

*Fall
Cruise*

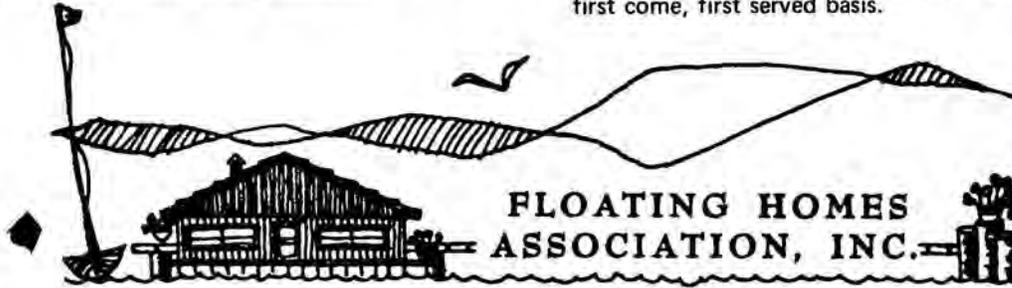
A HOLIDAY GALA: VIRGINIA V CRUISE DEC. 20th

The Floating Home Association's 12th Annual Holiday Cruise, which has become one of the more unusual and popular seasonal events, will be held aboard the historic steamer Virginia V on Saturday, Dec. 20th. The hours are from 4 to 8 p.m.

Again this year the brightly lighted Virginia V will be a floating grandstand for and a participant in the "Parade of Lighted Ships" which will rendezvous in Lake Union and then proceed via Portage Bay to Lake Washington. This event is jointly sponsored by Greater Seattle and the region's yacht clubs and boating organizations.

The number of tickets will, of course, be restricted by Coast Guard regulations. In spite of inflation the Executive Committee has voted to hold to the usual price of \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children 12 years old or younger. There will be entertainment; the galley will sell food and the tap room will dispense beer.

Because of last minute requests for tickets which could not be filled, residents of floating homes will be given first call. Reservations may be made by contacting the Association (phone or mail). These reservations will be held until Dec. 1st. Tickets will then be on a first come, first served basis.



2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phones: EA 5-1132 or EA 9-1517

NUMBER 63

Newsletter

OCTOBER 1975

LAKE MINI-PARKS UNDERWAY

Construction of three Street Waterway mini-parks is now underway on Fairview Ave. E. These are the first city sponsored projects and illustrate how most of the 33 street ends and 22 state waterways around the perimeter of Lake Union & Portage Bay can be put to public use.

These three mini-parks are at the foot of Newton, Lynn and Roanoke Streets on Fairview Ave. E. The work is being done under the supervision of the Engineering Department with funds provided for from a Capital Improvement Program allocation in 1974 proposed by Mayor Wes Uhlman and approved by the City Council. All of the small parks will be provided with drinking fountains and water for shrubs and plantings. Weather permitting all will be finished in 80 days which means sometime before the end of the year. The projects are:

NEWTON ST. This area was dedicated by local residents several years ago as "Peoples Park". Volunteers cleaned up the area, put in a barbecue pit, large picnic table and spent many hours trying to stabilize the steep bank. The City will now do a complete park job with more facilities plus an "L" shaped floating fishing float.

LYNN ST. This park attracted much attention as an example of community effort. It contained tables and benches and a walk-way to the water. But more needed to be done than could be done by volunteers and this is now being done. The mini-park is on street property adjacent to State Waterway No. 10.

ROANOKE ST. This is the scene of the ill-fated "Roanoke Reef Condominium" project. This project will be in two parts with one view-point with benches, water fountain and landscaping adjacent to the Hungry Turtle restaurant. On the North side the city improvements will complement landscaping on private property being put in by the owners of the new "Mallard Cove Floating Home Village".

A traffic control program with stop signs at the Newton, Boston, Lynn St. intersections on Fairview E. is now underway on an experimental basis. A final decision will be made in about 30 days. But Fairview will be signed by the Engineering Department asking motorists to yield to "PEDESTRIANS-BIKES & DUCKS".

Two Park Department projects are expected to leave the drawing boards soon. These call for park view-points under the Freeway Bridge on both sides of the channel. They will be known as "North Passage Point Park" and "South Passage Point Park". The many small public areas around Lake Union and Portage Bay have been described as a "necklace". The necklace is getting some lovely pearls.

LAND & WATER AS COMMODITIES: "There is no Constitutional right to the highest and most profitable use of land and no Constitutional right to urbanize land. The public has clearly said that land and water is a public resource and not a commodity to be traded on the private market". (Christopher Bayley, King County Prosecuting Attorney, quoted in the Seattle Times 2/10/74).

RE-ELECTION OF COUNCILMEN JOHN MILLER & TIM HILL URGED

Declaring that the Nov. 4th City Council elections are of critical importance "not only to our houseboat community but to the entire city," the Floating Homes Association Executive Committee has recommended all out support behind the candidacies of John Miller and Tim Hill.

This emphasis is necessary, the Committee said, because "these two outstanding incumbents are being singled out as targets of a well-financed campaign of falsehood and distortion". The Committee also recommends support for Phyllis Lamphere and Council President Sam Smith. In the race for Position No. 2, between Councilman Paul Kraabel and Chip Marshall, the statement described both as "good candidates".

The Committee statement went on to say that "We are not in any way attempting to tell anyone how to vote but we are responding to many membership requests for information based on the Executive Committee's intimate contact with municipal government on virtually a day-to-day basis. The recommendations are necessary if we are to carry out the basic program of our Association 'to protect the interests of Seattle's old and colorful houseboat colony'".

"We believe that the record is clear. The present City Council majority is responsible for one of the most heartening eras in our city's long political history. This is due, in the main, to the unusually high quality and dedication of the individual members and a policy to continue to work for open government and more fruitful citizen participation in municipal government at all levels. It is also due to the ability of these strong-willed individuals to merge into a harmonious whole behind many basic issues needful if we are to shape our physical and natural environment to the needs of all the people. This happy situation is now being seriously threatened by special interest groups.

"In particular the present Council majority is showing sensitivity and courage in adapting the objectives of the State Shoreline Management Act, overwhelmingly adopted by the people, to the specialized needs of our extensive and diverse waterfronts, including Lake Union and Portage Bay. This requires reasonable controls and firm regulations for all users of this priceless natural resource--including houseboats. But carrying out such a policy makes powerful enemies and their voices are being loudly heard in this campaign.

"We believe The Argus summed it up when it said (9/19/75) that "John Miller is an indispensable force on our progressive City Council."

The statement described the all-time low primary vote as "reflecting little credit on our democratic institutions". It urged every floating home resident to go to the polls Nov. 4th and express themselves on the candidates and ballot issues."

LAKE UNION WAS HOME TO MEMBERS OF THE SHILSHOH TRIBE

By Howard Droker

"In the Duwamish tongue the name for Lake Union is "Meman Hartshu" or Little Lake and for Lake Washington, "Hake Hartshu" or Big Lake. In the long ago

there were many Indians living along the shores of these Lakes. . . On the shores of that Little Lake there is the home of the one lingering pair of old Indians. These are Old John and Madeline, his wife."

Edmund Meany wrote this epitaph in 1905, fifty years after the Mukilteo treaty in which the local Indians "agreed" to "cede, relinquish, and convey to the United States all their right, title and interest in and to the lands and country occupied by them." Before the appearance of the white man on Puget Sound, almost every bay, river and lake had its own tribe. Most of the Sound tribes belonged to the Nisqually nation, a language rather than a political affiliation, which was the product of an ancient migration down the Fraser and Columbia rivers from the Flathead country of the interior. The Shilshoh tribe traditionally occupied the Shilshoh Bay, Salmon Bay, Lake Union and lands north to the Snohomish. The past thousands had been reduced to perhaps five or six hundred at the time of the founding of Seattle and the demise of these survivors was swift.

The first settler on Shilshoh land, Dr. Henry A. Smith at Smith's Cove, believed that the tribe's decline, before the white settlement, was due to the annual slaving raids of the fierce northern tribes such as the Haida. "The few families that were here when I first came to live in the cove melted away like a morning frost," Smith wrote some years later. "Gambling is the ruling passion among nearly all Indians and I attribute their rapid extinction largely to that vice." Smith, like most of his fellow pioneers, failed to see behind such symptoms the broken lives and culture that followed in the wake of the white settlement. Smith recalled the last of the Shilshohs, "Dr. Jim, a genuine herb doctor, who was quite renowned for his astonishing cures. . . " A man of superior appearance and intelligence, Dr. Jim hung himself for some reason beyond Dr. Smith's understanding.

Chodups John, one of early Seattle's better known Indians, had the distinction of owning his own land on Portage Bay at the foot of what is now Shelby St. John got his nickname, the Chinook word for "flea," from the creatures who shared the campsite he chose one night while guiding a party of settlers to Lake Sammamish. His lot, on which he built a home, and planted a potato patch, was given him by his good friend David Denny.

An Indian encampment of unknown origin or tribal affiliation was located on the shore of Lake Union near where the City Light plant is today, until late in the century. Sophia Frye Bass, granddaughter of Arthur Denny, who grew up in the Seattle of the 1870's and 1880's, fondly remembered this village of several families in her book "Pig-Tail Days in Old Seattle". She described the interior of the single-pitched roofed cedar house. "An opening in the roof allowed the smoke to escape; poles were put across the room and on these fish and clams were strung to dry over the fire. Mother could always tell where we had been from the odor that clung to us of smoke and drying fish. "The town's children liked to visit the camp to witness the domestic activities such as basket-weaving, spear and arrow making and especially the gambling, a strange blend of sing-song chanting and throwing bones or wooden discs that only ended when someone had lost everything he owned. The house was almost destroyed in a hurricane in March, 1875, when an uprooted tree fell on it.

Though the old Indian structure was surely gone in 1905, Old John and Madeline were probably the last survivors of that village. (Note: Howard Droker is writing a history of Houseboats (See NEWSLETTER, Aug. 1975). He and Barbara are living at 2037 Fairview. (329-5717).

HISTORIC SEATTLE FILM AT EASTLAKE MEETING OCT. 28

The recently completed Bicentennial film, "Seattle: Picture Of A Young City" will be shown at the annual meeting of the Eastlake Community to be held Oct. 28th at the Tye Yacht Club, 3229 Fairview E. The film, starting with still shots taken in 1853, was compiled and edited by Ward Collier of the Seattle Engineering Dept. The meeting will begin with cocktails at 6:30, spaghetti dinner at 7 and the business session at 8 p.m. Dinner reservations at \$3.00 may be made through Anita Klapper (325-9333 and Mark Rasmussen (329-0228).

* * FLOATING HOME FORUM * *

FLOAT PLANE LANDING IN CONGESTED LAKE AREA HITS SAILBOAT

To the Newsletter:

About noon on Sunday, Sept. 21st, a 16½ foot sloop, rented from me, was under sail in Lake Union in an area roughly between Hamilin St. and State Waterway 18. A Seabee float plane came in for a landing heading north towards the Freeway bridge. The water was clogged with boats. The seaplane touched the water at speeds of from 50 to 60 m.p.h. and its wing hit the sloop's mast which broke. The sailboat had not altered its course as the seaplane came in for the landing.

It seems to me that with all the boats in the water the seaplane should not have attempted a landing. Fortunately the sloop was not spun into the propellor path by the force of the collision nor was it swamped. The police helicopter was first on the scene. The seaplane had the crippled sloop under tow when the Harbor Police took over. They took statements from the parties as well as some witnesses.

I contacted the Federal Aviation Administration and talked to Mr. Bob Jones. He said the FAA also had the report from the Harbor Police. He also said that other witnesses should contact him at the FAA Building, Boeing Field, Seattle 98108. This incident seems to me to bring into question the policy of allowing the entire area of Lake Union to be an unrestricted "landing strip". *Richard Wagner, "The Old Boathouse", 2770 Westlake N.*

SOME COMMENTS ON OUR HOUSEBOAT ENVIRONMENT

To the Newsletter:

Neighbors may I engage your attention with the quality of our houseboat environment?

In the past five years the status of houseboat living has dramatically evolved from being funky, but desirable, to chic, respectable, eccentric and comfortably convenient. A new style of architecture has invaded our low profile environment. Houseboats have been successfully upgraded and have become acceptable to people who practice an alien anesthetic and a modern version of the frontier ethic. The resulting clash between the "old and colorful" and the alien anesthetic is undermining the sense of community.

The alien anesthetic assumes a new model is more pleasing than the old - bigger is beautiful - if a building is new, big and costly it couldn't possibly be ugly. Lake Union as a shared visual resource is a sentimental indulgence.

The ethical assumption promotes the exercise of private privilege above all other considerations. The rights of ownership include the right to determine use. This is the frontier philosophy of exploitation and plunder, the driving consideration behind strip mining, clear-cut logging and building high-rise apartments over the water. Change is progress and progress is beneficial.

The conflict in our community occurs when new construction ignores the physical fact that visual openness is essential because of the closeness of our homes. The crowding snugness of one houseboat float a short step from its neighbor is a condition that requires some thought in planning a structure which will maximize the location and still not intrude on the community. Free space, clear water and open sky are essential for privacy and appreciation of our surroundings.

When you are ten feet from a mass the sky, clouds and sun disappear, it makes little difference if the wall is twenty-one feet high or five stories high. An observant walk down Fairview Ave. will confirm that Lake Union cannot be seen over the roof of a two story houseboat. Indeed, in some locations Queen Anne Hill is hidden.

What irony that the efforts to upgrade houseboats should be so successful that extensive two-story remodeling and building would be financially secure and that such remodelling would both increase the value of all houseboats and lower the quality of our environment.

What hypocrisy that the community which protested a high-rise apartment because it would blanket view of the lake, have built houseboats which now obstruct the views of the lake.

I suspect our neighborhood is being sacrificed to the voracious appetite for profit or a greedy reach for living space at the expense of a neighbor. All this construction is within code and legal but indicates a bankruptcy of awareness - a lack of consideration for those who value a sense of community and adapt to keep it alive. A unique style of life is threatened by the "build and run" exploiters and promises to become a high-priced, high-rise, densely packed, middle-class ghetto.

To tolerate a continued visual abuse of our community without comment would be to accept the alien anesthetic and frontier ethic as honorable modes of human conduct.

When man no longer lives in touch with his environment, when he has lost contact with his roots, when his reality and structures are not poised and in harmony with nature, he becomes a dangerous animal capable of covering rich farm land with asphalt, dumping poisons into the sea, destroying his fellow beings and torturing nature with hideous displays of power and warfare.

Constructing a world that excludes the reality of nature is to build an artifice. Two story houseboats resemble the worst of Bellevue rather than the sleek, low lines of a boat. The seeds of a Lake Union Block-House is among us, sprouting like malignant sprawling weeds. Neighbors, may I ask you, who is responsible for perpetuating this obscenity? Bob Buchholtz, 2017 Fairview E.

(RESPONSE: The floor is open.)

HERE'S HOW TO REPORT THOSE OIL SPILLS

To the Newsletter:

I was just noticing this morning that once again our small section of Portage Way was covered with oil. In the process of reporting it I wondered if you might have the numbers below attached to a corner of the Newsletter so that members could cut them off and paste them by the phone?

U.S. COAST GUARD 442-1856
DEPT. OF ECOLOGY 885-1900

Perhaps this has already been done. If so please disregard.

Delphine Haley, 2822 Boyer E.

(RESPONSE: This has not been done recently and the suggestion is most timely. The Coast Guard has these suggestions: (1) Report all such incidents promptly (2) If possible collect a sample of the oil and make an estimate of its size (3) Any information as to its possible source.)

HITHER & YON: LONDON HOUSEBOATS HAVING THEIR TROUBLES

A DISPATCH from the *London Evening Standard* reports that houseboat dwellers are fighting for their lives against developers who are buying up Thames river front property and handing out eviction notices. Organized in the "Residential Boat Owner's Assn." the floating community has staged a number of demonstrations including one at No. 10 Downing St. where they presented the Prime Minister with a 7000 signature petition seeking legal protection. Population reported down to 2000 boats.

THANKS to Architect Carl F. Gould, who has an attractive and unusual "office-yacht" on Westlake, news from Paris and Amsterdam is not so bleak. Seems that the Quai on the river in the heart of Paris is still the happy home of many happy and contented boat dwellers. Also in Amsterdam, where they have houseboats similar to ours, all is reasonably well. Many canals are zoned for floating residences but it seems the City Fathers are complaining not all houseboats are registered with the municipality as required by law.

BACK HOME the marine business still has its problems, this time from our not too friendly neighbor, the University of Washington which seems intent on gobbling up the north shore of Portage Bay. The U. of W. has the power of condemnation and has now cast an eye on the property at 1315 N.E. Boat St. where Bob Richardson is planning a diversified marine development with 90 badly needed boat moorages.

A REMINDER FROM OUR PAST: "In free governments the rulers are the servants and the people their superiors and sovereigns. For the former therefore to return among the latter is not to degrade them but to promote them". (Benjamin Franklin).

✿ HELP US ORGANIZE! ✿

Dear Fellow Houseboaters:

In the last NEWSLETTER we reported on the door-to-door visits inviting non-members to come aboard. Well we are still at it and want to thank all of those who joined. We sure meet a lot of nice people.

Some evenings the weather isn't too good but we are going to continue with the goal of 100 per cent membership for the very simple reason that all floating home residents benefit from the work of the Association.

On Oct. 8th the Executive Committee, with the help of Moorage Representatives on Westlake, spent an hour in the field before conducting its usual business meeting. Results, as is always the case, were heartening. In July we set a goal of 100 new members by the end of 1975. It is needed to make up for slippage (people do sell and move) and to add to our organizational strength. We have 39 to go. If you aren't, use the application below. If you want to help our organization give us a call.

Jack & Eileen MacIntyre
1213 E. Shelby (329-0364)

JUST IN CASE YOU AREN'T . . .



2329 Fairview East - Seattle 98102
Phones: EA 5-1132 or EA 9-1517
(after 11:00 a.m.)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DUES \$12.00 PER YEAR

- Covers all the adults (18 years or over) in the household. If more than one membership card is needed list names below.
- Dues payments cover the 12 months following the time of joining.

Make checks payable to Floating Homes Association, Inc.

NAME _____ Address _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is \$12.00

Bill me