

Are You a "Trespasser?"

# Association Launches State Lease Drive



NUMBER 110

*Newsletter*

DECEMBER 1988



Photo by Phil Webber

## *1207 Tickets Sold*

Susan Susor whips up a batch of what was reported to be about three tons of brownies for the 1988 Tour of Homes hospitality houses. The Association cleared nearly \$10,000 on the affair, making it our second biggest fundraiser ever after the 1985 auction.



## **Matters of Concern**

by Bill Keasler

### **Help Your Moorage Owner**

Pages 8 and 9 of this Newsletter present an introduction to the State Lease situation facing our community. The majority of us will have to deal with this problem before the end of 1989.

If your dock even approaches the Construction Limit Line, which separates developable property from navigable waters, your moorage owner will soon have to formally show the Department of Natural Resources how the dock and the houseboats on it are situated relative to the line. Any structures outside the line will require a new lease from DNR.

The financial impact of these leases will be minimal for dock owners who come forward during the grace period next year while DNR and the Association attempt to put together a package covering every affected moorage on the lake. However, if a dock owner chooses to delay or refuses to cooperate, DNR is now saying the annual rate could be 3 times the grace period rate plus back rent to the time the property was first occupied! Trying to hide is probably futile, anyway. DNR has access to the same photo (much enlarged) we've printed on page 8. You can bet they're going to use it.

It only makes good business sense to participate in the program offered by DNR if you own your dock. In the event you don't own your dock, there may be a problem. The state will only deal with moorage owners. Under the terms of the Equity Ordinance, a moorage owner can pass state lease fees on to the tenants. Theoretically, then, stalling may not cost your moorage owner anything except a hassle, but might add a bundle to your monthly rent.

Cooperation and good will seem to be the keys to getting through this without a stiff increase in your cost of living. It is the moorage owners who must sign, but that shouldn't stop you from making sure they know what's going on and helping in every way you can.

# ASSOCIATION UPDATE

## Seaplane Test Rained Out



The Seaplane Environmental Coalition (SEC) is having a hard time getting an agreement with Lake Union seaplane operators off the ground. Even a test in November to determine the impact of flight profile alternatives on noise into rain and high winds.

With people stationed at several locations along the ship canal, pilots were supposed to fly from Lake Union to Shilshole using several different power settings and altitudes. The idea was that the people on the ground would judge the relative noise levels of the different "profiles". A strong southerly wind and rain forced a cancellation. The operators and the SEC haven't met since.

Henry Sharpe, of the city's Office of Long Range Planning, has been valiantly trying to hold the two sides close enough together for talks, which have been going on since last spring, to continue. He hopes to salvage agreements already made in principle over flight paths, equipment and operations before the negotiations inevitably crash into the issues of hours of operation and number of flights per day.

The SEC, for their part, is becoming increasingly impatient with the pace of the talks. Lynda Caine says they are starting to seriously pursue other options, beginning with a request for a city council hearing on the issue in early spring.



Photo by Tom Susor

About 400 more people showed up for the 1988 Tour of Homes than we expected. The lines were long, the houses were crowded, the ticket sellers were panicked. The guests, however, seemed to enjoy the experience thoroughly.

The tour was organized by Marty Gardner again this year. She says, "We had incredible publicity this time. Peggy Stockley was able to get feature articles in both papers the week before. That was probably the reason so many people showed up."

# CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST!



## GREAT GIFT IDEAS FROM THE HOUSEBOAT COMMUNITY COTTAGE INDUSTRY

### FLOATING HOMES SWEATSHIRTS \$17

*Classic 4 color, line drawing of houseboats — by Bob McPake. Very popular.*

### FLOATING HOMES T- SHIRTS

*Classic 4 color line drawing of houseboats*

*Crew neck style \$9*

*Children's \$7*

### \*\*\* 1989 HOUSEBOAT CALENDAR \$5 \*\*\*

#### FIRST TIME OFFERED!

*Floating Homes Association's own 1989 calendar. 13 black & white photos & sketches depicting houseboat life PLUS real & imagined holidays to celebrate makes this a great gift for both water dwellers and land lovers. (See reverse for more info.)*

### SEATTLE HOUSEBOATERS' COOKBOOK \$9

*A delightful collection of recipes, tall tales, photos & sketches from folks in the community. "The funniest federation of flotsam & jetsam published hereabouts." Jon Hahn — Seattle P.I.*

### SEATTLE'S UNSINKABLE HOUSEBOATS \$5

*Written by Howard Droker and illustrated by Victor Steinbrueck; a fascinating history of the houseboat community, its origins and politics.*

### SEATTLE HOUSEBOATS — LAKE UNION & PORTAGE BAY \$1.50

*Beautiful photo color brochure of the houseboat community by Phil Webber & Marcia Tobin. Ideal to send to the folks "back home" for Christmas.*

### HOUSEBOAT NOTECARDS 10 for \$2.50

*Charming notepaper; includes 2 scenes, one humorous, and one traditional — on buff bond paper with matching envelopes by Becker Design Associates.*

EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS AT:  
FAIRVIEW (SUSAN KORBONITS) 323-6554  
WESTLAKE (TOM HASLETT) 285-4341  
PORTAGE BAY (LAREN AMBROSE) 322-7073

water quality ...

Another Point of View

Editor:

I read with interest the article in the September Newsletter on "Water Quality." In it, the blame for lack of progress on Metro's Combined Sewage Overflow project was laid at the feet of "a coalition of community groups from Ravenna." As a member of this coalition, I think it is important that your readers understand our position.

We do not oppose Metro's effort to reduce raw sewage discharge into Portage Bay. This is a serious problem which needs to be addressed. However, we do oppose the selection of Ravenna Park as the preferred location of the pipeline project. I underline park,

because it is the park route we are most concerned about, not the neighborhood route, as the article suggested. In fact, several members of our group have publically testified in favor of the Ravenna Boulevard pipeline route.

There are at least three alternative location for a pipeline project (including Ravenna Boulevard) which all involve the excavation of streets instead of ecologically and aesthetically sensitive parkland. Why damage a unique urban wilderness park during a time of intense regional growth, when we are also trying to identify and protect othr open space and green belt areas?

It is also worth noting that the state environmental impact statement process that Metro and the Parks Department must go through is proceeding. In the meantime, our group is working to find an acceptable solution to the water quality problems on Portage Bay and in Green Lake that does not harm Ravenna Park.

Finally, this issue should not pit neighborhoods against one another. Let's work together to come up with the best possible solution -- one that enhances water quality and preserves Seattle's parks.

Woody Wheeler
Save Seattle Parks Coalition

NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Behold our newest membership form. It is supposed to clarify the distinction between dues and a donation to the legal fund. Since we are a lobbying organization, we can't have tax-exempt status. However, since legal defense can be a tax deductible activity, we have used the good offices of the tax-exempt Seattle Community Council Federation (SCCF) to accept, maintain and disburse our legal fund donations. The \$50.00 minimum donation is an arbitrary figure we've set to make the considerable overhead in this system worthwhile.

If you haven't received a renewal notice this year, please bear with us. We're still suffering from a transition in office managers and trying to get the membership list onto our computer. Then again, why wait? Clip out this form and send it in today!

MEMBERSHIP FORM
2329 FAIRVIEW AVE. EAST
FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION-INC
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98102
Help preserve and protect Seattle's colorful houseboat colony.
Support the Floating Homes Association.
One year membership: New [ ] Renewal [ ]
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
Houseboat: Own [ ] Rent [ ]
Moorage: Own [ ] Rent [ ]
Dues (checks payable to "FHA")
\$36.00 Regular Household [ ]
\$24.00 Retired Household [ ]
For Legal Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
(\$50.00 minimum, tax deductible
checks payable to "FHA/SCCF")

## Greenlake/Portage Bay

### CSO Project

by Joan Rosenstock

Because of the sensitivity and political nature of the Green Lake / Portage Bay Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Project, it has been necessary for Metro and the city's Parks Department to investigate a number of alternatives to reach the following goals:

- \* Reduce CSO's in Portage Bay by 50% to 75%.
- \* Reduce the phosphorous and algae content in Green Lake to improve the lake's water quality.

To reach the 50% CSO reduction, three alternatives were evaluated. Two pipeline alternatives separate out the raw sewage, sending it to the West Point treatment plant, and then dump the remaining surface water run-off into Union Bay and Portage Bay. One sewer separation pipeline alternative would be a gravity flow system from Green Lake to the University slough via Ravenna Park. The other separation alternative would pump the surface water runoff into the north end of Lake Union via a route along I-5. The third alternative would treat the CSO's (both runoff and raw sewage) by storing them in a 16 million gallon storage tank until the storm is over and the treatment plant can accommodate the flow.

To achieve a 75% CSO reduction, an additional 7 million gallon storage tank would need to be constructed with either the I-5 or the Ravenna sewer separation pipeline. The storage tank would most likely be constructed under the Cowen or Ravenna Park ballfields. Storage and treatment of 75% of the CSOs would require a 31 million gallon tank.

A Citizen's Task Force has been meeting for over 6 months to provide input to Metro and Parks on issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement and to try to reach consensus on an alternative that meets the project goals with the least amount of impact resulting from the pipeline of storage tanks.

Representatives from the Floating Homes Association (Tom Susor, 632-1397) and Portage Bay/Roanoke Park Community Club (Joan Rosenstock, 329-9095) have been firmly advocating 75% CSO control. The alternative that reaches this goal with the least community opposition (from the Ravenna area) would be to construct a pipeline along I-5 to achieve a 50% reduction and a 7 million gallon storage tank in Cowen or Ravenna Park to achieve the additional reduction to 75% control. Mitigation of the storage tank would include better drainage of the ball field so that it could be used year round. It appears that initial cost estimates by Metro and Parks would make these projects feasible. Pending final cost estimates, there is tentative agreement among most of the 29 representatives on the Task Force to support these projects to achieve 75% control of CSOs in Portage Bay.

Metro staff are expected to recommend that only 50% control be initially approved by their council. It will be up to the residents and businesses around Lake Union and Portage Bay to convince the Metro Council to take the additional step of approving the 75% control required by the Department of Ecology.

## Keep It Clean

by Tom Hubbard,

Metro Water Quality Planner

Seattle's houseboat community is unique; few others in the city live closer or more intimately with the water. Floating home residents can help Metro with a new plan to protect and enhance the waters of the city.

The City of Seattle has developed the "Lake Union and Ship Canal Water Quality Management Program Interim Action Plan" which the City Council adopted in September of this year. As a result, the city, in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Ecology and Metro, has initiated a program to improve water quality in Portage Bay, Lake Union, and the Ship Canal. Storm drains are being sampled to identify sources of toxicants. Metro and the city are developing plans to control the discharge of Combined Sewer Overflows. Businesses along the shoreline will be inspected to determine if they are contributing to pollution problems. The city's Parks Department is investigating remedial actions for Gas Works Park. Best management practices for boats and marinas are being developed. Together these programs should result in a cleaner and healthier environment or all of us.

The houseboat community can participate in the program by:

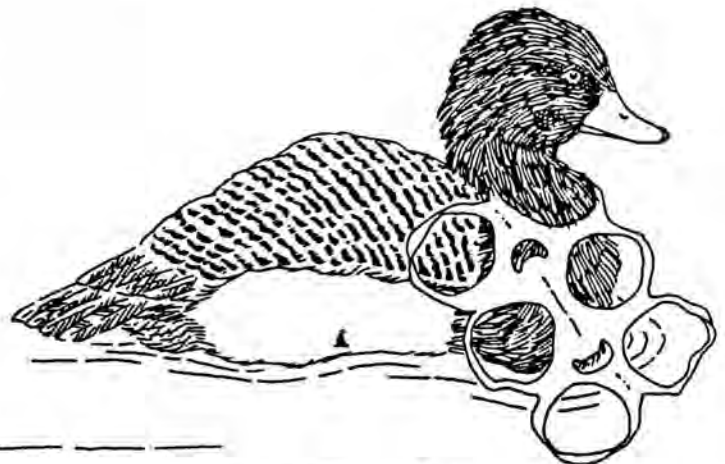
- \* Checking sewer lines. Breaks and leaks should be repaired immediately. Besides the obvious human health concerns, discharge of raw sewage is a violation of state law.

- \* Minimizing the wastes dumped or spilled into the water. Waste oil should be recycled at gas stations. Look for less toxic alternatives to common household products. Paint and wood preservatives that drip through cracks or get spilled through careless use end up in the lake's sediment. Some wood preservatives like pentachlorophenol are very toxic to fish and other aquatic life.

- \* Watching for spills, fish kills, or other water quality problems. (The Department of Ecology has a 24 hour Trouble Call Line -- 867-7000, Metro staffs an interagency Trouble Call response program from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm -- 684-1231.)

If you have questions regarding this new program, call Tom Hubbard at Metro -- 684-2062.

The bottom line is, don't put anything in the lake that you wouldn't want to swim in or drink.



# Lake Union Portage Bay Leases



Courtesy USCE

## Lines on the Lake

These photos from the Corps of Engineers have been marked with lines showing the approximate locations of the Construction Limit Line adjacent to floating home moorages on Lake Union and Portage Bay. If your dock touches a line in the photos, DNR will probably require the dock owner to participate in its program to "legalize unauthorized floating homes."

# DNR Offers Grace Period for "Trespassers"

If any part of your houseboat or moorage extends beyond the Construction Limit Line (CLL), you are "trespassing" on state land, according to the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Recent talks between the Floating Homes Association and DNR, however, have resulted in an offer by the state to give leases to moorage owners for these areas at the standard "water dependant" rate if they step forward in the next few months and work with DNR to sort out the problem. Moorage owners who do not participate in the program during the grace period may be subject to much higher annual lease fees and may also be liable for back rent, with interest, going back as far as when the areas were first occupied.

The CLL separates developable property from navigable waters. The state has jurisdiction over property outside the line, the city over property inside the line. No structures are supposed to be allowed beyond the line. In reality, many houseboats, docks and marinas in Lake Union and Portage Bay do extend waterward of the CLL. Concern over the looming expiration of a few leases for this kind of property in Portage Bay beginning next year has led the Association and DNR to take a closer look at the whole lake.

Around 20 years ago, a rather arbitrary line was drawn by the city through the houseboat community on the south side of Portage Bay. Most floating homes were inside this line but thirty or so were left outside. Over the course of the next few years, the state let 15-year non-renewable leases to the moorages outside the line on the assumption, prevailing at the time, that the houseboats probably wouldn't last that long anyway. The ones who drew the line are long gone, but the houseboats are left with a problem. Theoretically, they could be evicted from their moorages when their leases expire.

Elsewhere on the lake, for a variety of reasons over the years, docks have been built or extended beyond the CLL. There are probably some houseboats on Portage Bay over the line which don't currently have leases. There are almost certainly boats and docks on Fairview and Westlake which don't. DNR considers these "trespassers" on the land they control.

Normally, DNR will not lease property beyond the CLL. However, they do have a policy of granting leases to some types of uses beyond CLL's if they otherwise "meet all applicable local and federal laws." Until recently the status of houseboats beyond the CLL in Seattle was ambiguous, if not strictly disallowed.

But among the provisions of the city's recently enacted Shorelines Master Program is a stipulation grandfathering all houseboats currently occupying the same sites they were in as of January 1, 1974. By definition, then, the newly grandfathered houseboats meet the applicable local laws.

We are also in possession of a letter from the Corps of Engineers stating that they, "do not require permits for houseboats in Portage Bay." Followup conversations confirm the same for Lake Union. Apparently, this is not a big deal for the Corps. "The city can move the line a hundred feet if they want to," says a representative of their Regulatory branch.

All this being the case, we now have the necessary components of a plausible argument that the houseboats in question qualify for new leases under DNR's policy.

In fact, our preliminary discussions with DNR have been most encouraging. Despite their hard line on the legal status of floating homes, they have formally expressed a willingness to grant renewable 12-year leases for the areas in question at the water-dependant rate (about 1/3 the non-water dependant rate).

A recent letter to the Association from David Bortz, this area's Aquatic Lands Administrator for DNR, outlines his department's intentions for "legalizing those floating homes using state-owned aquatic lands without authorization."

"There are two types of trespassing floating homes," he writes. "One involves those homes which are waterward of the construction limit line (CLL) where there is a state moorage lease behind the CLL. These newly 'grandfathered' homes can usually be included in as amendments to the existing lease. The second case is where there is no current lease associated with the homes to be 'grandfathered.' In that case, a new lease will be written for those home moorage areas."

There may be a third category Bortz doesn't mention. That is where a floating home has not occupied the site it's in now since 1974. We're pretty sure there are only a few of these, if any, but they will probably have to be handled by the city and state on a case by case basis. The Association is confident that most of these situations can also be resolved by working with the DNR and the city.

Bortz does deliver a warning. "Moorage owners who do not step forward under this process will be charged back rent, with interest, which could go back as far as the date the sites were first occupied. All the homes in trespass could be charged the full retroactive rent, but by cooperating in this process, they will be charged rent prospectively from a date reflected in each agreement, which may be the deadline date (set next year in consultation with the Floating Homes Association). Any lease amendment or new lease will require a professional survey of the site to reflect the area actually used." He suggests that we may want to try act together to "get some economy of scale in procuring surveying services."

Bortz is willing to meet with affected parties and/or the Association on the subject sites and encourages people to call him with questions at 464-6416.

The Association is committed to making this happen. We will publicize this program further and call meetings of interested parties when it seems appropriate. Letters will be going out to every moorage owner on the lake. We will also help organize the lake-wide survey suggested by DNR.

A final caution. There is nothing to require DNR to give the leases. To do so will be a policy decision entirely up to the Department. It is thus in our interest to make this go as smoothly as possible for them. They evidently justify the lower rate by anticipating much less hassle for themselves if the leases are handled as a package rather than by chasing down each individual moorage owner.

The keys to taking advantage of this unique opportunity appear to be that we present our documentation to them as a comprehensible package and that all the leases are settled more or less together.

# ASSOCIATION UPDATE

## LAKE UNION DISTRICT COUNCIL

Last year the City Council created the Office of Neighborhoods to give city residents a more direct voice in what happens in their communities. After a rather extended and tortuous exercise in the politics of compromise, the Lake Union District Council, one of thirteen councils in the city, was formed to include Floating Homes, Eastlake, Wallingford, Cascade and Fremont. Margie Freeman, 2766 WL, was elected chairperson of the new organization.

The role of the LUDC is beginning to come into focus. The whole structure is being designed to permit neighborhoods to have some control over the city budget and planning. Some first steps have been taken.

## MATCHING FUNDS

This year, the City Council has appropriated \$150,000 (rumor makes it \$1.5 million next year) for matching funds to be spent by the district councils. The LUDC's share is about \$11,500. It has been decided that each neighborhood will get about \$2,000 to spend on a project in their area with a "parks theme," if they wish.

Floating Homes delegate Mike Roberts, 2025 FV, proposed that disabled access be a part of any project. At least two street-ends were mentioned as candidates for development: the foot of Hamlin Street E on Lake Union and the waterway directly east of Gasworks. Proposals are still being considered. If you have a good idea, let us know.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

Carol Eychaner, an Eastlaker, and Linda Phillips, 2235 FV, popped into the last Floating Homes Executive Committee meeting to pitch another budding project of the LUDC, neighborhood planning. They proposed a comprehensive plan to include environmental, land use, social and human services, arts and any other factors which have an impact on the community.

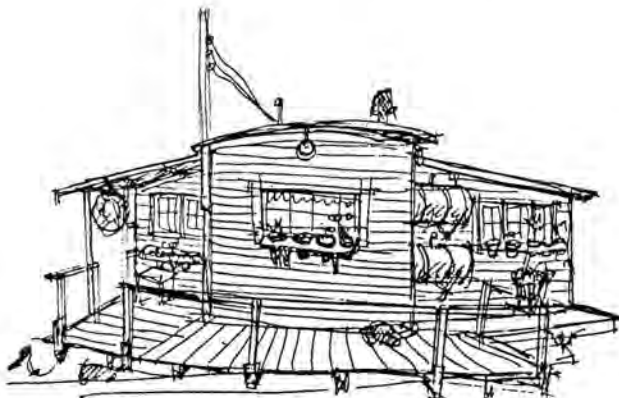
In the past, similar efforts have been undertaken only be ignored by downtown. Eychaner, for one, is optimistic that won't happen this again. "City Hall wants it this time. Laws will change", she says. "We'll get something substantial from the city."

## Newsletter Artists

The Newsletter has been the fortunate beneficiary of a considerable amount of artistic talent over the years.

Perhaps the biggest impact on the "look" of the Newsletter has been the contributions of Victor Steinbruek, the late lamented architect and civic activist who was best known for his fight to save the Pike Place Market. During the time he was illustrating Howard Droker's book, "Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats" (see the ad on page 3), he created several pages of fanciful drawings he called "houseboat types". One of these is printed below.

Now we are pleased to report that Portage Bay artist Peg Boley has agreed to do a series of back covers for the upcoming year. The first is printed in this issue. She has also donated a few "doodles" which we'll print as space allows. We are delighted to have her as a member of the staff.



## HUMMING TOADS

Our Floating Homes Association counterparts in Sausalito know how to throw a party, too. Last summer they put on the "First Annual Humming Toadfish Festival", which was apparently a street fair with food, drink, crafts and, of course, humming toads, whatever they are. 4,200 people were curious enough to attend and the event drew national tv attention, getting calls from as far away as Australia and Canada.

Sausalito's problems are remarkably similar to ours and for similar reasons: the houseboater don't own their docks and there is nowhere else to go. Their Association is currently embroiled in a lawsuit over exorbitant rents. Sound familiar?



## *good crowds, good time*

Like the 1986 Tour, this one had homes on both Westlake and Fairview. A shuttle bus ran continuously between the two areas. Ten homes were opened to the public and two hospitality houses served light snacks to weary guests. Nearly a hundred volunteers helped out on tour day.

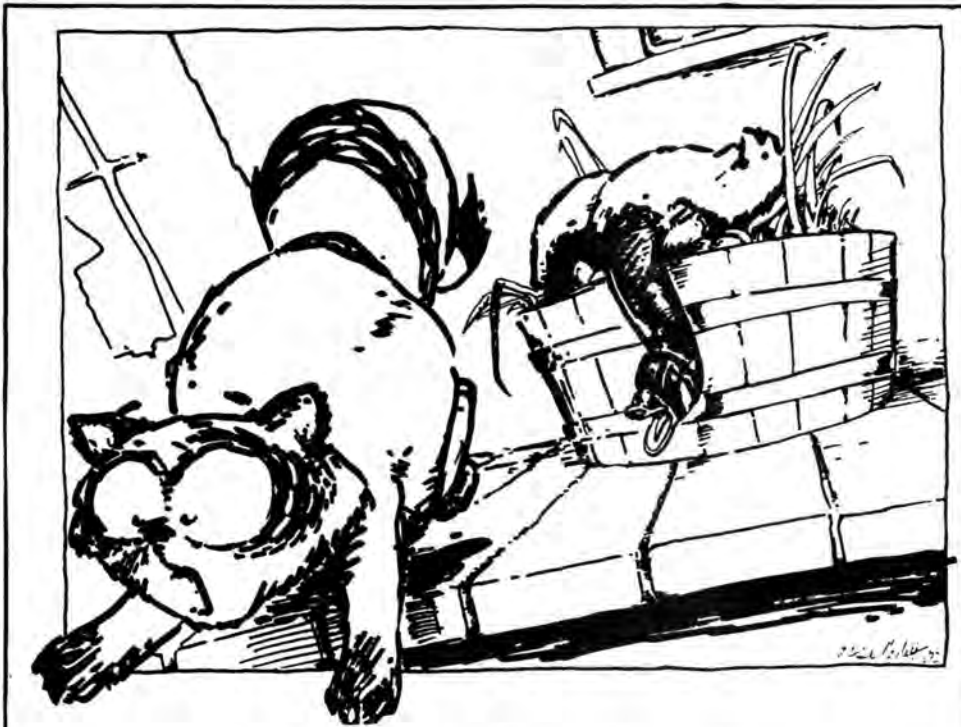
### Photo Credits

Association members made the Tour the great day it was. Photos by Bill Keasler (K) and Phil Webber (W), clockwise from right:

Connie Jump did a land office business at the ticket booth (W), Phil Webber works the crowd waiting for the shuttle bus (K), June Fauchald hawks our cottage industry (K), Dave Gardner found some bees under the railroad tracks on tour day (K), a tourgoer snags a brownie while Susan Susor presides over a hospitality house refreshment table.



# ASSOCIATION UPDATE



## Buy a Calendar!

This drawing by Mark Hazlett is just one of the sketches, photos, essays and whimsy in the first Floating Homes Association Calendar. It's funny, attractive, cheap, and would make a great stocking stuffer. We only printed 350 of them so you'd better order one soon. Nearly a hundred were ordered before they were even printed.

### YOUNGQUIST PERMIT DENIED

For at least the third time, Doris Youngquist, owner of the 2476 WL houseboat moorage, has been denied a permit to build a marina on her property. She wants to purge the two existing houseboats on her dock and replace them with pleasure boats. This change of use is allowed under the Equity Ordinance in a "Lake Union/Urban Stable" zone if the moorage owner acquires the appropriate permits and gives tenants six-months notice.

The latest denial was because Youngquist attempted to include unenclosed overwater parking in her development. Her immediate neighbors to the south, the Nesica Chuck Coop, view the denial with somewhat mixed emotions. While they're glad the houseboats can stay a little longer, "We put a lot of work into an agreement we could live with which would preserve views and open water," says Phil Webber, a resident of Nesica Chuck. The status of the agreement is now unclear.



### SAFE HARBOR

The situation at the 2460 Westlake Coop contrasts sharply with that at the Youngquist dock. Showing both competence and compassion, the members of 2460 have successfully acquired a permit for demolishing existing pleasure boat moorage and developing five floating home moorages. At least three of these will be "Safe Harbor" moorages. The latest word is that one of the Youngquist houseboats, the Juliette Sauvage boat already on-site, and a Portage Bay floating home currently owned by Sarah Jarvis are the most likely beneficiaries of 2460's enlightened self-interest.

### "where's the monster?"

Photo by Bill Keasler



Tourgoers were curious about the rugged conditions of houseboat living. As he stepped off the shuttle bus, a guest was heard to ask a houseboater who looked like he'd been around awhile what happens to the water pipes in winter. "They freeze," was the answer.



## Waterlog

by Sheri Lockwood

It's hibernation time on the docks, when gathering news becomes a challenge. It's not because nothing is happening. It's just that we're not communicating as well with those neighbors we only see slipping down rain slicked docks, laoding skis on top of their cars, hauling wood (it warms you twice, we've heard for the 2000th time), or waving Aloha! or Adios! as they cheerfully board airplanes for warm beaches. Fortunately (for this reporter) we can't spend the entire monsoon season in warmer climes ... so there is some news to report.

**WELCOME ABOARD:** Steve and Mary Elayne Dunphy will be returning to 2037 FV after 11 years on land. Everyone is glad to have them back ... Jim Wandesforde's daughter Joan will be living in his house on the same dock ... on 2770 WL Bonnie Curreri and daughter Kim Falcon are new. Bonnie was going to give up the houseboat life when Kim marries next year, but is having serious second thoughts ... Bill and Karen Evenden along with Don Smith are welcomed to 2460 WL ... on 2822 Boyer, Mary Hawk Greenway is alternating between home and studio / land and water ... Musical houseboats: on 2331 FV they have two new neighbors, Jerri Callahan is one, Ty Tice is another and Jan Knutson switched to a new houseboat home on the same dock ... 2017 FV welcomes new dockster Mike Bell ... when the state asked them to move "Horney Toad" a sailboat fixture at the end of 2207 FV for years, one of the Ying brothers had to find it a new home. Richard Ying is newly welcomed to 2031 FV. Charles remains at 2207 ... Marcia Tobin and Margaret Bullitt are welcome new neighbors on 2420 WL ... 2770 WL misses Doni and Evan Simmons and 4 year old Nicholas who have move to Vashon Island.

**KNOTS TIED:** Patty Johnson and Peter Fewing (2037 FV) are being married on December 10th. In lieu of gifts they've asked that well-wishers contribute a wrapped toy or clothing for children to be donated to charity ... Congratulations to Tom Edwards and Zimmie of 2460 FV who were married this fall.

**ANCHORS AWEIGH:** Helen Mitchell (2037 FV) just returned from a November trip to the Galapagos Islands. She saw the turtles although they are fenced in to protect them from the dogs, cats and rats (brought to the island by man) who eat the baby turtles and eggs. Helen says the island is stringently protected environmentally, the hiking and climbing can be difficult but the lizards are incredible, the diverse bird life is fascinating and you can swim with the seals (but only with the females, the males think you're invading their territory and get very upset). She'll be happy to share travel tips, 325-8064 ... Ross Lavroff (2727 FV) just returned from a trip where he helped translate for the prominent Soviet dissident Sakharov ... On 2822 Boyer, Betty and Jeff Browne just returned from 3 weeks in Spain, Carol McGinnis and daughters had a great time in the wine country of France, and Peter Mucklestone will be spending 3 weeks in India ... Rosemary Parker and Shirley Lashua (2219 FV) spent two weeks visiting their dock neighbor Sue Drum who is enjoying an extended stay in Hawaii. Sue and her sister have just built a vacation duplex on the big island of Hawaii. It's reclusive and quiet and you need a car, but if you'd like to stay there write to Shirley or Parkey, 2219 FV, and they can convey your interest to Sue ... John and Carol Hilton of 2219 FV also visited Hawaii in September ... Peggy Hackney (2351 FV) and her husband Rob Anglin and daughter Ashbey did a "European Tour" of 6 weeks this fall. Peggy then did

certification classes at the Rotterdam Dance Academy for Laban Movement Analysis. She also did workshops in Berlin and certifies students at the graduate level at the UW. The method is useful both physically and psychologically in releasing tensions and encouraging expression thereby allowing growth.

**WET BUT FLOATING:** Jon Ireland and Jay Gelzer (2235 FV) welcome their new son, Conner Matthew Ireland, born November 5th weighing 8 lbs 6 oz. He's really cute and sweet.

**FLOATSAM AND JETSAM:** The bufflehead ducks are back on Portage Bay, they're the tiny black and white ones, the males have a little topknot crest ... Topsy Mattson's dock (3136 PBP1) is going condo. Joan Rosenstock bought it and is selling it back to the residents. Those of us who've gone through it know how hopeful and hard the process can be ... Jim Wandesforde's 19-year old Siamese cat, Hyacinth, who's been on the dock since she was born, died this fall ... Watch for Julie Zylstra (2239-41 FV) in the "Angry Housewives" ad on TV. She says she can identify with the characters ...

**DOWN TO THE LOGS:** Only two houses are not being remodeled at present on 2351 FV. Two feature designs by Gene Morris, who has won many awards for the design of his own houseboat ... Nancy Johnson of 2017 FV has known of the occasional visits around there by a local river otter for nearly a year, but never had their hi-jinx awakened her in the middle of the night as they did a couple weeks ago. Apparently, a mother and her three babies were playing on the dock and deck on the moonlight. She checked and found though that they are carnivorous they eat mostly crustaceans. They aren't usually found in groups and don't stay in one place long. They don't know on things and won't get entangled in the plumbing and cables around the houseboats and docks. And what surprised Nancy the most is that they are not weasel-sized as she'd guessed from Walt Disney and National Geographic documentaries. "These guys are at least three feet long," she says.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Don't forget houseboat T-shirts, cookbooks, notepaper, pins, bumper stickers, etc ... and the NEW HOUSEBOAT CALENDAR. The folks putting together this new item in our cottage industry inventory, Jann McFarland, Marty Gardner, and Beth Means, are the same crew which did our unique cookbook a few years ago, so it should be a good one ... Nancy Fischer's "Flowers Afloat," that provided deckside, canoe-service flower delivery during the summer and fall is taking a winter break. "It's just too hard to maneuver the canoe in all the wind," says Nancy. "Besides, there aren't a lot of people sitting out on their decks to notice me." She will be back plying the canals of Eastlake and Portage Bay and sometimes Westlake in April. If there is a calm Sunday in December she will make a special trip selling boughs and holly, hopefully on the Christmas Ship day as well. She says it, "was just an experiment, but it looks as if it will work." Meanwhile, if you do need Christmas boughs, garland and holly, not necessarily delivered via canoe, she'll be happy to provide them. Call her at 632-7544 ... Need a massage after hectic Christmas shopping? Jeannette Day (2235 FV) is a licensed massage practitioner. Call her at 325-8523 (Gift Certificates for massage make great Christmas presents) ... Former long-time resident and FHA secretary Barbara Nelson has moved in with a friend in Marysville. She misses the houseboat community, and her new phone numbr is 659-7315.

**SPLICE THE MAIN BRACE:** The 2420 residents are planning for the holiday season: activities are to include a lighted boat parade viewing party, a couple of open houses and a dock decorating party.

Memorial services were held November 12th for Eric Pollack. He had owned a houseboat on 2420 WL for several years. We regret his passing.

