



NUMBER 111

*Newsletter*

APRIL 1989

*Floating Homes Association's*

**27th Annual**

## **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**7:30 pm, Thursday**

**April 27, 1989**

*State Leases, Seaplanes, City Politics, Open Spaces and our Winter Auction fill the agenda of our next Annual Meeting. Bill Keasler will inaugurate an annual "President's Award" for outstanding service to the Association and we'll elect next year's Executive Committee. We've also invited some candidates for mayor and city council to come and shake a few hands during the social hour. Find out what's happening on the lake. Gossip with your neighbors around the "Complimentary Refreshments" table. Mark your calendars. Be there!*

**St. Patrick's Parish Hall**

**2702 Broadway E**

## **SOUTHLAKE PARK**

by Dick Wagner

In the beginning the earth cooled, then the dinosaurs came. This era was followed by the Big Freeze. After that came rain, moss and giant slugs. And then Seattle began with a graceless crosshatch pattern of roads. In Seattle's days of primal grid, however, attempts were made to plan for its "City Beautiful" future. In 1903 the Olmstead Brothers, famed for their design of Central Park in New York, were hired to survey opportunities for parks in Seattle. Their recommendations included Golden Gardens and Gas Works Point Sites.

Virgil Bogue was recruited by the city in 1911 for a long-range development scheme. He visualized a Civic Center and a rapid transit system, including subways and elevated tracks. Bogue also included an idea for South Lake Union. It was a grand scale production, with a half-circle waterfront promenade surrounding a motor boat marina and water taxi terminal. He called it "Seattle's Watergate".

While the watergate plan gathered dust, South Lake Union was developing as a heavy industrial area. Today, the smoke belching factories are just barely gone. The neighborhood is now mainly a warehouse district. The state's most heavily used traffic corridor runs along the edge of the lake.

Seattle has decided to create a park in this area and the City Council is presently considering two proposals. One is from the Mayor, and the other is from the Center for Wooden Boats (CWB) and Northwest Seaport (NWSP).

The difference between the two proposals doesn't seem like much at first glance since both show a lot of unprogrammed green space. But to

*continued page 4 ...*

# ASSOCIATION UPDATE

## Elizabeth Jackson, 1911-1989

by Helen Mitchell

The unexpected death of our dear dock-mate, Elizabeth Jackson, has left her watery family in a state of shock. There is a chasm where she used to be -- whomping up meals or, most likely, at her kitchen table surrounded by neat piles of papers, hard at her interminable tasks of helping set the world right. A dedicated liberal, she seemed always to have the time to listen to those of us who needed to blow off steam. Wandesforde's Dock isn't the same place, now that we've lost Elizabeth, and Jim, and Terry, and Ted.

## Hamlin Park

by Carol Eychaner

Eastlake residents living near the western end of East Hamlin Street are working hard to put another street-end park on the map. To be located at the foot of Hamlin on Fairview, the pocket park will be the fourth along the Eastlake shore and will provide yet another window on the working lake.

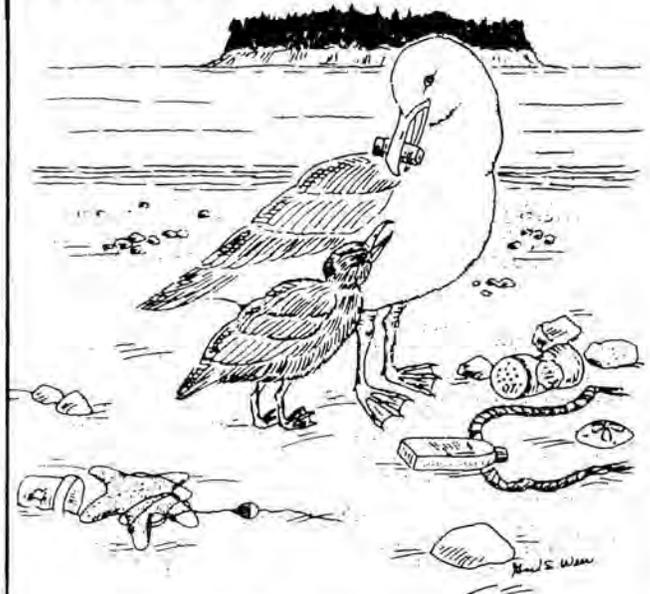
The Hamlin site was cleared and graded with money left over from a parking lot paving project fund collected by area residents. Jim Pensiero, of the Kerr/Pensiero landscape and architectural firm located in Eastlake, has volunteered a conceptual plan for the park. Pensiero's proposal should be available by the end of April and anticipates a phased implementation of benches, terraces and a dock similar to those of the highly regarded Terry Pettus park at the foot of Newton on Fairview.

Although residents were able to pay for the initial ground work, the remaining phases will likely cost anywhere from \$2,000 to \$15,000. Some of this money had been expected to come from the Neighborhood Matching Fund for 1988. But while a similar plan was approved for funding of a pocket park in Waterway 19 near Gasworks, a series of unfortunate incidents made the joint Eastlake Community Council/Floating Homes application invalid. Local residents are now working to identify alternative sources of city funding, however, and hope to do the initial planting work soon to avoid further soil erosion and a blackberry takeover.

Time, money and questions are welcome from any interested businesses or residents. Send contributions to Jean Savelle at 2728 East Hamlin, 98102; or call Carol Eychaner at 324-1716 for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* We have an answering machine to help \*  
\* us handle telephone calls and provide a \*  
\* quick response to members' concerns. If \*  
\* you have information or a question, call or \*  
\* leave a message. We'll be happy to call you \*  
\* back. \*  
\* 325-1132 CALL US ANYTIME \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Water Quality



Man's abuse of his environment takes myriad forms. We dump everything imaginable into the water. Recent word has it that Metro and Parks have reached some kind of accommodation about the sewage in Portage Bay but that DNR has introduced a last-minute glitch in the agreement. Some progress, anyway ... But the marine plastics problem remains, and remains, and remains: remember, that plastic beer-can holder you left on the beach or that fishing line you threw overboard last summer may survive to ensnare birds and other animals for ten years or more. Please be thoughtful.

## Happy 90th, Alfa!

by Peg Stockley

Alfa McClung, the grand lady of Tenas Chuck Moorage, turned 90 on January 18th, and a crowd of friends got together to wish her well. Alfa still lives in the same houseboat she and her late husband, Maurice, purchased in 1954. Then, it was moored at 1945 Fairview but houseboat history dictated it had to move. In 1963, Alfa and her husband settled into the Tenas Chuck dock at 2331 Fairview.

Alfa loves cats and gardening and knitting. (Her special socks are known locally as "Alfa socks".) She's an avid reader and student, maintains an active correspondence (efficiently typed on an old Underwood), occasionally plays her piano or sketches and always has a neighborly interest in those around her. No Tenas Chuck potluck would be complete without an Alfa chocolate cake. Alfa retired from the Bon Marche after a 20-year career there; to this day it's her favorite place to shop, except for Pete's.

Who would have ever predicted that a South Dakota farm girl, like Alfa, would not only come west but live on a houseboat on Lake Union? There are a lot of us who are glad she did. Happy Birthday!

## State Leases

Preliminary Survey of lake to be available at Annual Meeting.

The Association has retained Jay Spearman, marine surveyor, to do a preliminary survey of the lake to determine exactly which docks are affected by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) drive to write leases for houseboat structures beyond the city's Construction Limit Line.

Our attempts to get moorage owners to come forward to participate in DNR's program, which offers reduced lease fees to those who sign up early, are meeting with only moderate success. Part of this is due to the difficulty of identifying the responsible parties at some docks, part is due to uncertainty over which docks are actually over the line.

To clear up some of the confusion, Spearman will do a survey of all houseboat areas and draw lines on the largest scale aerial photo of the lake he can find. He will explain his efforts and make the marked-up photo available for inspection at the Annual Meeting.

## Seaplanes Agreement "Real Soon Now"

Lyndy Caine, chair of the Seaplanes Environmental Coalition, testifying before the Jim Street and Virginia Galle of the City Council's Land Use Committee on February 7th, threw her support behind the recently forged agreement between the Coalition and Lake Union seaplane operators. But, she said, her major concern is the number of flights per day. "Last summer, on peak days, it was 80 flights per day. That means one flight every 10 minutes. That means I can't talk on the phone in my house; I can't hold a conversation; and, as this number goes up, we're down to less and less peace and quiet."

The agreement, which only addresses hours of operation (8 am to dusk Mon-Sat, 9 am to dusk Sundays), flight paths and some other issues such as noise abatement equipment, aircraft identification and monitoring, specifically acknowledges that limits on the numbers of flights remains an open issue. However, Henry Sharpe, of the city's Office of Long Range Planning, reports that after a few last-minute changes, the agreement is at last ready to be signed by the operators and representatives from the surrounding communities.



Meanwhile, Caine and her coalition, convinced that restrictions on the numbers of flights per day are crucial to any solution to the burgeoning seaplane traffic on the lake, have asked the City Council to consider legislation imposing limits. Since it is not clear how the city can do this in the face of federal law which nominally pre-empts such local regulation, the coalition has now hired attorney Peter Eglick to help develop alternatives for the city. Street's office says that they will try to take up the issue again before summer.

Caine will report to the Floating Homes Association membership on the seaplanes situation at our Annual Meeting on April 27th.

## Plans Hatching:

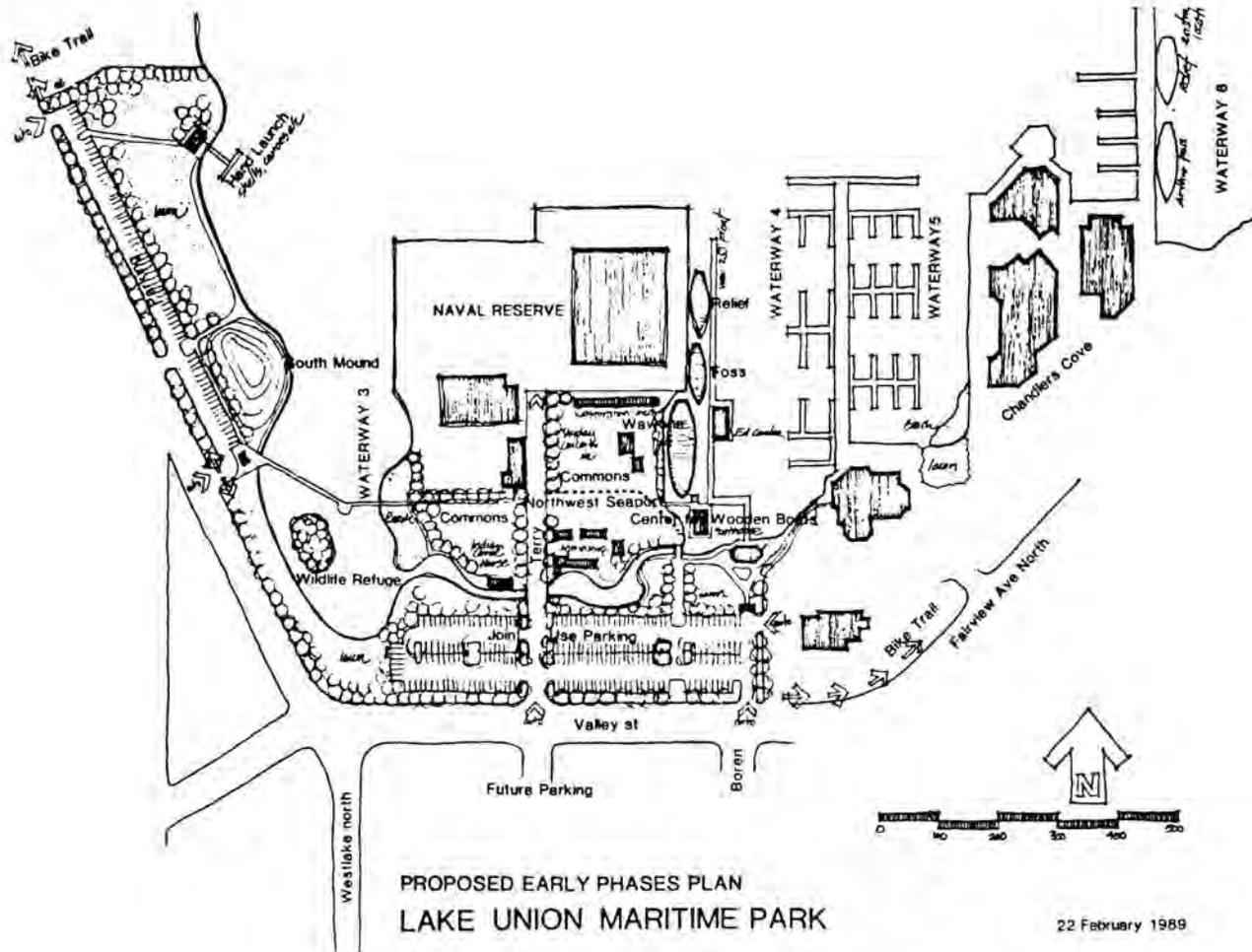
### AUCTION DEC 9

The Floating Homes Association Fundraising Committee is at it again. Their plans for a "modest party" in December have evolved into an auction which seems become more ambitious every time we hear about it. They have pottery classes, lunch at Rosario Resort in the San Juans (with air transportation back and forth), a smoked turkey, a hand made quilt and other items lined up already. Jann McFarland and Marty Alexander (with Marty Gardner egging them on) are hard at work on the preliminaries right now.

They've reserved the Puget Sound Yacht Club (on Northlake) for December 9. Admission will probably be charged to the public, and food and drink will be served. Of course, they need volunteers and donations. Call Jann (323-3489) or Marty (281-0927) if you want to help. They hope to have most of the details worked out by the Annual Meeting.



Bill and Caryl Keasler were rudely awakened at 2:00 am one night of the big freeze by a loud CRACK! which sounded like the roof had caved in. It turns out it almost had. The weight of the snow had tipped over one of the gorgeous willows on the bank at Wandesforde's Dock. Luckily, no great harm was done. The locals are very sad about the tree, though. The warmth it will provide as firewood next winter won't begin to make up for the loss of its stately presence on the Fairview streetscape.



PROPOSED EARLY PHASES PLAN  
LAKE UNION MARITIME PARK

22 February 1989

... from page 1

## Southlake Park

us, the rather small area on Waterway 4 and its west bank are extremely important for the health and welfare of our maritime heritage. The potential upland size of both plans is 14 acres, with 3,000 of waterfront. This provides space for working display of boat and ship restoration, and moorage for three of NWSP's four historic vessels. The restoration work, which includes carpentry, rigging, and forging and casting is not only neat to watch and of unique educational value, but is essential if we wish to keep our historic vessels afloat. All of the upland space and ships will be available for the public to visit, of course. We have always encouraged public involvement and always will.

This maritime heritage core also keeps CWB and NWSP side by side. We feel the effect of tramping the decks of the big historic ships and then taking a spin on Lake Union in a small craft of the same era is an experience too precious to lose.

It's funny, but 50,000 people now visit CWB/NWSP each year without the lawns and bosques. They come to see the boats. This is not a residential neighborhood, and people are not likely to drop in the park for a romp with rover. Frankly, we see little attraction to a park without the historic vessels, and we believe a park isn't a park without people.

Boat watching, in fact, is a traditional Seattle recreation. Witness the Government Locks, this town's greatest visitor attraction. The landscaping is textbook magnificent, but the visitors quick-step past it to gawk at the boats.

Besides the boats and their restoration facilities, we have given thought to the open space layout. We wish to preserve the bird refuge already existing at the south end of Waterway 3. Presently, it is the nesting site for Mallards, Canada Geese, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Killdeer. The floating path across Waterway 3 helps preserve the bird sanctuary, and gives the public a more interesting connection across the waterway, away from the street bustle. Small boats can go under the

bridge at the west (high bank) side.

The winding canal and Bird Island (made from the canal excavation) are concepts only, indicating how important we feel about emphasizing the magic of entering this park, in contrast to the fumes and fury of the adjoining traffic corridor. Think of the canal as a path surrounded with planted berms which could attract park bird residents. It's a quiet, human scaled link between Waterways 3 and 4. It could simply be a dirt trail, maybe excavated later.

In fact, our vision of the park is a partnership between the two non-profits and the City. CWB and NWSP have already provided the only grass, trees, and flowers on the site, with cooperation of the Department of Parks. And it doesn't have to happen all at once. Our plan was based on phased development: Each an effective part of the whole.

The Olmstead boys had a good idea about Southlake in 1903, but the locks were built in 1916 and they became our Watergate. I think the Olmsteads would agree that South Lake Union now is Seattle's last and best opportunity to have our maritime heritage emerge from its cocoon stage and become a multicolored butterfly.



## Waterlog

by Sheri Lockwood

It's nice to see some green shoots and duck eggs in our planter boxes instead of the ice and snow of our horrible '89 Freeze Up. Seattle's record breaking cold left whole docks without water because of frozen and broken pipes. Some homes were without water for 6 days and more. One bright spot appeared when the one houseboat on a Westlake dock with running water offered an open invitation to their neighbors for the use of their shower ... Somehow we plowed through the ice, snow and surly plumbers, there are now sun breaks between monsoons, the Husky crew is out on the lake and the geese, ducks, grebes, coots and racoons are mating ("Can you keep it down out there!") so it looks as if Yes, Virginia, there will be a spring on Lake Union. Soon, we hope.

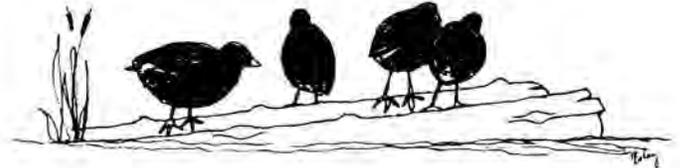
Police boats arrived at midnight on a N lake Union dock recently to search for reported prowlers. Being new to the lake and not wholly indoctrinated to the seasonal cues to which we "old salts" have been accustomed, the embarrassed victim discovered he'd reported mating racoons. No arrests were reported ... Bob Lilly (2331 FV), our resident horticulturist, has moved up to become the nursery manager of the Herbfarm in Falls City ... Barbara Spencer (1213 Shelby) kayaks to work every day at the University of Washington. If you think chilly Lake Union sounds forbidding, consider this: she used to swim, until the Harbor Patrol asked her not to ... He may not be "GQ" but our boatographer Phil Webber (2466 WL) does make a definite fashion statement (I think it's "Nyah!"). He and his wife Brenda recently got tattoos from LaMar Van Dyke of "Tattoo You". Phil's is on his forearm and it's of his favorite four shoes. If you've seen these shoes you'll agree that they need to be immortalized -- in something. The location and subject matter of Brenda's remain part of her mystique ... Barbara and Dave LeFebvre (2219 FV) just returned from two weeks of 87-90 degrees in San Miguel and Zihuatanejo, Mexico ... Dock neighbors Lee Lane and Melanie Hester and Mike Meyers and Carol Flagg set off for a skiing trip at the Dolomites in the Italian Alps in the end of February. Upon arrival they found there had been no snow since November. They began snow chants, cheers, toasts and dances and were rewarded by five feet of snow in 36 hours. Though it took a while to get power reinstated they did get in a week of great skiing. Now we know who to call when we get rained out in June and July ... George Yannakis and Debbie Boyer and daughter Thea spent his birthday at the end of March in "the murder capitol of the U.S.," Washington D.C. Why, I have no idea, maybe it had something to do with basketball, they are planing a belated second annual basketball

playing birthday party for George and friends soon ... This reporter spent the whole of the horrendous winter freeze in the balmy 80 degree tradewinds of Hawaii. It was wonderful, but it's no fun to show snapshots to growling neighbors.

**WELCOME ABOARD:** 2025 FV welcomes new dock member Dawn Vyvyan. Also new on 2025 FV are Nikki and Kenneth Sinibaldi; he's the cardiologist at the Eastlake Veterinary Clinic. Caroline Cropp is welcomed to the Dox Coop (2219-2235 FV). She's bought what her neighbors call Fort Apache.

**WET BUT STILL FLOATING:** Spencer Michael Reilly (2351 FV) was born to Hugh and Julie Reilly March 20th and weighed 8 lbs, 2 oz ... Bob and Randie Blackstone have a new baby son too, Jon Alan Blackstone, born January 13th, 8 lbs, 1 oz.

2357 FV is being dredged to add another houseboat ... 2466 WL has added 2 new houses to their coop. They should have electricity by the time this goes to press ... 3136 PBPL are drawing on each others skills and contributions in repairs, upkeep and pipe thawing: they've recently become a coop ... a harbor seal and a pair of swans have recently been sighted on Portage Bay ... the grebes are doing their mating dance off Little Lynn Street Park ... there's a whole flock of cormorants on log floats where Fairview branches onto Eastlake ... Portage Bay's heron has recently been spending afternoons at Drumheller Fountain on the UW campus.



Our community is featured in a chapter of Henry Boyte's new book entitled "The Backyard Revolutions". He will be a speaker at the Neighborhoods USA Convention May 24-27 at the Stouffer Madison Hotel downtown ... a surprise birthday party featuring friends and dock mates was held on 2770 WL: guests brought unique toys for "the next fifty years;" pull along and wind up toys figured prominently.

I recently joined the Literacy Council of Seattle as a volunteer for EOSL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). The Council will teach you how to teach in an 18 hour workshop and then match you with a student. They also offer a 12 hour Basic Tutor workshop where you learn to teach people to read. If you'd like to help or learn to teach their address is 4318 First Avenue NE, 98015 or phone Dorothy at 633-5570 or Lois at 365-3772. The volunteers who teach and help are wonderfully supportive people: inspirational and nice. You will pay \$25.00 for the books to learn and teach from but there are many other ways to help.

I hope you all have running water now and the critters aren't keeping you awake too many nights. When the milfoil starts washing in I'll really believe spring has bloomed. It's more dependable than the swallows of Capistrano and the Puxatawny groundhog, anyday. 'Til sunnier times ...

