

"EQUITY ORDINANCE" COUNCIL HEARING ST. PATRICKS HALL TUESDAY, JUNE 7 th

The Floating Homes Association's proposed "Equity Ordinance" will be the subject of a public hearing before the City Council's Planning and Urban Development Committee at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, E. Broadway and Edgar Street.

The proposed legislation is an attempt to rationalize, on a basis of equity (fairness), the relationship of two groups of investors in a floating home moorage: 1) owners of the unimproved submerged property, and 2) owners of the floating homes which constitute the revenue-producing improvements.

The Ordinance provides a method of arbitration in situations arising from an arbitrary eviction which renders the floating home property worthless and moorage fees so excessive as to be out of line with a reasonable return and/or to constitute confiscation of the floating home.

The legislation is part of a two-point program adopted by the membership in April, 1976. The ordinance was drafted when the Seattle Shoreline Master Program froze floating homes in their present sites. There are 444 such sites. All are occupied. A floating home cannot move as there is no place to go.

The second part of the program is the creation of the Cooperative Lake Investment Fund to assist in the formation of "joint ownership" moorages when such property goes on the market. In such cases the conflict is eliminated because the floating home owners also cooperatively own the land.

CONSERVING ENERGY MEANS SAVING

With a City Light residential increase of 15% in effect since May 1 and a whopping surcharge (up to 61%) to be imposed on the June billing and with mandatory rationing just around the corner, the Executive Committee has approved a varied program under which Association members can not only conserve energy but save money. The program includes:

IMMEDIATE ACTION: Turn down the thermostat on your hot water heater. It uses 17% of household energy and is a prime source of waste. The "Living Lightly" brochure, an insert in this issue, has many other suggestions. (On water heaters, see story on page 3.)

SOON AS POSSIBLE: To join with the Eastlake Community Council and City Light in sponsorong a "Live Lightly Fair" in the neighborhood, possibly in June. Watch for announcements.

FROM NOW THROUGH SUMMER: Insulate every floating home that needs it-either ceiling, walls, or both. The Association has arranged with the Blanket Insulation Co. for quality work at money-saving prices. (See story on this page.)

LONG RANGE: The Association has approached City Light as to the possibility of making Lake Union a "demonstration project" for the commercial development of the efficient "water-to-air" heat pump. As of now, only the less efficient "air-to-air" pump is available commercially. The Association believes the Lake with its variety of uses-manufacturing, commercial, institutional and residential-in a compact area, is an ideal site for such a project. Extracting heat from water (an indirect source of solar energy) is feasible for millions of users throughout the country but has been pushed aside in favor of the larger market for the "air-to-air" unit,

INSULATION PRIME SAVER OF FLOATING HOME POWER

As with conventional housing ashore, insulation is the one home improvement which rapidly pays off in dollars, to say nothing of comfort in chilly months-and cooling when we happen to have one of those long hot summers. Now, with the area facing an acute power shortage, insulating is not only a benefit but a necessity.

In order to make this "insulation summer" on the lake, the Association has made arrangements with Tom Sepanen and his Blanket Insulation Co. to (1) make it convenient to get a free estimate at hours when you will be home; (2) show you the "Thermal Plus" material to be installed; (3) put the moneysaving price in writing.

NEWSLETTER

is the publication of the FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION. Office: 2329 Fairview Ave. E., Seattle 98102. Phones: 325-1132 or 329-1517. Officers and Executive Committee: President, Richard E. Wagner (282-0985); Vice President, Patrick Scott (323-4482); Recording Secretary, Lucy Dodd (325-7908); Treasurer, Julie North (324-5043); Administrative Secretary, Terry Pettus (329-1517); Organizational Director, Jack McIntyre (329-0364).

Susan Drum (325-4471); Eileen McIntyre (329-0364); John Southern (325-8716); Greg Smith (325-4576); Todd Warmington (325-5043); Larry Clifton (323-5470); Barbara Droker (325-1402); Robert Nielsen (634-2286); Dixie Pintler (284-6912); James S. Rogers (282-5243).

Sepanen, whose company has the engaging slogan, "We've Gotcha Covered," has portable blowing equipment so there is no problem reaching any floating home. He has been working for the Central Area Motivation Program under the feder program to insulate homes of low income owners. He con highly recommended.

Because of the compactness of our floating neighborhood, savings can be made and travel time cut down by making as many estimates and installations as possible on the same moorage or in the adjacent areas. The Association will coordinate with the company in order to achieve these economies and speed up the program.

HERE ARE THE COSTS (you may wish to compare these prices with other firms). In checking prices, use these federal designations which are standard: R-19 (federal minimum)-4 to 41/2 inches of insulating material; R-30 (recommended for maximum savings)-6 inches of insulation.

CEILINGS: R-19, 14 to 15 cents per square foot. R-30, 23 to 25 cents per square foot.

WALLS: 35 cents per square foot. (Only 1 inch diameter wall hole required for blowing in the lightweight Thermal Plus insulation.

At these rates, 1000 square feet of ceiling insulation would come to \$150-160 with R-19 and from \$230-250 for the recommended R-30 installation. According to City Light

computations, a home with 1,320 square feet of uninsulated ceiling results in an average annual electricity cost of \$178. With R-19 insulation the annual average saving in electrical costs is \$162.76. It should be noted that these savings do not include the proposed surcharge.

It is fairly easy to check your ceiling for insulation. If old insulation material has compacted you need more. The Ther al Plus cellulose product is guaranteed against compacting a. is fireproof, among other things. It weighs only one pound per cubic foot. (Walls are another matter: one way to check is to remove the wall switch plate and take a peek.)

Those interested should fill out and mail the blank below:

AM INTERESTED IN FREE HOME INSULATION ESTIMATE

Name				
Address				
Will be av	ailable	Days	Evenings	Weekend
Mail to:			S ASSOCIATION E., Seattle 9810	

WOOD BOATS SUBJECT OF CONFERENCE: Dick Wagner, operator of the "Old Boat House" (and a houseboat moorage) at 2770 Westlake N., was a participant in a national wood boat conference at Evergreen State College April 28-29. Some 500 persons from all parts of the country attended the conference organized and conducted by the students in the college's "Marone Studies & Crafts" program. Dick gave a paper on the maintenance of wood boats, and was a panel member in a discussion on the present state of wood boat building.

WATER HEATERS WASTE POWER

There is no doubt about it. Hot water on tap is one of the b ngs of what we choose to call civilization or the abunde society-or what you will.

But there is a deal of difference in the number of kilowatts required to keep a huge tank at usable temperatures. It is quite another to burn up a lot of juice to keep it at scalding temperatures which require cooling down. That's waste. A lot of waste and unnecessary expense for our electric automatic water heaters gobble up 17% of all household energy used.

The solution for quick conservation? Turn the thermostat down right now to 120 (POWER MUST BE TURNED OFF FIRST!). Some automatic dishwashers, however, require 140. Most heaters, when installed, were set at 170 or thereabouts. But those were the days of cheap and abundant power. Remember?

You can do it yourself. Remember, if you do, first TURN OFF THE POWER- amateurs should not fool around 220 volts. It can kill you.

The innards of most heaters are not too complex. Behind the plate (you will need a screwdriver) is some insulation in front of the thermostat. Remove and turn it back.

If you rent a heater from City Light they will do this service free. If not, they will charge you \$6.

The Association has arranged to provide this service to floating homes only for \$5. Call 325-8716 and say the Association sent you.

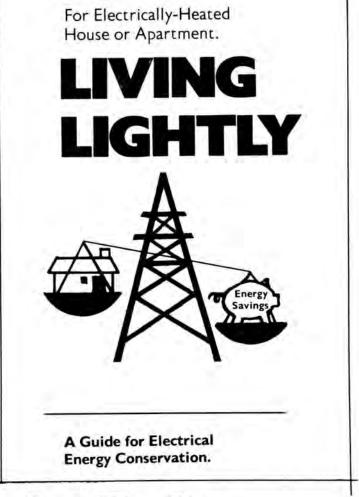
If your water heater is in an unheated area, it would pay to insulate it. Do-it-yourself kits are available in most supply stores for about \$20. They pay off.

t-turn that thermostat down.

NOW DOES SWEDEN DO IT? "The people of Sweden, who live about as well materially as average Americans, consume a lot less energy in pursuit of the good life. Attention to Sweden's success in using energy at only 60 per cent of the American rate has intensified this year among conservationists." -New York Times

YOU CAN USE THIS BROCHURE!

City Light has prepared this conservation guide specifically for homes that heat with electricity. A copy is an insert in this issue of the Newsletter. Should you not get yours, let us know and one will be mailed.



For Those Who Have The Urge

A VOLUNTARY ANNIVERSARY ASSESSMENT

"To rely on the hit-and-miss of fund raising affairs is not good for the organization. We have ruled out a dues increase in favor of the more equitable voluntary assessment."

The Executive Committee

FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION 2329 Fairview Avenue E. Seattle, WA 98102

A good idea. Will make a voluntary assessment of \$_____.

Here it is. Will remit by _____, 1977.

NAME

ADDRESS___

Would appreciate a reminder notice.

NEWS NOTES FROM AROUND THE LAKE

WILL PARTICIPATE IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG: Administrative Secretary Terry Pettus will be on leave from July 14 to September 9, to participate in an archaeological excavation at Middleton Stoney near Oxford, with time out to contact members of the Residential Boat Owners' Association in England. He has accepted an inv tation from Trevor Rowley, Oxford University staff tutor in Archaeology, to join a 15member team. The project is to determine the nature and extent of the Roman settlement and its relation to its Iron Age predecessor. The dig is under the auspices of the Department For External Studies of the University of Oxford. (See story on English houseboats, page 5.)

DICK WAGNER RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT: President Richard E. Wagner was unanimously re-elected at the 15th Anniversary membership meeting at St. Patrick's Parish Hall April 19. Others returned to office: Vice President Patrick Scott and Recording Secretary Luch Dodd. Five executive committee members chosen are: Larry Clifton, Barbara Droker, Dixie Johnson, Robert Nielsen, and James Rogers. Gregg Smith was elected to a five-year term as Trustee. Other members of the executive committee are: Julie North, treasurer; Jack McIntyre, organizational director; and Terry Pettus, administrative secretary. Hold-over trustees are: Susan Drum, Eileen McIntyre, John Southern, and Todd Warmington.

HOWARD DROKER WINS HISTORY AWARD: Howard Droker, author of "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats," has been awarded the Charles M. Gates Award for the best article published in the Pacific Northwest Quarterly in 1976. The prizewinning historical article was "Race Relations in Seattle During World War II." The award was presented at a Washington State Historical Society luncheon in Tacoma May 7. The award is a memorial to Dr. Gates, former chairman of the Department of History at the University of Washington.

PROPERTY TAX BREAK FOR ELDERLY: New property tax exemptions for the elderly and handicapped, who can meet income qualifications, have been announced by King County Assessor Harley M. Hoppe. The exemptions will be reflected in the 1977 taxes which will be payable next year. Recipients must be 62 years of age or handicapped, and residents of the state for three years. The exemptions are:

i k

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\$6,000 or less: exemption from all special levies. Assessed valuation of the home will be reduced \$5,000.

\$6,001 but not more than \$7,000: exemption from all special levies.

\$7,001 but not exceeding \$8,000: exemption from onehalf of all special levies.

Two- thirds of any social security payments are used in determining income from all sources. Claim forms will be mailed by calling 344-4120. Deadline is July 1.

FROM \$12,000.00 TO \$0.00



Here is Robert Weppner's floating home at 3123 Fairview Avenue East, which has been ordered removed to make way for a sailboat. Moorage owner James Jessup said the eviction order was for "aesthetic" reasons. Jessup owns the only other floating home on the property.

*

(Newsletter photo by Jonathan Ezekiel)

RANDOM NOTES FROM HERE & THERE: Reader asks on what date the swallows return to the Lake? Hmmm. We are far behind Capistrano in keeping such vital records. First reported sighting May 16. Any others? Co-Op Lake Investment Fund has chosen Seattle Trust as depository. Bank officials very much interested in this unusual neighborhood activity and promise cooperation . . . U.S. Corps of Army has taken over assignment to check out the Mylfoil invasion of our inland waters. Delphine Haley is on the story and will report in a future issue. By the way, Delphine's article on Phil Mark Davis' unusually efficient lakewater-to-air heat pump picked up by news media: Seattle Times did feature, as did KING and KIRO TV and a number of radio stations. Fact is, we are floating on a renewable heat source (an indirect form of solar energy). Problem is to get known technology into commercial production at lower costs, Mr. Edison, we need you Owners of two floating homes, which have been dead-storage (no living aboard) for years, have put them on the market again. The prices are right but no takers as long as there is no place to moor. This is repeated over and over again to hopeful callers but the phone continues to rong and ring and ring The historic Steamer Virginia V will cruise this summer but will go into the repair dock in September for restoration. That's the good news. The bad news is that the Virginia will not be available for our 1977 Holiday Cruise. There is no substitute for the Virginia V but we are looking around for another cruise ship and will let you know. Those holiday events have become a popular tradition we hate to interrupt. Suggestions are in order.

NEWSLETTER 3

LACK OF MOORAGE PLAGUES ENGLAND'S HOUSEBOAT FLEET

A shortage of moorages, and governmental indifference on a local and national level, continues to threaten England's more than 15,000 houseboats, according to word received by the Association from the Residential Boat Owner's Association of that country. The "houseboat" group is affiliated to the Inland Waterways Association, the Thames Planning Forum and the River Thames Society, and is convinced it will succeed in preserving "life afloat."

One of the sharp local battles is being waged in Kingston (up river from London) where the Thames Action Group of the RBOA is locking horns with the City Council which wants to eliminate the houseboats and convert the river front into a parking lot. The houseboaters have joined forces with those who want to develop the area as an Arts Center, as a step toward turning the face of the town toward its historic waterfront.

Under the slogan OUR BOATS ARE OUR HOMES, the Action Group is collecting some 6,000 signatures and is contesting a City eviction notice to leave by June 1 or face a daily penalty of ten pounds (\$17.50 U.S.). Local members of Parliament have joined in supporting the houseboats.

In England, "houseboats" also includes live-aboards, and the Association recently conducted a massive "Sail In" down the Thames to Westminster. It sought to present its grievances to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street, but was sidetracked by a spokesman for the Department of the Environment who, in the words of RBOA Chairman John Ison, trotted out "the same tired, nonsensical arguments we have heard so often before."

The Association, however, is receiving encouragement from Parliamentary leaders of both the Labor and Conservative parties, Ison reports. Tory Chief Whip Humphrey Atkins says his Environmental Committee will ask the help of the RBOA in drafting houseboat proposals for the party's election manifesto.

Labor MP Alan Lee Williams is carrying the bail for prohouseboat legislation in the All-Party Parliamentary Inland Waterways Group of which he is chairman. Another MP has informed the Association he has lined up at least 20 colleagues on its behalf.

The houseboat campaign has also received the support of the National Council for Civil Liberties & Shelture. The Association has also met with the British Waterways Board, which is considering comprehensive regulations for all English watercraft.

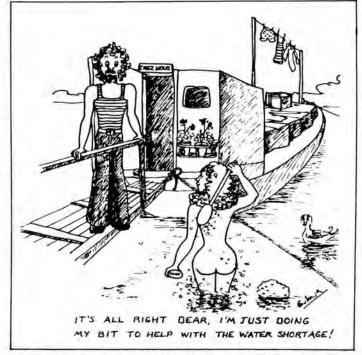
Administrative Secretary Terry Pettus is making arrangements to meet with the Association when he returns to England this summer.

HOUSEBOAT CANNOT MOVE; NOW FACES COURT ACTION

What does a floating home owner do when ordered to move but finding himself in a "Catch 22" situation because there is no place to go and he cannot get a City relocation permit until he does have such a legal destination?

Robert Weppner is in that uncomfortable situation. His floating home, valued at \$12,000, has ceased being an asset and has become a crushing liability whose market value is zilch.

This came about when James Jessup, architect, designer and



(From "Soundings," Journal of the Residential Boat Owners' Association)

builder of new floating homes, told Weppner last February that he would have to move from his moorage at 3123 Fairview Avenue East. The deadline was May 1.

Weppner says that Jessup, who lives in the only other floating home on the property, told him he had been a good tenant, that he would suffer a financial loss (Weppner pays \$100 monthly), but that for "aesthetic reasons" he wanted the floating home replaced by a sailing craft.

Jessup said he would try to find Weppner another moorage. He failed. Weppner canvassed the lake and also failed. The The reason—there are no vacant moorage sites. Also there is no space on private property around the lake to "dead storage" a floating home. Also, to move a floating home without a permit subjects the owner to arrest.

Weppner sought the help of the Floating Homes Association. On March 9 the Association wrote Jessup saying in part, "as you know, the present situation means the loss of a moorage which means the loss of the floating home. We have informed Mr. Weppner that in such cases the policy of the Association is to resist such an action by every legal means. We trust it will not come to that."

When the May 1 deadline came and went, Weppner was notified by Jessup's attorney that legal action was forthcoming, as his client was suffering an "economic" loss. Just what that loss was the attorney did not say.

Both Weppner and Jessup are members of the Association.

SORRY! OUR NEW DECALS SELF-DESTRUCT: This could be called The Case of the Vanishing Decals—Our new membership decals tastefully printed in a lovely magenta shade. Alas, the ink not only fades, it disappears—so we have our first self-destruct insignia. So, back to the printers with a plea for something more durable . . . this is carrying planned obsolescense too far. Pretty soon we hope to have replacements, and will send them along as best we can. But if you don't get yours, let out a yell and you will!

"IN UNITY THERE IS'

There is an old saying to the effect that if you don't know where you have been you do not know where you are going. If that is true, then reading Howard Droker's "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats" will be a necessity as well as a long-awaited pleasure. This important addition to regional history came about when our Association and Allied Arts jointly sponsored a research grant. We expect all of you will want to take advantage of the pre-publication offer.

Of necessity, Howard's book stops with 1976, but history continues to be made, if not yet written. We have survived but now we find ourselves in a new situation—we are the one Seattle neighborhood whose boundaries today will be the same in the years to come. Can we survive the problems of the future which we can now see only in dim outline?

If we needed a strong organization— flwe needed to develop a sense of community—we need it even more right now. In looking back over the past decade it is interesting that our organization gained in strength and influence although our actual numbers shrank. Seems contradictory but it is true.

There were 670 floating homes in Lake Union and Portage Bay when we saw the first stirrings of organization. The Highway Department knocked out two Portage Bay moorages and and 55 houseboats were homeless. In 1962 the NOAH (then Coast and Geodetic) base on Fairview replaced 75 houseboats so that in 1963 we were down to 540. Since then we have gone through the most extensive upgrading program (plumbing, sewers, etc.) of any neighborhood, with the result that today we have 444 legal moorage sites and all are occupied.

But our Association is stronger than it has ever been and continues to grow. We haven't hit the 100% mark yet (maybe never) but we keep creeping up. Thanks to an awareness of the importance of organization as an ongoing activity, we have 41 new members so far this year as compared to 56 for the entire year of 1976. Interestingly enough, the *Newsletter* is responsible for more than half of them. We could say the future depends on you and what you do with the membership application at the bottom of this page.

By Terry Pettus COUNCIL ACTS FRIMLY IN STATE HOUSEBOAT HASSLE

Thanks to decisive action by the Seattle City Council, the "Construction Limit Line" controversy involving 21 floating homes on Portage Bay and three in the 2700 block on Westlake North has been resolved with the moorage property owners negotiating the customary leases with the State Department of Natural Resources headed by Land Commissioner Bert Cole.

By a unanimous vote (with all members present) the Council answered Commissioner Cole's request for an official "policy statement." It stated that the City regards these installations as legally "grandfathered," and asked Mayor Uhlman's office to put this policy into official Ordinance form.

Mayor Uhlman submitted the original policy request to the

Mayor Uhlman submitted the original policy request to the Council on the recommendation of the Department of Community Development who, with the Floating Homes Association, had several negotiating sessions with representatives of the Department of Natural Resources. The resolution went to the Council following a hearing before the Committee on Planning and Urban Development headed by Paul Kraabel. The committee action was also unanimous.

Although thirteen years have passed since the City established the construction limit line, the state had been silent on the matter until March, when Commissioner Cole issued a press statement in Olympia. It said there were some 35 floating homes intruding on state land and would have to be moved.

The usual "squatter" notices were sent to the floating home owners telling them to vacate and imposing a \$50 per month penalty fee until they do. Moorage property owners were not informed that any portion of their installations were involved. One of the moorages has been in place since 1921 and all of them pre-date the enactment of the City's line in 1964.

As there is no place to go, compliance with Commissioner Cole's order would have meant the destruction of the floating homes with an estimated market value of between \$750,000 and one million dollars. Called into the negotiating sessions,

Just in case you	aren't MEMBERSHIP APPLICAT DUES \$12 PER YEAR	TON
TING HOMES ASSOCIA	Covers all the adults (18 years or over) in the one membership card is needed, list names b Dues payments cover the 12 months followin Make checks payable to FLOATING HOMES ASSO	elow. ng the time of joining.
NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP
NAME	ADDRESS ADDRESS	

Continued from page 6

the Corps of Army Engineers said that the floating homes were legal as far as federal legislation is concerned.

At no time was there an explanation why the Department of Natural Resources has ignored the situation for so many years. The present situation has remained unchanged since the City Council created the "construction limit line" enacted when the State Harbor Commission did not respond to a request for the drawing of official inner and outer harbor lines on Lake Union and Portage Bay. Commissioner Cole is a member of the State Harbor Line Commission.

The matter has its origin in the years 1960-61 when the City government turned its attention to what was happening to Lake Union. The then Citizens' Planning Council was the community organization loudly calling for something to be done. Only the Army Engineers, whose powers were then quite limited, was exercising any control, but could not stop the massive fills on Fairview Avenue and Westlake which were making a mud hole out of the South end of the lake with fill dirt from the freeway. Property owners were be ng paid 25 cents a cubic yard to permit the lake to be used as a short haul dump.

In 1963 the City Planning Commission issued the "Lake Union Study" which sounded the alarm and made the Harbor line recommendation to limit the state leases which the Department of Natural Resources were issuing for submerged property around the perimeter of the Lake. When the Harbor Commission failed to act the City Council did. Its "Construction Limit Line" followed the outboard limits of state leases already given. In Portage Bay the present line was drawn with a few floating homes left outside as "grandfathered" installations. On Westlake Avenue one marina is also in this category. (It was never mentioned by the Department of Natural Resources in the current controversy.)

Admittedly there is some ambiguity in the Ordinances establishing the city's construction limit line. But there is none in the Planning Commission's request that lines be established. In urging action it said: "Piers established beyond the present or any future pierhead line can be considered permanent for practical purposes. Such piers have been legally aut 'horized and any operation carried on in the future will not be prejudiced by the fact that they extend beyond the defined boundary lines."

In 1971 the City of Seattle amended its Harbor Code and was given power to regulate the 22 large state waterways around the perimeter of Lake Union. These had also been neglected by the Department of Natural Resources for years and had been abused and exploited.

The Construction Limit Line has served the needs of the lake very well. There have been no intrusions beyond that line since its enactment. The State Harbor Commission had never acted and there is little need for it to do so. The Construction Limit Line is regarded as an "Outer Harbor Line" and the boundaries of the private property is considered the "Inner Harbor Line."

Neglect of the lake is a thing of the past. In 1968 Congress extended the jurisdiction of the Army Engineers to the highwater mark. In 1971 the people enacted the State Shorelines Management Act under which Scattle has enacted its Shoreline Master Program.

The hassle over the long-established floating homes was a distressing spectre out of the distant past.

LAKE INVESTMENT FUND

(A Cooperative)

PURPOSE

- To encourage and facilitate the formation of Joint Ownership Floating Home Moorages.
- 2. To assist and encourage the maintenance and ownership of the transfer of real and personal property affecting the floating home community to persons or entities with interests beneficial to and sympathetic with the floating home environment.
- To endeavor to provide a reasonable return on investment to stockholders (members) of the Fund.

(Use this coupon to help build economic stability for our Floating Home Neighborhood)

Jack MacIntyre, Secretary-Treasurer Lake Investment Fund (A Cooperative) 2329 Fairview Ave. E. Seattle, Wash. 98102

I (we) subscribe to the purposes of the Lake Investment Fund and wish to become members. Enclosed is \$ ______ for _____ share(s) at \$500 each. Please send Share Certificates to:

Name

Address

Zip

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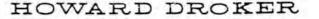
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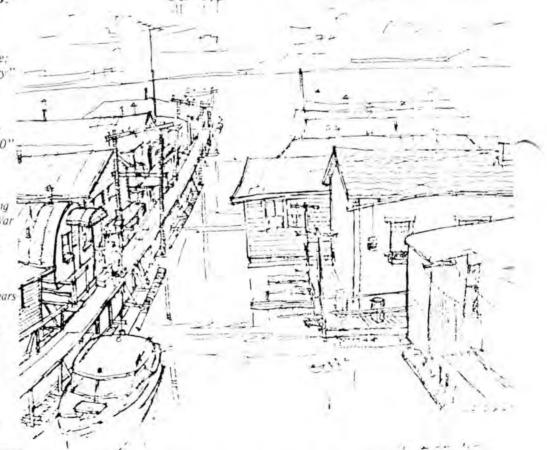
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