 year period and even then only if the moorage owner intends to place his or her own rental in the site.

In spite of this, according to Joe Hall, President of the Tenas Chuck Homeowners Association, LMI's theory that rentals are not protected at all by the ordinance has propelled them to increase moorage fees at Tenas Chuck in a manner not permitted by the law. Specifically, they've imposed increases in moorage fees on floating homes which were once rented even after they were again owner occupied, they've imposed increases in rented floating homes even though the floating home owner was not earning a profit on the rental, and they've attempted to impose higher fees upon the transfer of ownership of floating homes by requiring prospective purchasers to sign a "Receipt and Understanding" which specifies a fee increase.

In a letter to Warmington on these issues, James Fearn, Assistant City Attorney, warned that, "In our opinion none of these practices are permitted by the Floating Homes Ordinance and any moorage fee imposed pursuant to such procedures would be void. Furthermore, any effort to collect such fees would, in our opinion, constitute a violation of the Ordinance subject to the enforcement provisions of Section 15."

Unfortunately, the current wording of Section 10, which governs moorage fees for rentals, somewhat inexplicably requires that both parties agree to a hearing over a dispute before the hearing can be held. That is, a moorage owner can block a hearing over his

Continued on Page 2



Photo by Bill Keasler

Rob Marritz owns a houseboat on the Tenas Chuck moorage. He took the position at the Section 10 hearing in January that, "We agree that LMI should be a profit making operation. We just feel that the fee increases should be governed by ordinance."

### Floating Homes Association's 24th ANNUAL MEETING 8:00 PM, Wednesday, April 23 ST. PATRICK'S PARISH HALL

BUSINESS MEETING INCLUDING:

18 FOOT HEIGHT LIMIT  
PROPOSED HOUSEBOAT FREEZE  
INSURANCE CANCELLATIONS CRISIS

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SOCIAL HOUR WITH COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS

## Houseboat Equity Ordinance

increase by simply not agreeing to it. As a result, a recent unilateral petition to the Hearing Examiner for review of a fee increase by home owner Gary DeRosa was dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

To correct this situation, the Floating Homes Association has submitted the text of a "clarification" of Section 10 to the City Council for their consideration.

As it has evolved, the revised language accomplishes three things: 1. it allows either party to petition the hearing examiner over disputes, 2. it clarifies what constitutes a profit in rentals and how much of it the moorage owner is entitled to (half), and 3. it provides that the moorage fee return to the owner occupied rate after the floating home ceases to be a rental.

In early January a hearing on the proposed amendments was called by City Council Land Use Committee chairman Jim Street. Street, and committee members Virginia Galle and Paul Kraabel, heard testimony from Warmington, Hall, Bill Keasler and several tenants on the Texas Chuck dock including Tom Stockley, DeRosa, Pete Musselwhite, Rob Marritz and Donna White.

Street's Committee finally acted on the proposal at the end of March. They accepted all three recommendations in essentially the form proposed by the Association. The preliminary language has been sent to the Law Department for final drafting and will be passed out of committee to the full council "soon," according to Street's Assistant Frank Kirk.

## Report Seaplane Noise

by Tom Susor

Seaplane traffic is expected to double this summer in flights from Lake Union to Sydney Harbor for the 1986 B.C. Exposition.

Start NOW to register complaints. Whenever you are disturbed, awakened by departing float planes, or observe unsafe operations, note the time, day, style of airplane if you can, colors, identification number, direction of travel and whether departing or arriving.

Call one or preferably all of the following complaint phone numbers. Your calls are counted and can influence float plane activities more than you may think. Call every time you are bothered. Have your family call. Have your neighbors call. Decreased or no use of these complaint lines will be taken to indicate that there are no problems!

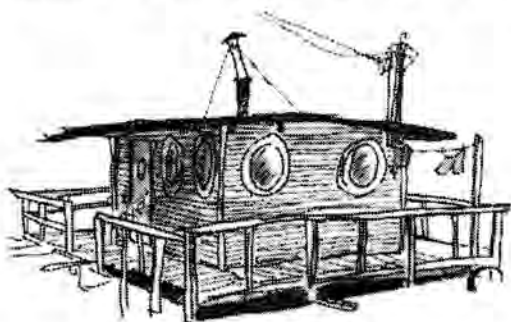
HOT LINE 433-5393

FAA 431-2738

KC Health Department 587-2722

SPD Harbor Patrol 625-4312

!! ACTION -- CALL IN YOUR NOISE COMPLAINTS !!



### NEWSLETTER

Official publication of the Floating Homes Association. Address all communications to the office, 2329 Fairview Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98102. Phone 325-1132.

## SMP Revision Begins

After a substantial delay in the process caused by attention to other land use issues, the City Council's Land Use Committee is finally bearing down on the city's revision of its Shorelines Master Program (SMP).

The SMP regulates development along Seattle's 90 miles of shoreline. State law requires that municipalities enact legislation to govern land and water use within their boundaries. In response to this requirement, the first version of the SMP was passed in 1977. It has only had minor amendments since. The current process contemplates a nearly complete rewrite of the document.

The Land Use Committee, chaired by Jim Street, called for comments on the Mayor's draft proposal in early March. The Floating Homes Association responded by submitting a detailed analysis of three sections of the proposal: the "freeze" on the total number of houseboats, an increase in the permitted height of houseboat remodels from 16 feet to 18 feet, and a request to allow houseboats moorages in CM zones.

The freeze proposal language is already in the draft document. It would freeze the number of allowed floating homes in the city of Seattle to the number which existed at some to-be-determined date in 1985. New houseboats could be introduced into the city limits only if an old houseboat is demolished or removed from the city. The identities of existing houseboats would be tied to their King County Assessor (KCA) number.

The Association believes that the freeze proposal is a substantial concession to the notion held by federal, state and local bureaucracies that houseboats are a non water-dependant use. In fact, it simply acknowledges and institutionalizes the current situation. In return, the freeze would tend to have the effect of making another site available for an evicted home owner in the event a moorage owner wanted to move their own houseboat into the site. Presumably, the moorage owner's houseboat would have to come from somewhere. It would also preserve some of the value of an evicted houseboat independantly of its moorage. The apparent value of an evicted houseboat is now around a few thousand dollars.

In response to a poll of the membership taken last fall, the Association is also asking that the height limit on remodels, replacements and relocations of houseboats on non-conforming docks be raised to 18 feet. This change can be accomplished by a few text changes making a few "16's" into "18's". Although some felt that the proposal should have included bonuses for more interesting rooflines, it was decided to keep things simple in the interest of political expediency.

Finally, the Association took exception to the exclusion of houseboats in the Urban Maritime environmental overlay. Substantial sections of Lake Union are set aside for this designation (see map). The purpose of UM is to provide marine related businesses and industry areas where they wouldn't have to compete for land with restaurants, apartments, offices and similar high profit developments. Marine Power and Equipment on Northlake would be the classic example of a permitted use.

However, because of the proposed freeze, the danger of floating homes taking over the lake won't exist. If any increase in moorage at all is to take place in these areas, it will be accompanied by an equal reduction of houseboat moorage somewhere else in the city. Since floating homes are thus severely restricted already, elimination of such substantial sections of the only area remaining open to them as potential "safe harbor" seems to us to be going too far.

The Land Use Committee has published a schedule which indicates that their consideration of the text and its associated map should be done by mid-September. After full council consideration in October, the document will be sent to the state Department of Ecology. Upon DOE's approval, it will become law.



# PCB Oil at Steamplant To Be Decontaminated

by Ellen Hansen

In April 1984, after a minor spill occurred at the Lake Union Steam Plant, Seattle City Light discovered that the oil in the tanks was mildly contaminated with PCB's, exceeding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) threshold of 50 parts per million (ppm) by 25 ppm. City Light notified the EPA and set up a citizen's committee to advise the utility how best to dispose of the oil. The citizen's committee was made up of: four Eastlake residents, including myself as chair and Jim Knight and Ruth Coffin, both floating home residents; two environmental health experts, one geneticist, one representative of the Toxics Coalition, and the Boeing Company's Hazardous Waste Manager.

At its first meeting in September, 1984, the committee for the first time realized the enormity of the problem it faced: an unprecedented volume of oil (811,000 gallons) of unusual density (Bunker C, rather than light weight transformer oil), mildly contaminated (75 ppm instead of several hundred ppm), located in the middle of Seattle. In addition, EPA regulations required disposal or decontamination of the oil in one year, by April 1985, or City Light would be liable for up to \$25,000 per day in fines.

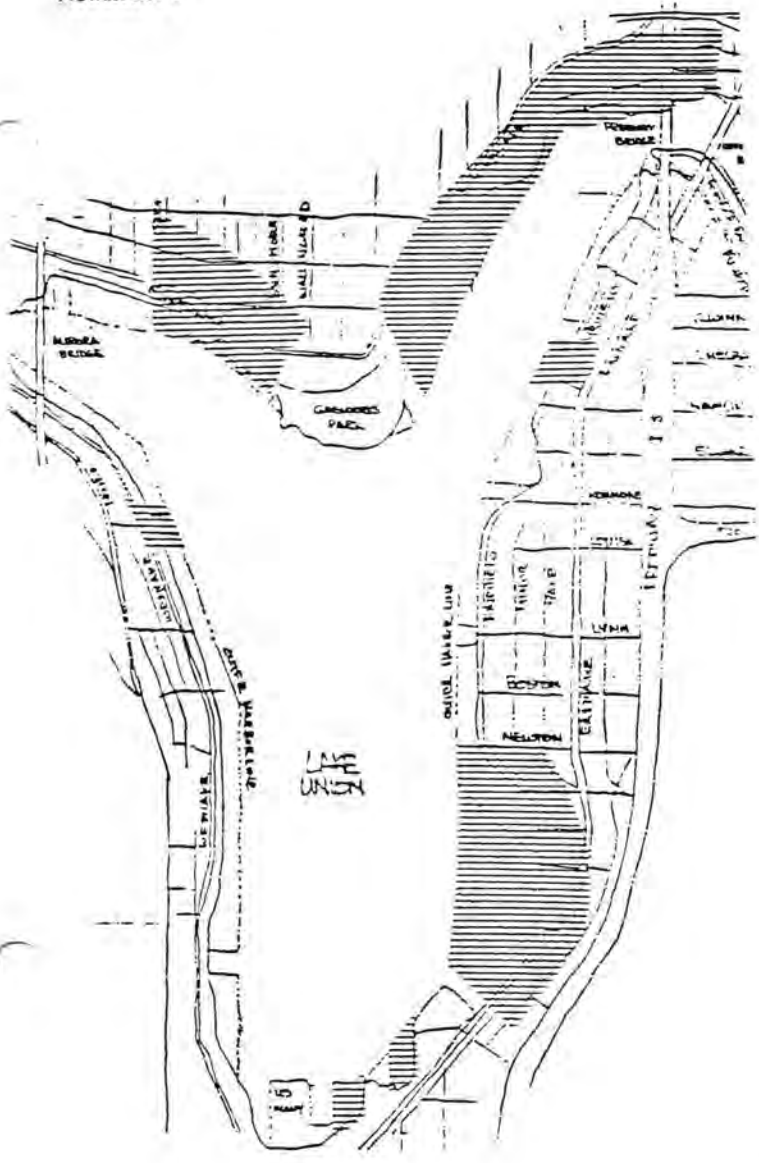
Furthermore, EPA only recognized certain disposal or decontamination methods as legal. If decontamination were chosen, the oil must be decontaminated below 2 ppm. Diluting the oil below 50 ppm was not allowed by the EPA; nor could City Light sell the oil for use outside the United States.

The Committee began with the idea that the oil should be taken out of the neighborhood as quickly as possible, but soon discovered:

- (1) no outside facility was prepared to take such a large amount;
- (2) moving the oil could pose a risk to the environment.

For these reasons, the committee finally settled on on-site disposal or decontamination as the best approach, and looked at four methods: bacterial decontamination, sodium decontamination, burning in a portable incinerator brought onto the site, and retrofitting the Steam Plant in order for it to qualify as a high efficiency boiler and burning the oil in the retrofitted facility.

After a trial attempt showed the bacterial decontamination would not reduce the level of PCB contamination to the required threshold of below 2 ppm, the committee was left with three on-site options. In early January of this year, the committee agreed the sodium decontamination appeared feasible and endorsed that alternative, with transport to a now-available out-of-state incinerator as a fall-back, but only if sodium decontamination fails. Target date for completion of the project is now April 1, 1987.



This map shows the location of areas designated "Urban Maritime" in the Mayor's proposed Shorelines Master Program. This designation now prohibits houseboat moorages. The Association has proposed language to the City Council which would permit houseboat moorages in these areas outright.

## Members Say 18 Feet

Over a year ago, the Association got a signal from the Department of Construction and Land Use that they would go along with a proposal to raise the height limit on houseboat remodels from sixteen feet to eighteen feet. After a rather extended and heated discussion over how to present this to the membership, the Executive Committee decided to conduct a poll.

There were only two questions: 1. Are your dues current? (We required that they be current before counting the ballot) and 2. Which do you prefer, sixteen feet or eighteen feet?

The response was very enthusiastic. From a little under 300 members, 91 ballots were returned. 31 voted for sixteen feet, 60 voted for eighteen feet.

On the basis of this, the Executive Committee resolved to propose the change to eighteen feet in the new SMP. If all goes well, the new limit should be law by the end of 1986.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* 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 \*  
 \* \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*



## COLD SNAP CLAIMS A HOUSEBOAT

Photo by Richard Droker

The first of December was a long night before the dawn on Wandesford's dock, 2035-37 Fairview. Morning showed Ed and Karen Hayes' houseboat sunk to the floorboards and listing by 45 degrees.

A combination of heavy, wet snow on the roof and a few new styrofoam logs caused their barge to begin to list more and more. No one noticed at home because the renters had moved out a week or so earlier when the pipes froze. Just after dark the night before this photo was taken, Gert Eva next door heard sounds she described as, "Phhfft! Whoosh! Phhfft! Whoosh!" She remarked later that, "I really didn't want to know what

those noises were."

They were styrofoam logs popping out from under the barge. With each that went the boat sank a little lower. Soon, two police boats were on the scene with their big pumps, trying to keep the floor above water. Most everybody on the dock turned out in the middle of the night to help move furniture and appliances. George Johnston arrived with his rig to try to refloat the houseboat, and by first light it looked like things were going to be ok.

It finally tipped again, though, and they decided that was it. Recently, Ed arranged for someone to tow the barge away. He says they'll rebuild.

## UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE

### PERKINS DEBT RETIRED

The Floating Homes Association is virtually debt free for the first time in nearly six years. During these years the Association has run up substantial legal bills with the firms of Perkins, Coie; Culp, Dwyer; and Sax and MacIver for support of our various campaigns to ensure the security of our members' homes.

As late as last November our outstanding balance with the three firms totaled over \$18,000.

The Perkins bill has been especially troubling because it has ranged up to \$40,000, and we've never seemed to be able to get it much below \$20,000. Over the years we've paid Perkins alone nearly \$75,000.

However, through the efforts of the Fundraising Committee and their 1985 Auction, plus a great year for donations, we were able to propose mutually acceptable cashouts of all our legal accounts.

### TOUR PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER

The Fundraising Committee has announced that the Floating Homes Association's "Annual Tour of Homes" will be held on September 14th this year.

Marty Gardner, Phil Webber and Jim Knight have

been working out the preliminary details. Their idea is to have a tour which includes homes on both Westlake and Fairview.

### THE PEOPLE'S LISTING SERVICE

Brenda and Phil Webber, who live on the Nesica Chuck Co-op on Westlake, are offering a bulletin board-like service for those interested in moving into or out of floating homes. They are willing to act as a clearinghouse for anyone thinking of selling or renting or looking for a roommate or, conversely, anyone trying to buy, rent or share a houseboat.

Remarkably enough, the Webbers are doing it for free because they "saw a need and decided to fill it."

They ask that interested parties give them a call at 282-2423.

### LOG FOUNDATION PAYS DUES

Setting what we hope is a trend, the Log Foundation Co-op (2017-25 Fairview) voted last October to pay the dues for all their members in a block. A few of the obvious benefits of this are massive reductions in the hassle factors for both the Association and the Foundation and a much needed chunk of cash at a critical time for the Association. Many thanks to the members of the Log Foundation.



## Matters of Concern

by Bill Keasler

An Update item elsewhere in this Newsletter announces that the Association is debt free for the first time in almost six years.

This remarkable accomplishment is the result of endless hours of volunteer time and a burning conviction among the membership that the huge bills we accumulated over these years should be paid off.

It is also the result of impressive support by direct donations and some boffo special events.

But most of all, it is because of Dr Jim Knight.

The warm glow of accomplishment we felt after the 1980 version of the Equity Ordinance passed the city council — it was the first one with mandatory arbitration of moorage fees — quickly faded after it was discovered that the financial position of the Association was actually very grave. The Perkins, Coie law firm, as it turned out, had saved up their bills through the summer's legislative process. When they finally totaled it all up and sent us their invoice in the fall, it came to over \$18,000!

About that same time we had a decision from the State Supreme Court which overturned some sections of the old ordinance, which then began another round of legislation in the council. Hardly had we caught our breath from that when we were hit with a sneak attack in Olympia. And so it went ...

Soon, our total outstanding debt approached \$40,000 even though we were paying it off at a \$1200 per month clip.

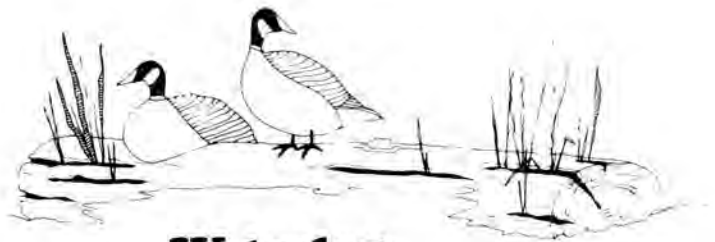
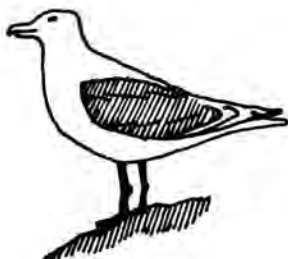
Into this stepped the intrepid Dr Knight. His idea was that the Association needed a special group dedicated to raising money so that the Association's Executive Committee could concentrate on policy and politics. Thus was born the Fundraising Committee.

Jim thinks big. His group's first major effort resulted in the Pete Seeger concert which raised almost \$9,000. There followed fund drives, tours, parties and auctions. Typically, the Committee organized two or three major events a year. However, last year at this time we were still \$25,000 in the hole. Today, after a good year of contributions and Marty Gardner's incredible auction, we're finally free and clear.

Jim in action reminds me of Tom Sawyer white-washing a fence. Somehow, it almost seems a privilege to be working on one of his projects. Most of us have been persuaded to give a hand here or there, now and then. He's gently prodded us and, look, we've done something most of us figured we could never do. We probably even enjoyed it.

He'll say there were a lot of helping hands. He'll list the people who made the contributions and who gave the time. Sure, ours is a group which gives a lot.

But this one's for you, Jim.  
Thanks.



## Waterlog

by Sheri Lockwood

Other media are plagued by what they term "slow news days" where nothing much note worthy happens. They often respond by reporting anything odd. Our publication, especially this column, suffers through "slow news months," February being the worst. Calls to sources offer responses such as, "No, I can't think of a thing," or "Well, I haven't seen my neighbors much lately," to "Who did you say you were again?" Anything odd can save other reporters, but oddness seems to be this column's stock in trade ... making dull February a killer. But you've eyed your neighbors through the fog, mist, drizzle and snow, so I'm sure you're as confident as I that they can be counted on to provide a column's worth of oddness. And we're right ...

In December Jim Knight, 2025 FV sent us all a great Christmas present. His letter informed us that our various projects had finally paid our looming legal fees. His joy and enthusiasm overflowed at the annual Christmas party and the boogie took over. Fellow partiers likened him to Mr. Bojangles, Fred Astaire and Tevye from "Fiddler on the Roof". Terpsichorean feats aside, we owe a heartfelt thanks to the creative and hardworking Financial Committee ... Phil and Brenda Webber's little newsletter reporting houseboats for sale and rent is a hit. The purpose is to provide knowledgeable and informed advice to prospective docksters. Since it is also prompting real estate agents to seek information and be better informed, it is more than meeting its goals. Spring and summer are when houseboats sell best, so if you're looking for a houseboat to buy or rent or want to sell or rent, you should call Phil or Brenda at 282-2423. The Webbers are doing this as a service to the community and it's totally non-profit. They saw a need and filled it. They have also been able to help those seeking roomates ... But this item really isn't odd enough — so check the accompanying photo to see how the Webbers move from one houseboat to another.



Photo by Marty Gardner

Phil and Brenda enlist family and friends to help with a temporary move to another houseboat up the street. Rafts and rowboats transport their possessions the easy way.



... Raccoon prints are reappearing but beaver sightings are down, perhaps all that chicken wire just got too discouraging ... a red-breasted merganser was sighted at 2031 FV and the grebes have begun that peculiar tin whistle call ... if you haven't yet witnessed their spectacular "dancing across the water" mating ritual, the little Lynn Street Park across from Pete's Grocery Store on Fairview is a pretty good vantage point ... any others?

The new co-op on 2460 Westlake is to be known as "Nesica Chuck," that's "Our Water" in the language of the original Lake Union Indians ... the new co-op at the Phoenix Moorage, 2351 FV, is still called Phoenix Moorage ... after years of saying they are going to change their name to something prettier, Dox Co-op (2219-2235 FV) is still Dox Co-op ... the co-op at 2017-19-25 FV is called the "Log Foundation."

In answer to a question posed in the last "Waterlog" -- yes, even concrete docks are slippery in winter -- darn -- just when we thought paving was good for something. Donations from the community provided a small vacation at Ocean Crest Resort in Moclips for Edwin and Emily Upton at G&H Printing who have been so helpful with the Newsletter and other Association projects and who are retiring ... Jim Burkes at 2019 FV suggests that we name that mean tempered pair of domestic geese who have claimed ownership of the east side of the lake. He suggests that their names should fit their personalities -- or lack of it. The "Waterlog" is anticipating -- expletive deleted (Hey, there's a couple names already!) -- lots of suggestions. Readers can vote on the best ... Gene and Elizabeth Johnson of 2600 FV have moved to their island retreat. They built an authentic Tennessee log cabin in the San Juans. Henrieta, the goose they provided with a miniature houseboat, seems to have left with them. After living on Lake Union for 15 years maybe she just needed a change ...



Tom Stockley, 2331 FV, our favorite wine authority who does a column for the Times was recently Judging Chairman for a major west coast Wine judging in Reno, Nevada. The Wine Adventure Wine Show featured over 400 fine wines with judges from across the US ... Tom Susor, 1409 Boat, is representing our community in SNAG, a new group monitoring aircraft noise around the lake. He would be interested in hearing comments, or from those interested in setting up monitoring equipment, or he can provide information on meetings ... Marty and Dave Gardner, 2460 WL, have purchased an 85 foot boat and plan to cater charters in the near future ... The world traveling Lang family are father and son neighbors on 2235 FV and busy screen printers at their shop Two Dimensions. Father, Lee Lang, and Melanie Hester took a November break to Haiti (before Baby Doc left). They reportedly did not contract the dreaded "lime thigh" skin condition that some Club Med visitors have been known to suffer. They have recently returned from skiing in northern Italy. Son, Jeff Lang, has journeyed to eastern Canada, Lake Placid and Red Deer, Alberta in the last few months as an official for international freestyle ski meets ...

Speaking of Baby DOX: David Orin Smith joined the Dox Co-op on February 17, 1986. His proud parents are Michael "Butch" Smith and Elise Ernst. Meanwhile, little Langston Biko Tabor, born December 28, 1985, must have scuba diving, ship captaining or oceanography in his destiny. He left one comfortable floating existence

## THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 16TH

by Marty Gardner

Twas a dark and stormy night,  
the wind blew with force and might,  
just about midnight we heard a cry;  
as adrift in the channel a houseboat passed by.

We jumped to our feet,  
threw on our hats,  
and scrambled & stumbled  
all over the cats.

We dashed down the dock dragging chains & rope -  
I was still in my jammies -  
I'd forgotten my coat!

There was shoutin' & hollerin',  
a curse word or two,  
and lines were thrown,  
tho' not always on cue.

The police boat came by  
as quick as a wink,  
and about that time  
someone fell in the drink.

It seemed like hours  
of grunt, pull, and tug;  
But with so much support,  
we soon had her snug.

It was 1:00 a.m.  
when we sloshed home all wet  
with warm thoughts of neighbors  
and houseboaters,  
you bet!

## Waterlog

for another as he was born aboard a houseboat to parents Abbie and Langston "Biko" Tabor at 2339 FV.

Jay Gelzer and Jorn Ireland, 2335 FV, were married December 6, 1985. It's interesting that Jay married an Ireland, as she is a member of "White Hart." They play beautiful celtic and medieval music. For a treat see them perform at the YWCA Friendship Hall for Applejam in Olympia on April 25th ... Longtime news "source" Jeff Acorn wed Wendy Kinderfather on March 22. Congratulations, Jeff and Wendy ...

Andy Walkover, 2235 FV, initiated a letter writing campaign on the Dox Co-op objecting to the 29 unit, 4 story apartment building proposed on Fairview. Objections included size in relation to other neighborhood structures, view blocking, traffic and parking considerations and generally lack of sensitivity for neighborhood concerns .. it behooves all of us to get involved in the processes changing our neighborhoods. The Eastlake Community Council needs new members to help fight this kind of assault. They have hired attorney Peter Eglick to represent Eastlake at hearings and to voice our concerns on development issues. Donations are tax deductible. If you can help, call ECC President Carol Eychaner at 324-1716 or Kim Travenick at 329-6412. I know other neighborhoods are facing similar development problems. Please call me if you'd like them mentioned in the "Waterlog" ...



Photo by Marty Gardner

No, those aren't little flying saucers watching Dave Gardner, 2460 Westlake, and John Sush, Gove's Cove, rescue a houseboat. They're just spots on the photo. Dave and John were two of the late-night volunteers who helped lasso and tie down the floating home which broke loose from its moorings during the January 16th storm.

## Waterlog

**WELCOME ABOARD:** Fellow docksters would like to welcome Stanley Andreason on Phoenix Moorage 2351 FV ... and Sam and Kathy Salzinger on 2019 FV. The Salzingers are owners of the beautiful, Victorian Bed and Breakfast establishment in Anacortes known as the Channel House. It was built by an Italian count in 1902 and is well worth a stop and a stay ... Leslie Rubicam is carrying on the family tradition. She recently purchased her mom's houseboat on 2025 FV. Martha Rubicam is now living in Venice, CA ... Rome Doherty and his daughter Megan are welcomed on 2031 FV ... 1214 Hamlin welcomes Debbie and David Lycette and Zac and Sharlene Elander ... Carol and Jack Hilton are now members of the Dox Co-op at 2219-35 FV.



Most of us survived the two week freeze (plumbing fixtures not included) except Karen and Ed Hayes. Their houseboat sank under the snow. Most all of us survived the big wind storm this year. Jamie and Bob Cohen, 2460 WL, are the exception. On that fateful night, Jamie woke Bob with the slight understatement, "Bob, I think we're moving." Most houseboaters become accustomed to seeing the outside "terrain" moving past their windows, but this was the real thing. They'd broken loose. Neighbors Marty and Dave Gardner and Sheri and Don Mohlman leaped to the rescue. Unfortunately, Don may have overleaped because his efforts landed him in the freezing and frothing drink.

(Isn't it nice to know that we're not the only ones who have suffered this kind of rude awakening ... ) At any rate, as the Cohen's home was making for the Gas Works -- "We couldn't believe a houseboat could move that fast!" -- and the electrical lines were the only obstacle impeding its break for the high seas, the intrepid docksters managed to "sort of lasso" the critter and tether it to its home "paddock." While other communities face neighbors leaving their homes, they don't usually see the house leaving -- with the neighbors. Living afloat is nothing if not unique, caring neighbors continue to make it especially so. Marty Gardner even wrote a little poem about this adventure for the Newsletter.

Is your dock or your neighbors continually overlooked by the "Waterlog?" It may be because I have no "source" from your dock. Who knows the scoop on 2201 FV, Roanoke Reef, and 2764-68 WL? Send a note to the Floating Homes office if you can help ... Friend of houseboaters Larry Hall wonders if anyone would like to purchase his pre-1895, porcelain, hydraulic, Koken barber chair -- he can be reached at 789-5955 or at North Seattle Community College where he teaches psychology.

On the off chance that any of you would like to take a break from the upcoming sunshine and tell me about happenings on your docks, call me at 322-4536 or write c/o the Floating Homes Association's office.





## TERRY PETTUS PARK

Photo by Phil Webber

This is a view overlooking the street-end park on Fairview at the foot of Newton. As of mid September, this park has officially been named TERRY PETTUS PARK, according to Walt Hundley, Director of the Seattle Parks Department. Terry was among the founders of the Floating Homes Association and ran the organization for twenty years before retiring in 1980. He helped in the community effort to establish and build this park and

lived the last thirty years of his life on Wandesford's dock about a block away. Terry died in November of 1984 at the age of 80.

Although nothing definite has been planned yet, there seems to be some sentiment for a dedication ceremony. The Parks Department would require a permit, but would otherwise have no problem with a community organized affair.

## IN MEMORIUM

### ELMER NELSON

Longtime houseboat resident Elmer Nelson died January 25, 1986. He was born July 22, 1911 in White, S. Dakota, and moved to the Seattle area in 1919. He had his own boat yard and worked in various shipyards and marinas in the area. During the 1930's he was a bush pilot in Alaska. He moved onto a houseboat in 1961 and a true houseboat romance developed. He married Barbara Nelson, one of the Association's charter members in 1964. Elmer retired from Lockheed Shipyards twelve years ago. He is survived by his wife Barbara (2420 Westlake) and daughters Carol Howard, Lake Boren; Karen Nelson, Bothell; and Carla Peterson, Seattle; and seven grandchildren. His family and many friends miss him deeply.

### FRANK PARRETT

Frank Parrett (2219 Fairview E.) had lived aboard houseboats for over thirty years. He was born January 22, 1907 and passed away July 7, 1985. His house was originally moored on the canal at the Henderson Moorage on Ewing Street and later moved to what is now the Dox Co-op on Fairview. He was Chief Aviation radioman with the US Navy and also worked for the Times, the P-I, Boeing, and Todd Shipyards. Friends

and neighbors especially miss his railtop flower garden, his kindness to dock pets and his gentle manner. He was a member of the Basenji Club with his dog Rex, a Mason a ham operator, boater, camper and fisherman. He will be remembered as a good neighbor and friend, a cheerful wealth of houseboat history (his moorage costs in 1957 were \$12.70 per month and he had the receipt book to prove it). We will all miss him.

### THEODORA NINESTEEL

After her retirement in 1972, Theodora "Ted" Ninesteel (2037 Fairview) visited her longtime friend and colleague, Elizabeth Jackson, and was introduced to Seattle houseboat living. She returned in 1975 to room with Elizabeth as they had done in New York when they both worked on the national staff of the YWCA. Ted embraced houseboat life with vigor. She hooked fish off the front porch and gardened with glorious results. Ted enjoyed the local wildlife and said she retired in Seattle rather than her hometown because "there are no ducks on the streets of Philadelphia." Ted felt very strongly about issues of social justice, particularly civil liberties. She posted a copy of the Bill of Rights on the door every 4th of July. Ted volunteered for the KING Auction NW consumer assistance program, and often made up to 100 calls a week for the Puget Sound Blood Bank. Theodora was born September 22, 1910, and died June 19, 1985. We miss her.