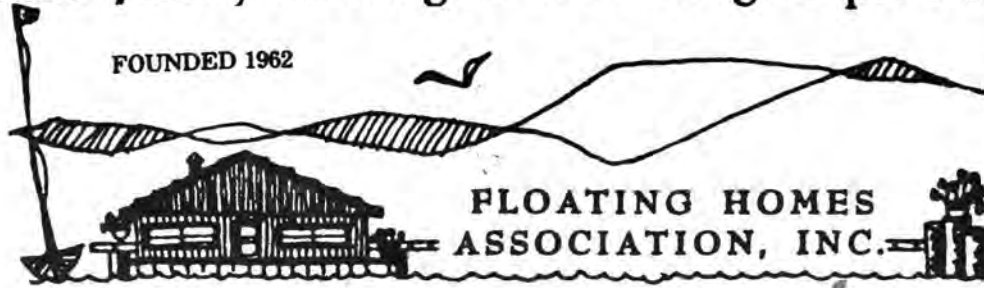


# Another Jeffrey Moorage Fee Hearing Sept. 5th

FOUNDED 1962



FLOATING HOMES  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phones: 325-1132 or 329-1517

NUMBER 82

*Newsletter*

JULY-AUGUST 1979

## "THE REEF" TO COME BUMBLING DOWN



This aerial photo by Jonathan Ezekiel provides a bird's eye view of the block-long "Roanoke Reef" platform and super-structure which buries more than an acre of water surface between Roanoke and Edgar Sts.

Eight years of controversy and litigation over a concrete shroud, that buries more than an acre of Lake Union, seems headed for a happy ending. The property, a mecca for "eye-sore watchers," has been purchased by a developer who plans an installation that will not only meet the rigid requirements of shoreland legislation but will be sensitive to the environment and the community.

The concrete "reef" and some superstructure is all that was completed of a proposed 112-unit condominium which started in a storm of controversy in 1971. A suit brought by the Eastlake Community Council, the Floating Homes Association and the State Department of Ecology finally prevailed. The state supreme court held the building permit invalid. The developers sued the city and were awarded and collected \$2.8 million in damages. A series of skirmishes ended in the spring of 1978 when all parties agreed to the hiring of a consultant to try to find a use which would conform to law and have a minimum adverse impact on the area.

The new owner, Lucile Flanagan, who heads her own real estate

Lucile Flanagan, who heads her own real estate and development business, is the new owner. She has announced that her general

(Continued Next Page)

## Home Owners Questioning \$30 Monthly Moorage Hike

Another attempt by Gordon Jeffrey for annual moorage increases at 2031 Fairview E. will be aired at a public hearing Sept. 5th in the fifth floor hearing room of the 400 Yesler Building. The hearing will begin at 6 p.m. before Attorney Peter Greenfield, named by the city as the fact finder under the procedures of the Floating Home Equity Ordinance.

Jeffrey made a substantial increase in November 1977 just before the City Council enacted the Ordinance. He sought another increase in 1978 but this was denied by Fact Finder Philip Burton. In June he sent out notices increasing moorage fees from \$141 and \$151 to \$171 and \$181. Owners of the 15 homes at the moorage are challenging the reasonableness of the increase. Jeffrey also owns a 31-unit moorage at 2219-2235 Fairview E.



Neighboring houseboats are dwarfed by the Lake's largest floating home. It is owned by Gordon Jeffrey and straddles both end moorage sites at 2031 Fairview E. Behind it are the fifteen homes whose owners are contesting a \$30 monthly moorage hike at a hearing Sept. 5th. Such blocking of view corridors is no longer permitted. The structure is also non-conforming as to height and bulk. (Jonathan Ezekiel photo.)

## Lobbyist Fritz Accuses Association of Lobbying

Charges that the Floating Homes Association violated the public disclosure law in opposing a covert legislative attack on the Seattle Equity Ordinance, has been filed with the Public Disclosure Commission by Lobbyist Bill Fritz. Listing himself as the "legislative adviser" to the Lake Union Association, Fritz said the Association failed to "report as a grass roots lobby" and asked for a "full investigation of this matter."

A full investigation of all of Fritz's activities was asked by the Association in an August 8th meeting with David R. Clark, assistant administrator of the Commission. Association Attorney Lawrence Ransom, President Julie North and Administrative Secretary Terry Pettus told Clark all the activities of the Association and its members in responding to the covert activities of Fritz. The lobbyist tried twice to hide the anti-floating home measure on other bills as "amendments." One was defeated. The other got through only to



guidelines will be the consultant's recommendation for a combination of 20 floating homes and open boat moorages. But before the lake waters can be used they must first be liberated from the block-long platform. Demolition costs are estimated at \$800,000.00. Saying it "will not be easy to turn an environmental disaster into a community asset," Ms. Flanagan has been meeting with community groups. She praised Seattle Trust "which never questioned that it should help in a project that would be a civic asset."

Community response has been positive with offers of full cooperation. Association President Julie North said the announcement "was like the end of a very bad dream." Beth Means, past president of the Eastlake Community Council, said "I've been working on this for seven years and it's the first big break we've had. I'm pleased and I think the whole neighborhood will be pleased."

There was an audible sigh of relief at City Hall where the worlds "Roanoke Reef" have been greeted with groans. Thom Brockmiller, assistant with the Department of Community Development, summed up official reaction. "Everybody's happy," he said.

be vetoed by Governor Ray. Fritz claims that this response violates the law and asked the Commission to "prevent it from reoccurring in the future." All of the responses to this legislative attack on the local protection Ordinance were fully reported in the May-June Newsletter. Fritz's covert activities have been publically criticized by members of the legislature and Governor Ray.

The Association told Clark it wants the issue fully aired and would like answers to such questions as: (1) Who is paying Fritz and how much? (2) Is the Lake Union Association being used as a front by a small group of moorage property owners reportedly paying \$12.50 per month per houseboat into a fund to get rid of the Equity Ordinance? The officers of the Lake Union Association are Joe Burke, of the Burke Industries in Fremont and Jim Francis, president of the Lake Union Drydock Co.

Clark told the Association that he will continue his investigation by talking to legislators and others. When completed a copy will be given to the Association and it will be turned over to the five-member Public Disclosure Commission which meets monthly in Olympia.

### Newsletter

Official publication of the Floating Homes Association, 2329 Fairview Ave. E., Seattle, WA. 98102. Officers, Julie North, president; Larry Clifton, vice president; Jonathan Ezekiel, recording secretary; Dixie Pintler, treasurer; Terry Pettus, administrative secretary; Jack MacIntyre, organizational director. Trustees: Susan Drum, Eileen MacIntyre, Greg Smith, Richard Wagner, Todd Warmington. Executive Committee: Ellen Hansen, Elizabeth Johnson, Roger Johnson, Ann LeVasseur, Sandra Oellen. Candidate member: Denise Etcheson.

NEWSLETTER STAFF: Terry Pettus, Eileen MacIntyre, Marily Perry, Johnathan Ezekiel, Jann McFarland. Address communications to Association. Published bimonthly.



by Jann McFarland

July 14th marked the 10th annual Bastille Day, Pig Roast and Luau for the residents of 2025 Fairview. Luau preparation began in June with a rummage sale on the dock to raise funds to pay for the pig, kegs of beer, sangria, leis (the genuine article flown in from Hawaii) and entertainment in the form of live music. Current and former residents and invited friends participated with each other providing a special side-dish to accompany the wonderful roast pig. This year a commemorative T-shirt was available and lots of group pictures were taken for the on-going photo album that has been accumulating over the years.

A few days prior to the big event the pit oven is dug and lined with bricks. Early in the morning of the day before, a Liau fire is started and diligently maintained by the devoted pit crew whose rather warm vigil is eased by the consumption of beer and such delicacies as strawberry daquiris. In the afternoon the pig is picked up from Bill at Pete's Super and a committee of chefs prepare it for the pit.

After a very secret combination of herbs and spices has been generously rubbed into the meat, it is wrapped in lettuce leaves, corn husks, burlap and finally chicken wire. It is then reverently lowered into the fiery hot pit, covered with embers and dirt and left to slowly cook until the next afternoon. Meanwhile the dock has been decorated for the festivities. Brightly colored pennants hang from cross beams and a huge, bright red papier-mache pig, "Petunia," is hoisted aloft to dominate the scene. "Petunia" was created by some of the more artistic residents a few years ago and has become a cherished Luau symbol.

Luau Day begins early with the tapping of the first keg of beer and the emergence of a large vat of sangria. Activities include such events as swimming and diving contests, sailing regattas, baseball games and lots of talk with old friends. In mid-afternoon a procession triumphantly carries the roasted pig from the pit to the dock on a specially crafted, hand-painted litter and dishes of a food appear from the houseboats. This year a group called "Morrigan" provided Irish music which seemed most appropriate for a Bastille Day, Pig Roast and genuine Luau. As the evening progresses dessert and second and third helpings are consumed and dancing takes over with additional music from anyone with an instrument and who feels inclined to play. People gradually melt off into the night and ultimately all have gone and the dock cats come out for their own celebration and gratefully nibble on any tid bits left behind.

You aren't with it with houseboats until you have read

## SEATTLE'S UNSINKABLE HOUSEBOATS

- I. THE ORIGINS OF A WORKING LAKE: Lake Union Before the Twentieth Century.
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"Howard Droker has come up with some interesting sidelights on the city's history . . . Droker tells the story well and in the detail it deserves. His book is a valuable addition to other records of Seattle's history." Ross Cunningham, Seattle Times.

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"Some books deserve to be published . . . Such a book is "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats" . . . The book is a combination of straight history, the colorful characters houseboats have attracted over the years, the efforts of civic groups and governmental organizations to alternatively destroy and preserve them." Archie Satterfield, Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

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"An outstanding job of research and narrative." Former Mayow Wes Uhlman.

Makes a thoughtful gift for some deserving landlubber.

Send \$4.95 to the Floating Homes Association, 2329 Fairview Ave. E., Seattle, 98102. Mail orders will be filled promptly.

# Corker Family To China

NEWSLETTER 4

## Legal & Sustaining Fund



Association Attorney Bruce Corker, Lisa and daughter Jamaica, were photographed by Jonathan Ezekiel before they left August 1st for a two-year stint in the People's Republic of China. Lisa will teach at the Foreign Language Institute in Tientsin. Lawrence Ransom, an associate of Bruce in the firm of Perkins, Coie, Stone, Olsen & Williams, has taken over as Association attorney.

## Spirit of Cooperation In Dock Stringer Party

By Jann McFarland

The residents of 2025 Fairview recently again showed their community spirit when they combined their skills and experience in a project to restring and deck the houseboat of Ray Woods, a fellow dock member. This undertaking not only saved money but it also drew together all the neighbors who contributed to the effort. In the tradition of old time houseboating, several of the floating homes on this moorage have been restored by this "barn raising" practice. The people have found some real satisfaction in working together as a team and look to those with the most experience to delegate the various tasks and plan the order in which they are to be completed.

In the weeks before the actual stringer party Ray (with some help) prepared his houseboat by clearing out all the debris from underneath and pulling up old deck boards. Problems unique to Ray's house were assessed by the dock "experts" so everything was in readiness for the week end chosen for the major work party. Throughout the project Ray provided plenty of refreshing beer to fortify and re-energize the workers (especially those who had the misfortune to fall into the lake or lose tools overboard). A potluck lunch was prepared and served by those more skilled in kitchen equipment than chainsaws. The work crew was joined by several former residents who showed up to lend a hand and to experience the quiet joy of participating in a community project.

Work not completed on the designated week end was finished by smaller groups during the following evenings. Two weeks after the project began Ray's houseboat had a sound foundation and a new deck — and all the residents had a feeling of pride and a sense of a closer community. If any other dock is considering such projects the folks at 2025 would be happy to pass on what they have learned over the years.

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Elimination of all raw sewage is progressing but some shore-side establishments continue to pollute. One of these is the Lake Union Drydock, which has no facilities for manned vessels in for repairs. In contrast, all NOAA vessels connect to sewers when in port.

Contributions to the Legal & Sustaining Fund since the first of the year total \$2,545.50. Treasurer Dixie Pintler has reported to the Executive Committee.

Since the last report those contributing include: Michael Dash, Robert & Deri Sherensky, Shirley A. Thomas, Elmer & Barbara Nelson, Trish Drumbheller, Ann Helmholtz, Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Batchelder, Jack C. Alhadeff, Robert & Carole Sale, Gloria Welch, Burt & Helen Nelson, Joseph & Shirley Penn, Beth Means, Ken Hartung, Bob & Dixie Pintler, Arthur & Dolores Goodfellow, Beth F. Eisling, Kurt Johnson, Martha Rubicam, Marie Butner, Marilyn L. Kuksht, Lucille Leonhardt, Todd Warmington.

Jeffrey & Cheryl Lucas, Juliet Sauvage, Betty Smith, Terry Pettus, Mahlon Taft & Janet Seare, Ann LeVasseur, Steve & Elaine Dunphy, Tim & Deborah McNeil, Julie North, Barbara Mackaness, Sandra Oellien, George & Marion Johnson, Elsa Durham, Charles & Cora Flanagan, Lucille Flanagan, C.R. Dawson, James Mason, Robert & Dorris Joppa, Richard Barrett, Patricia Thompson, Betty Ann Morse, Laura R. Rosen, Caryl & William Keasler, Isobel C. Johnson, Constance Jump.

Philip French, Dianne Kennedy, Jann Woods, Paul Bernstein, Kathleen Rossi, Roger & Nancy Johnson, Jack & Eileen MacIntyre, Herbert & Betty Sigmund, Thomas Susor, Ron & Lois Ralph, Blaine & Solweig Hammond, Gary & Linda Oman, Richard & Irene Helfert, Robert & Joanne Harris, Kristina & Clay Eaton, Lois Loontjens, Dianne Amick, Raymond & Diana Sly, Jesse Baker, Skip & Marilyn Perry, Carl Gould & Kirk Adams, Dave Kruglinski, Mr. & Mrs. James M. Smith.

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## A Message For Members

- Those looking for floating homes have little choice but to haunt the moorages. Some find this annoying.
- Perhaps we could cut down on this traffic if we made better use of the Association as an information source.
- So this is a reminder that members can list a for sale (or even a for rent) at no cost. Write the Association or phone 329-1517.

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"I have faith in reason. I have faith in people. I have faith in the power of persuasion. I have faith in the ultimate victory of truth. I can't prove any of these things but I believe in them."

I.F. Stone.

## Cooperation Moorage Aim



Todd Warmington (foreground) and Bob Blair, participating in a moorage work party. Both are serving on a six-member elected Moorage Council.

Floating home owners and the owner of the 32-unit Tenas Chuck moorage at 2331-2339 Fairview E., are embarked on an unusual program of cooperation which shares the responsibility for the maintenance, improvement and general operation of the floating "community." Key to the endeavor is the attitude of mutual respect and confidence between Moorage Manager Dave Keyes and a six-member elected Moorage Council.

With the approval of Keyes, the Council has taken over the responsibility for finding solutions to two nagging problems — parking and boat moorage. Not all the difficulties have been resolved but a lot of progress has been made. The moorage has a 12-car off street parking lot across Fairview Ave. (This is unusual among the old houseboat moorages.) Over the years it had become something of a dump and for the storage of out-of-service vehicles. Work parties cleaned up the area and fixed up designated parking spaces. The lot is operated by the Council which charges a nominal monthly fee. This has helped to relieve some of the street parking congestion in the area.

The Council is now coming to grips with the boat moorage problems which results from too many boats and too little space. There is simply not room for every household to moor a pleasure boat. A boat policy has been drafted and approved by the residents (who meet regularly) and Manager Keyes. On August 11th a work party repaired the stairway and laid concrete to improve the moorage entrance. Not all problems have been resolved but there is a general feeling that this is the way to go.

Jonathan Ezekiel

## Living Afloat

By Eileen MacIntyre

Although houseboats may not be able to grow quantities of vegetables in their backyards (although there are a few floating "pea patches") we can catch our own dinner. Among other things, summer means crayfish and there is seemingly an unlimited number available for the catching. You can get a crayfish pot from Marshal's at prices ranging from \$15.00 to \$22.00. The best bait is fish heads but some say a partially opened can of cat food will do the trick. No permit is necessary for non-commercial crayfishing but all should remember that excessive and wasteful fishing can make this into a limited resource.

Crayfish can be kept alive in a container of fresh water until you are ready to cook. (Be sure you keep the container out of the reach of the raccoons who seem to dote on this delicacy.) Prepare the live crayfish in a stock of onions, parsley, dill, lemons, bay leaf, mustard, cayenne or any of your favorite spices. (Prepared stock mixes are on the market.) Be sure to add a liberal amount of salt. Boil the stock for at least ten minutes before adding the live crayfish. Cook for ten to twenty minutes, remove and cool. Remove the stringlike digestive tract in the tail section. Serve with melted butter, mayonnaise and dill or whatever. Let your guests do the work of removing the delicious meat from the claws (if large enough) and the prized tail section.

If you want to do the work yourself and take the bows from delighted guests here is a recipe for Crayfish Napoleon which calls for six cups of crayfish meat. Melt 2 T. butter in a pan with half cup lemon juice and one-third cup white wine, half tsp. nutmeg, pinch of salt and one tsp. sugar. Simmer for five to ten minutes. Add crayfish, cover and cook gently for a few minutes. Dump into a casserole and top with croutons or slices of buttered bread. Bake for fifteen minutes at 350 degrees. You all know Julia Child's punch line so why repeat it.

## Lake Issue In Port Race

The little known fact that Lake Union is a part of the Port of Seattle is getting some attention this year by Bill Sage, a floating



BILL SAGE

home owner at 2727 Fairview E., who is in the race for Port Commissioner against the incumbent Henry Simonson. As a Port Commissioner (an unpaid position) Sage says he will work for Port/City cooperation in direct public benefits from the \$11 million in tax money the port collects annually.

In respect to Lake Union Sage says "while I am strongly supportive of the concept of Lake Union as a working lake, the south end of Lake Union is under utilized. There is no public access and a hodge podge of varying uses." Sage supports the concept of the area as being a good location for historic ship facilities for wooden boat builders, floating homes and "some public access where citizens can sit on a grassing bank overlooking the water and perhaps some fishing boat moorage which is sorely needed if we are to keep the fishing fleet in Seattle."

Sage also believes that the Port could help in the proposed Lake Union bike trail, parks and other recreational facilities. He is an attorney, a former congressional aid and managed the mayoralty campaign of Paul Schell.



## Association Mailbag

### To The Association:

Following is a copy of the letter I sent to Council member Sam Smith regarding a proposed Seattle-King County Resolution to control aircraft noise.

Dear Councilman Smith:

Thank you for chairing Tuesday's Public Hearing on Lake Union's seaplane noise. After listening to testimony from citizens, seaplane operators, and city employees, I must recommend against the proposed noise-regulation resolution. It is evidently not enforceable and would, therefore, not guarantee peace of mind to Lake Union residents troubled by seaplane noise. As testimony at the hearing indicated, decibel monitoring would not be continuous, and residents would have no redress against offending planes during hours when inspectors were absent. Also, the cumulative decibel clause of the Resolution depends upon the mutual cooperation of various pilots. The testimony of the commercial seaplane firms indicated that this clause would create a "dog eat dog" atmosphere between commercial firms and independent pilots, each competing to take off ahead of the other. Since Lake Union has no flight tower, this situation would be detrimental to the peace and safety of lake residents and recreational users.

My recommendations remain the same as stated at the Public Hearing:

First, the City should urge the State and the FAA to restrict the waters of Lake Union solely to resident aircraft (i.e., the commercial flying services currently based in Lake Union). This would have two important benefits. It would allow only those aircraft operators who have pledged themselves to a program of voluntary noise abatement to fly from our densely populated urban area, and it would cut down significantly on the number of flights (many of them joy rides) on our crowded lake.

Secondly, the City should establish some dependable grievance procedure for citizens with complaints regarding seaplanes. Unlike the residents you heard from the larger lakes in the area, we on Lake Union can usually see the numbers of offending aircraft (particularly when they buzz our front porches). The FAA hears our complaints and informs us that there are virtually no rules governing seaplane operation on the lake. Seaplanes have the right-of-way over slower-moving sailboats and canoes, they may circle our houses, they may land after dark, and they may make as much noise as they want to. Our complaints are met with a polite "we're sorry" from the FAA. If the City would urge the FAA to establish some meaningful guidelines for pilots and would also designate a person independent of the FAA (preferably someone who is not a pilot like so many FAA inspectors), perhaps citizen complaints would be followed up. With independents off the lake, we should certainly be able to identify the owners of offending aircraft and would not be met with the common FAA line of "we were unable to track down the aircraft you described."

The City's Resolution is a good start, but with its described implementation it appears to be unenforceable. Also, the presence of fly-by-night transients on the lake renders the Resolution arbitrary and punitive to commercial operations.

I appreciate the complexity of this matter (particularly in the sticky business of jurisdiction) and commend you for tackling this problem on behalf of the noise-weary citizens in the Lake Union vicinity.

Thank you. **Derry Sherensky, 2019 Fairview E.**

### To The Association:

I'm delighted to take you up on the offer of "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats." As a one time houseboat tenant many years ago (for only a summer) I have fond feelings for your way of life. Thanks for the offer. I look forward to reading it.

**State Representative Joanne J. Brekke, Seattle**

### To The Association:

Thank you for your letter regarding the veto of the floating homes portion of my landlord-tenant Mobile Home Bill, SHB 1308. As you perhaps know I was on the horns of a dilemma when Bill Fritz was successful in adding a terrible amendment in the Senate. Given our rules this last session, it was impossible to strike that provision without losing the entire bill. The Mobile Home portion was of vital importance to thousands of citizens of the state, particularly our senior citizens. I did everything I could to delay concurrence with the Senate amendment until we could launch enough opposition from those people who were interested in opposing the floating home amendment.

Representatives Bill Burns and Jeff Douthwaite were significant in that delaying tactic. We debated concurrence on the floor after being assured that Norm Schut, lobbyist for the senior citizen coalition, and others would contact the Governor's office urging a veto. I pledged myself on the House floor to do everything I could to bring about that veto. I was one of those who signed a letter to the Governor urging that that be done. We, with your help, were successful. All this decries the lobbyist's tactics that were used in this particular case.

I appreciate the kind offer to send a copy of "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats," as I am a school librarian in my regular job. Am an interested historian of Washington State. If it is acceptable to you I would then donate it to my local school library. Others, I am sure, will enjoy reading it. **State Representative Wayne Ehlers, 2nd District, Parkland, WA.**

### To The Association:

Thank you very much for your recent communication and attachments relating to the action taken by the Legislation in connection with legislation that was eventually vetoed by Governor Ray. I congratulate you in sending out information to the Legislature as you have done. I am afraid that many legislators were not fully cognizant of the impact that the legislation would have had had it gone into law. I would like very much to have the opportunity of visiting with you further in this regard and in addition would be pleased to receive a copy of Mr. Droker's book. **Gordon L. Wallgren, Majority Leader, Washington State Senate.**

### To The Association:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that I've sent to Wally Johnson of the city's Office of Intergovernmental Relations in regard to my vote in the House on the Anti-Floating Home Amendment to SHB 1308. I'm sure that their error in reporting my vote was an oversight, but it annoyed me because I had tried hard to kill the amendment. I even had a copy of the fact sheet distributed to the members on the floor of the House. The fact sheet, which may have been prepared by your organization, was given to me by Paul Kraabel when he came to Olympia to fight the amendment.

When we were unable to halt adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, several of us in the House wrote to Governor Ray requesting a veto of the amendment. It was very gratifying to me when she did veto those sections of the bill. If members of your association receive copies of Seattle's Capitol Report and make inquiries about my vote on SHB 1308, I would appreciate it if you would explain the report is in error. **State Representative Scott Blair, 46th District, Seattle.**

### To The Association:

Having lived on a houseboat for seven years, I am increasingly concerned about the insensitive pollution of the Lake by some houseboat dwellers. Living on the water has made me more aware of the environmental responsibility we all must accept. In appreciation of our unique lifestyle, we should take extra care to preserve the quality of the environment.

For example, I was angered and disgusted to see a neighbor rinse her paint utensils in the Lake the other day. I am taking the time to write this letter in hopes that everyone in the houseboat community will become more aware of our responsibility to maintain the natural beauty of our surroundings.

**Maren Erickson & Steve Johnson  
3234 Portage Bay Pl. E.**

# Reflections on the Lake

REFLECTIONS ON THE LAKE

The quiet of our floating home touches us every day. Gratitude swells within us. We find here, too, a sense of community and a spirited friendliness uncommon among neighbors. And the lake on which we all rest rises and falls. And ducks are born the size of a child's fist, and as busy. They are so much more shy, these little ones, than their parents. And they are more honestly friendly when they've a mind to be. The young ones carried on their mother's wake increase in size and (sadly) diminish in number. And the rain sprinkles, sometimes falling so finely that it appears to be exploding from beneath the surface of the lake, outward toward the sky. And the air sings gusts around us. Sometimes the sky is blue, and the people and animals (dock dogs and cats) come out to play. Sometimes the sky is grey and so low it rests upon the lake with the other floating homes. Then the people and animals stay inside. Except the ducks and the birds, for the world is always theirs. We build a fire whenever we feel too cool or damp. Woodsmoke curls from our chimney-top like a hand from a sleeve, extended in greeting, and is met by another similarly offered hand. Wind, water, woodsmoke, and green growing things are the smells of our home. And the miracle of life lets our garden grow, and shields us when we paddle about in our red canoe. And the dock-mates pass by our windows, alone and silent, or laughing and animated in pairs. Sometimes they talk to themselves or to the dock cats who talk to us all. We have become familiar with the sound of our neighbors' tap-tapping feet on the dock. The flat-footed sound of the Earth Shoe wearer, the soft-soled loafers of another, and the one with heavy lace-up boots. There is one whose clogs make a particularly pleasing and rhythmic sound of wood on wood. And one who pulls behind her, a rusty red wagon, trusted with provisions for the home at the end of the dock. And at night, we rest our heads on silence. The geese break the quiet with their morning song. The sun wells over Capitol Hill and another day lifts up its heart. Gratitude swells within us.

Robin Biffle & Rocky Friedman.

To The Association:

Thank you very much for your recent correspondence regarding the problems faced by floating homes owners in securing moorage in an area of limited shorelands. I am aware of the difficulties faced by floating home owners, and for this reason I opposed the Senate amendments for which Bill Fritz lobbied. I was extremely pleased with Governor Ray's veto of this provisions.

In order to get better acquainted with the Floating Homes Association I would very much like to receive a copy of the history of your organization, "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats" by Howard Droker. Again, I appreciate receiving your letter and hearing your opinions about the action of the Legislature. Please do not hesitate to correspond whenever the Legislature is addressing an issue that is of interest to your organization. State Representative Donn Charnley, 44th District, Seattle.

To The Association:

Received the Newsletter and enjoyed reading it. Say the NBC "Today Show" and thought I recognized Mr. & Mrs. Gene Johnson's home but was not sure until I read the Newsletter. Mrs. Johnson was so kind as to have us to her home and showed us around Mallard Cove. I really appreciated it as I had an interest due to John's involvement with developing Mallard Cove. Today (June 21) is John's birthday and it has brought back a lot of memories. Hope things are going okay for everyone. Waunetta Southern, Rosedale, Indiana.

To The Association:

Thank you for your message. I would very much like to receive a copy of "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats" by Howard Droker. State Representative Helen Sommers, 36th District, Seattle.

## Last Duwamish Houseboater



Fred Strom photographed on the gangplank of his Duwamish river houseboat in 1977. (Matt Ross Seattle Sun photo from "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats.")

by Howard Droker

(Author, "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats")

Fred Strom, the last houseboater on the Duwamish river, died on April 9, 1979. Having fought off eviction from the moorage he bought in 1935, which the Port of Seattle coveted for a barge terminal, Strom almost lived out his days in the place he called "the shack." The last two months of his life he spent in the hospital and St. Vincent's in West Seattle.

Fred Strom was perhaps the most interesting of the many people I interviewed during research for *Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats*. He joined the Industrial Workers of the World after migrating from Sweden in 1911. A life-long bachelor whose family was left behind in Sweden, Strom, like so many of the migrant workers of the Northwest from the turn of the century to the 1920's, considered the IWW to be his family. And like so many of his compatriots, Strom turned to houseboats for a cheap and pleasant way to live. Most of his floating neighbors (The Duwamish once had a houseboat population of some 600) disappeared from the river during and after World War II, but Strom was able to hang on by virtue of owning the property. When the Port condemned his property in 1975 and treated him shabbily, the Floating Homes Association interceded and helped put off eviction indefinitely.

Frances Lundquist, who looked after Strom during those last few years, told me that the pastor presiding at the funeral used by book to prepare the eulogy. That is as much tribute as any author could wish. I am lucky to have had a hand in preserving something of the spirit of Fred Strom and all of those unsung workers that he represents.

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In 1968, when Seattle's floating homes completed connecting to a sewer system, there were 13 underwater city outfalls spilling millions of gallons of sewage into the lake.

# 1938 . . . . . A Portage Bay View . . . . . 1979



Forty-one years separates these two views of a portion of Portage Bay. The historic photo on left was taken by the late Arthur Kinnan, father of Marge Batchelder of 2235 Fairview E. On right in this picture are some of the 55 houseboats which were displaced in 1962 by the approach to the Evergreen Point floating bridge. The impact of this roadway on the environment of the area is shown in the Jonathan Ezekiel picture taken this summer from where Kinnan stood in March, 1938. Note buildings in background.

## Welcome To New Members

New members welcomed aboard since the last report are: Jim Fanzini, Jan Hart, William & Jann Elmer, Jim Diegel, Raymond B. Woods, Dean C. Elias, Elaine Hamilton, Julie Price, Kate Rico, Maria Ackley, John J. & Susanne G. Richmond, Bob Eiring, Teri Buford, Janiese A. Loeken M.D., Robin Biffle, Robert Friedman, Tim & Deboara McNeil, Robert H. Smith, Charles & Cora Flanagan, Philip R. Frenth, Nancy Weintraub, Cynthia Livak, John A. Maurel, Robert F. & Blaine D. Schroeder, Bradford H. Bodley & Bettye Kendall.

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The first saw mill in these parts was located in what became the Fremont. It was burned in the Indian war of 1855. The exact location is not known.

**ASSOCIATION CHARTERED IN 1962:** The 17th annual membership meeting brings to mind that the Association was chartered on Dec. 11th, 1962. Those signing the charter, issued by Secretary of State Victor A. Meyers, were George Neale, Muriel Eklund, George Johnston, Harold Harp and Terry Pettus. Actual organization began early in 1961.

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**PEOPLE LIVE IN NEIGHBORHOODS:** "People don't live in a city. People live in neighborhoods. Neighborhoods are the building blocks of the city. If neighborhoods die, the cities die." Msgr. **Geno Baroni**, Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing & Urban Development.



Here Is The "Security Blanket" For Your Home

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Household Dues, \$16



- Dues covers all adults (18 years or over) in the household. If more than one membership card is needed, list names below.
- Dues payment covers the 12 months following the time of joining.
- Make checks payable to the Floating Homes Assn. and send to 2329 Fairview Ave. E., 98102.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Moorage No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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