

Special Jubilee Newsletter Edition



NUMBER 105

Newsletter

JULY 1987

Floating Homes Association Marks 25th Year

Plans for the Floating Homes Association's 25th Anniversary Jubilee are crystalizing rapidly. Chairpersons Jim Knight and Marty Gardner have worked out many of the details of the weekend event. They are now calling for participants and volunteers. The special art projects commissioned by the Association for the event are also on schedule.

The Jubilee will be loosely organized around a street fair to be held on Fairview between Boston and Newton. We are applying for a permit to close the street during the afternoons of the 19th and 20th of September. There is room for about 50 booths with art and craft sales, food vendors, community politickers and perhaps a juggler or a music group or two. The Mayor and other dignitaries will help dedicate Pettus Park. There will be a special edition of the Duck Dodge on Sunday. Five Floating Homes will open for touring by the public. Yahoo.

NEED MORE BOOTHS

According to Marty Gardner, who's organizing the street fair part of the Jubilee, we already have firm commitments from a number of groups to run booths. Among the food vendors are the Bratwurst House, the Flying Potato and an espresso outfit. Other vendors include basket weavers, hand painters of clothing and printmakers. Rabble-rousing will be conducted by the Eastlake Community Council. But we need more!

If you or someone you know are expert at a unique, high quality craft or can run a booth selling tasty fairground food, please apply as soon as possible. All craft items must be original and the work of the seller's group.

Booth sizes will be 8'x10', and there is a \$40.00 registration fee. Vendors are responsible for their own licenses, permits and taxes. Information for food vendors is available from the Seattle-King County Health Department. Tax information is available, toll free, at 1-800-562-8203, Olympia. Your permits must be available or posted each day of the festival.

Call Marty at 284-6024 or 325-1132 for information or vendor applications.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

Owners of five floating homes have agreed to open their houseboats to the public for the tour. The idea is to charge \$5.00 for access to the docks and the homes. We have a hunch there will be a lot of takers.

Jim Knight says that this will be a bigger effort than a normal tour of homes because of all the rest of the activities, so we'll need lots of volunteers. He's looking for team leaders especially. We have to set up the spaces, run our own FHA/Information booth, sell tour tickets, monitor dock entries and houses, clean it all up and tear it all down. On the days of the festival, people will be assigned 3 to 4 hour shifts. If past events are any indication, these stints will probably be more fun than work.

Jim's phone is 329-7530 or 325-1132.

COTTAGE INDUSTRY

The Association is accumulating quite an array of floating homes paraphenalia which we can sell at events such as these. Items already in stock include cookbooks, posters, t-shirts, history books and buttons. Two more projects have been commissioned and should be ready by September.

Rick Becker is designing new t-shirt art. The old rainbow colored design, "Bringing A Little Color to Seattle", was very successful; but it has been around since 1982. Rick plans to submit three new designs to the Executive Committee at its mid-July meeting.

The Committee will pick one or more and then publish enough shirts to meet the anticipated heavy demand at the Jubilee.

Phil Webber and Marcia Tobin are finalizing their photo piece on houseboats designed to answer the question, "What are they, anyway?" often asked by out-of-towners, etc. Phil was up in a helicopter early this month taking the long shots of the whole lake. Marcia has already started layout.

The brochures should also be ready for sale at the Jubilee and will available to members at cost.

Photo by Phil Webber

High Water

Perhaps you've been wondering about the recent high level of the lake. If so, you aren't alone. Sam Sulzinger on 2019 Fairview has watched with alarm as the water has crept within an inch of the top of the dock's sewer tank. He called the Association to find out what could be done.

Not much, it seems. According to a Mr Esko, Project Engineer for the Corps of Engineers at the locks, the permissible levels were set by an act of Congress in 1916.

The Corps regulates the water level by setting the height of the spillway at the locks. A yearly cycle begins after Labor Day when the height is set to 20 feet (as measured on a stick in Salmon Bay), "to minimize storm damage during the winter." Then around mid-February, they bring it up to 21.85 feet to hold as much of the spring run-off as possible. Thereafter, the Corps, Metro and the city watch conditions; and, "if they feel the area will need water during the summer, we go up to 22 feet and hold it as long as we can."

The lake is at the 22 foot level now (early July) and will probably slowly start to fall. A Mr Briggs, who's a lockmaster, allowed as how a surge passes through every once in a while and the level is a little higher for an hour or so. He also said they check the level two or three times a day



Fremont Fair

Marcia Tobin and Brenda Webber chat with fairgoers strolling past the Association's booth at the recent Fremont Fair. We have had a booth at the Fremont community's street fair, held in June every year, for the last three years.

Our members use the opportunity to spread the word about our special way of life and to hawk a few t-shirts, books and other "cottage industry" items. This year as in the past, our booth was a great success. People always seem hungry for information about houseboats. Nearly everyone who stops has a story about when they -- or a friend or their weird uncle -- had a houseboat back when.

It's good public relations and a lot of fun.

Other members helping out with the booth were Connie Jump, Keith and Sherry Lockwood, Phil Webber, Tim Hubble and Christy Robinson.



Floating Homes Association 25th Anniversary Jubilee

Saturday, September 19th

noon Festival Opens
 noon - 5 Home Tour
 noon - 6 Booths Open
 1,2,3,4 Entertainment
 6 Festival Closes

Sunday, September 20th

noon Festival Opens
 noon - 5 Home Tour
 noon - 5 Booths Open
 2 Park Dedication
 2 - 4 Duck Dodge
 12,1,3,4 Entertainment
 5 Festival Closes

SMP Signed, Sealed, Delivered

Seattle's new Shorelines Master Program was passed by the full City Council and signed by Mayor Royer in June. It has been sent to the State Department of Ecology for approval.

The new SMP contains a complete revision of the city's laws governing floating homes, among other things, and includes "Safe Harbor," the 18-foot limit, and new zoning. It also grandfathers all houseboats still in the sites they occupied in 1977.

The measure doesn't become law until it's reviewed by the state, a process which city and state officials agree probably won't be complete until early fall. If the state objects to any provisions, approval may be delayed until the Council can come up with language upon which both the city and the state can agree.

Floating Homes Association Executive Committee Roster for 1987-1988: Bill Keasler, President; Mike Roberts, Vice-President; June Fauchald, Secretary; Ed Waddington, Treasurer; Barbara Nelson, Ellen Hansen, Phil Webber, Trustees; Jann McFarland, Barbara LeFebvre, Beth Means, Connie Jump, Marty Gardner, Chuck Koines, Susan Susor, Members-at-Large.