

John Southern Dies; We
Have Lost A Friend Page 6

Members Have Plenty to Say
and They Say It. Pages 4 & 5



JULIE NORTH



RICHARD WAGNER

FOUNDED 1962

FLOATING HOMES
ASSOCIATION, INC.

2329 Fairview East Seattle, Washington 98102 Phones: 325-1132 or 329-1517

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Houseboat Harbor Co-op Celebrates 10th Anniversary



Members of Houseboat Harbor Co-op celebrate its 10th anniversary. Standing (l.t.r.) Blaine Hammond, vice president; Wiltrud Ambrose, Laren Ambrose, secretary; Tom Hayden, president (seated front); David Williams, Georgia Hayden, Christie Williams (seated second row), Solweig Hammond, Phyllis Biktimir, Irene Hull, Ozelle Gaines, Ethel Scribner, Honor Guest Carrie Stafford (Mrs. Stafford and the late Adam Stafford bought the Portage Bay property in 1922). Members not in photo, Myrna Cordova, dock manager; John Hutchins, George Simmons, Harold Hull and Dr. Belding Scribner. (Jonathan Ezekiel photo.)

Harbor Police Versatile



Officers Nick Bulpin and Ed Burkhard are seen performing one of the many safety services of the Harbor Patrol, whose ranks have been cut in half by budget restrictions voted last year by the City Council and now being enforced by Mayor Royer on advice of the Office of Management and Budget. The community is protesting the action. (Photo courtesy of Seattle Times.)

Community Protests Slash Of Harbor Patrol Unit

Assignment of officers from the Harbor Patrol to other duties to satisfy bookkeeping provisions of the city budget has virtually wiped out police protection for Seattle's extensive waterfront business and residential community. The blow fell May 15 when eight officers, assigned to the patrol for summer duty, were ordered back downtown, leaving the division with only 18 to work three shifts daily, seven days a week. In 1976 the patrol had 36 on its roster.

As representatives of the Northwest Marine Trades Association, the Association of Independent Moorages and the Floating Homes Association met to protest the action, the police department announced that it could provide 30 officers and the mounted patrol, if needed, to maintain order at the Sonics box office where fans are clamoring for tickets to the championship games.

In a letter to Mayor Royer and the City Council, Executive Vice President Louis V. Larsen of the Northwest Marine Trades Association decried the "band-aid" approach which means no dollar savings but merely the transfer of the officers to other duties. He offered the cooperation of the Association in helping the mayor in making "an honest appraisal and to develop a department that does not have to fight for its very existence year after year."

The letter pointed out that in 1977 the unit responded to 1,648 calls involving "disabled boats, drownings, navigational hazards, larcenies, and overturned boats." Of 50 stolen boats, 36 were recovered, and there was a reduction of 366% in water-related accidents in the area. Larsen pointed out that of the four patrol craft the newest was built in 1963 and the oldest in 1961. "It is only because you have an excellent unit that these boats even run at all. Would you be comfortable if all the vehicles in the Police Department were of '61 or '62 vintage? We doubt whether any other City department that is charged with the responsibility of saving lives and protecting property have 100% of their equipment that old."

Julie North Elected To Head Association

Julie North, who has served as treasurer for the past five years, was elected president of the Association to succeed Richard Wagner, at the 16th annual meeting in St. Patrick's Parish Hall April 21st. Dick Wagner did not seek re-election as president but was elected to the executive committee. Since then Dick has been selected by the Executive Committee to fill out the unexpired Trustee term of the late John Southern.

Julie North is the eighth person to serve as president since the Association was incorporated as a non-profit, mutual benefit society in 1962. She lives at 2339 Fairview E. Larry Clifton, 2818 Boyer, was elected vice president; Lucy Dodd, 3236 1/2 Portage Bay, re-elected recording secretary; and Susan Drum, 2219 Fairview E., for another five-year term as trustee. The Executive Committee elected Dixie Pintler, 2812 Westlake N., as treasurer to succeed Julie. Executive Committee members-at-large chosen at the meeting are: Ellen Hansen, 2025 Fairview E.; Anthony Johnson, 3226 Portage Bay Pl. E.; Roger Johnson, 2017 Fairview E. and James S. Rogers, 2464 Westlake N. Hold-over trustees are: Eileen MacIntyre, 1213 E. Shelby; Greg Smith, 2017 Fairview E. and Todd Warmington, 2339 Fairview E. The positions of Administrative Secretary (Terry Pettus), 2035 Fairview E. and Organizational Director (Jack MacIntyre, 1213 E. Shelby) are filled by the Executive Committee.

Without a dissenting vote on a secret ballot the meeting adopted the By-Laws amendment increasing annual household dues from \$12.00 to \$16.00. Guest speakers were Michael Hildt, chairman of the City Council Committee on Planning & Housing, and Officer Nick Bulpin, in charge of the Lake Union-Portage Bay Patrol Area. A report on Roanoke Reef was given by David Kohles, president of the Eastlake Community Council, and Terry Pettus. Terry also presented a slide program of photographs taken on a three-day barge trip on the Thames and featuring live-aboard craft and houseboats who are members of the British Residential Boat Owners' Association.

Lake Wood Boat Show



The Center for Wooden Boats, which scored a resounding success last summer (photo above), will hold its Second Seattle Wooden Boat Show July 1-4, at the U.S. Naval Reserve Base at the south end of Lake Union. The event, for which no admission is charged, will again provide an opportunity for builders and restorers of traditional wood to display their wares. Program of the four-day event will include races, regattas, auction of maritime gear and services, unusual food concessions, chantey singers and other festivities. The Floating Homes Association will have an information booth with Howard Droker's **Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats** and the popular **Lake Union Posters** on sale. Volunteers are needed to man the booth. Those who can give a few hours should call Terry Pettus (329-1517) or Eileen MacIntyre (329-0364).

"Prohibit the construction of any new facility which will substantially increase levels of air, noise, water or visual pollution." Seattle Shoreline Master Program.



Is this view of the Marine Power & Equipment's property at 1135 Fairview Ave. E. a legal use of Lake Union shorelands? This will be the issue at a public hearing by the Department of Community Development Tuesday, June 6th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mayor's conference room, 12th floor Municipal Building. The company is seeking to include a "storage" area in a previously issued permit which allows it to exceed the 35-foot limit (55 feet) for a 300-foot-long building. Both are being challenged by community groups. (Jonathan Ezekiel photo.)

Honor Roll: 6 Moorages Reach 100% Membership

Six moorages have now made the Association's "Honor Roll" for achieving 100% membership. Several others are within one or two of reaching this goal as the result of a concentrated drive this year under the direction of Organizational Director Jack MacIntyre and Vice President Larry Clifton. Since the first of the year 72 new members have been enrolled, leaving only 28 to go to achieve the goal of 100 by July 1st. The "Honor Roll" moorages are: 2812-14 Westlake N., 2464-68 Westlake N., 2035-37 Fairview E., 2770 Westlake N., 3254-60 Portage Bay Pl. E., and 3226 Portage Bay Pl. E.

New members since the last report are: Paul G. Pennell, Pati Parnell, Marie Butner, Harry Merlyn Proctor, Tracy Spicher &

Jessica Hart, Jonathan Reich, Gary Chinn, Francesca Urbano & Dick Kerr, Judy Finlay, Robert & Patricia Burton, June L. Bourdeau, Richard, Patricia & Nucgaek Egeck, Lucy Reid, Otto & Garnet Drager, Al & Dorothy Hendrickson, Martha C. Bittner, Mr. & Mrs. Jon Rumstad, Virginia J. Kyte, Blaine & Solweig Hammond, John Fox, John & Betty Gardner, Marileen Hiller, Eli Hurwitz, Alan Frazier, Dave Meade, Eric & Mindy Lindstrom, James & Donna O'Steen, Michael W. Douglas, Charles Hale, Richard & Irene Helfert, Dave Rarey, Laren & Mildred Ambrose, Phyllis Biktimir, David & Mary Williams, Dr. Robert White, Mary Hooper Warner, Robert & Alice Street, Jeff & Bette Brown, Judith Y. Williams, Timothy Nolan, Tyler M. Johnson and Paul LaBerge.

Annual Household

Dues \$16.00 EFFECTIVE JULY 1st.



A COOPERATIVE

Lake Investment Fund

"Congratulations to Houseboat Harbor On It's 10th Anniversary" One of five co-operative moorages. Our purpose is to increase that number.



We invite you to join in this important venture.

SHARES ARE in \$500.00 units. Send checks to or get more information from, Secretary-Treasurer Jack MacIntyre, 2329 Fairview Ave. E., Seattle, Wa. 98102.

Here Is What The Members Have To Say

The results, from the Association's first questionnaire seeking membership views and opinions, are now in. While the best "summary" is the results themselves, some generalizations are in order. (1) While the membership believes we are doing a good job they also believe there is still a lot to do. (2) There is a strong feeling that we are vulnerable to uncontrolled economic forces and the the "Equity Ordinance" should be strengthened. (3) The broad spectrum of issues and problems needing attention attests to a strong sense of community. But read for yourself.

"Since 1962 the primary objective of the Association has been to 'Protect the interests of Seattle's old and colorful houseboat colony.' How do you rate its record?"

Poor Fair Good Excellent

Poor: None Fair: 1% Good: 19% Excellent: 80%

Comments: "I think it has been doing a good job." . . . "A most excellent job by dedicated people. Keep up the good work." . . . "I really like the organization." . . . "Feel good about what it is doing." . . . "Excellent as far as I can tell except for the too high regulations on houseboats established before my time." . . . "We would have vanished long ago had it not been for the Association." . . . "Am so pleased to be a small part of this organization." . . . "A good organization—thanks!" . . . "The Association has become a model for community participatory action and results on vital public policy issues." . . . "A great organization—swing over from the defensive to the offensive."

"Since the \$12.00 annual household dues were established inflation has shrunk this to about \$8.40. To meet our minimum 1978 budget the Executive Committee proposes an increase to \$16.00 to close this inflationary gap. What do you think about the proposal?"

Oppose Favor Dues should be \$ _____

It was no contest in respect to the dues increase. Only one member voted against it. Another suggested \$14.00, one proposed \$20.00 and two voted for \$25.00. At the membership meeting April 21st the proposal (an amendment to our By-laws) passed without a dissent on a secret ballot. One who favors \$25.00 annually had this to say: "Why have dues only big enough to barely make it? Lift up your image and quit feeling that no one will back you. There are lots of rich people on houseboats. However, your general approach is that of the underdog. Who can't afford \$25.00 for your great efforts? Please forget those who argue against such a small sum. This is pea-brained, selfish thinking which you don't need. No one gets more than they ask for and seldom as much. Make that your motto and money will be the least of our problems."

"Because the floating community is small and our problems large, we cannot afford gaps in our ranks. Too many floating home occupants (owners and renters) are not members. We have a goal of 100 new members by July 1st. What will you do to help?"

Invite them to join Slip application under door Nothing.

Invite them to join: 72% Slip application under door: 18%
Nothing: 10%

Comments: "We should know about how many have joined and those who haven't." . . . "Make more visible those who have joined so it will make the non-members embarrassed." . . . "I would probably do nothing unless specifically asked." . . . "All my neighbors are members." . . . "Need to know who isn't a member. Better decal display needed."

"The Association has always depended upon contributions to the 'Legal & Improvement Fund' to carry out its program. In 1977 these came to \$5,060.45. Only about one third of the membership makes contributions. How do you feel about this?"

Have contributed Have not, but will in 1978 Will not

Have contributed: 42% Have not but will: 40% Will not: 18%

Comments: "Have an annual public house tour to raise money like the people do in the Highlands and Broadmoor, etc. The public would love to tour and pay a good price." . . . "Start an endowment fund and ask for public gifts. Set up a tax deductible foundation so people could leave gifts to the Association in their wills or while still alive. A lot of people would give to preserve this image for Seattle." . . . "Get some bumper stickers to sell and let folks know we're still afloat. Make some T-shirts and boat flags so when we paddle about we can tell it is a fellow member."

"The NEWSLETTER is our most important medium of communication. What happens to your copy?"

Do not read it Read occasionally Read Regularly Other

Do not read it: None Read Occasionally: 6% Read regularly: 94%

Comment: "The Newsletter is delightful, thank you." . . . "I save my copies." . . . "Pass along to friends." . . . "I feel you are doing fine." . . . "I think you are doing a good job." . . . "Other people read mine." . . . "Tops among organizational publications." . . . "I keep a file."

"In 1977 only five issues of the NEWSLETTER were published. How many would you prefer?"

6 issues a year 9 issues a year Monthly None

6 issues: 69% 9 issues: 12% Monthly: 18% None: 1%

Comment: "Only as necessary, otherwise it loses its punch and becomes perfunctory." . . . "Six issues to reduce costs and efforts and maintain its excellent quality." . . . "Six issues at most. Too expensive to print more." . . . "Don't think absolute numbers matters. Three to six probably minimum needed." . . . "Six plus fliers on hot topics."

"What issues, problems or subjects would you like the NEWSLETTER to deal with?"

Comment: "Has been doing a good job lately. Suggest in depth articles on general issues such as outfalls around the lake. Some houseboat tales and short news items. I'd like it to be a primarily issue and news oriented and only a small amount of 'garden club' type items. My compliments to the editor and writers for some fine work." . . . "How about getting houseboats designated as an historic site?" . . . "Protection from theft. Articles on best kinds of floatation and information on things unique to houseboats." . . . "Houseboat insurance. Effect of insurance on bank's attitude toward houseboat improvement loans." . . . "Have we been reviewing proposed changes in the Shoreline Master Program? Department of Community Development has proposed some significant amendments. Most are O.K., like, for instance, a 14-foot height limitation for all floating homes. How do we stand on this?"

"Reports on land use policy—crime on the moorages—Roanoke Reef. Personal reflections should continue. Can't be smug. Our position is still precarious. The developer barons will never give up trying to build their condominiums on Lake Union. Lake Union should be a people's lake and protecting it should be the people's battle." . . . "More on the history of houseboats here and elsewhere. Current moorage issues. Regular reports on the Roanoke Reef study." . . . "Adequate as it is." . . . "More historical articles." . . . "Changes in Building Code. Explain 'Equity Ordinance' and other laws." . . . "Keep working on 'The Reef.'" . . . "More on water quality. Metro's run-off control plans—park and shoreline development." . . . "More news about our community." . . . "Doing a fine job now. More human interest, perhaps. Help us get acquainted with each other. How about dock competitions—tug of war, raft races, etc.?"

"Progress reports in re: the 'Equity Ordinance.' The decisions, hearings, filings so we can have a good feel on how it is working. Various insurance options for houseboats both home owner and rental units—particularly liability. Perhaps a survey of present coverage and rates. NOAA expansion if any is planned." . . . "More ideas on how to get non-members motivated to join and get involved. Would like to see Investment Fund take units of \$100.00 A lot of people like myself cannot afford the \$500.00 but would be interested in investing in and supporting the fund." . . . "Suggestions and short articles on maintenance of houseboats (like the one on insulation). Also articles on floating homes elsewhere, U.S.A. and foreign." . . . "Pertinent information seems to be covered." . . . "Have a houseboat tour of homes. Offer Howard Droker's Seattle's Unsinkable Houseboats at a discount with a new membership. Articles on space-saving and remodeling." . . . "Publish names of those who join. Have a prize for the first moorage with 100% membership. Have members display a flag to show non-members who belongs." . . . "Articles on the life of cedar logs, stringers, styrofoam. What, if anything, can be done about termites? Features on some of the lake's industries, boat-builders, cement plants and others." . . . "An article about John Southern."

"Our 1977 program called for (1) enactment of an 'Equity Ordinance' and (2) formation of a Lake Investment Fund. Both were accomplished. What issues/problems should be dealt with this year?"

Comments: "Lake inflation and its effects on those who wish to say." . . . "Keep the Legal Fund a workable resource. Pick legal cases carefully to be sure we have a 'leg' to stand on. Pay debts occurring with the legal process." . . . "Get moorage owners to agree to leases with cost of living increases so financing for purchase and remodeling can be obtained on long-term basis." . . . "Try to improve bank loan and insurance programs for floating homes." . . .

"More actively pursuing purchase of moorage property for co-ops." . . . "Building Code amendments so we can have two-story houseboats within the 16-foot limit. Let's not fool ourselves into thinking there will be no more two-story houseboats—it won't go away like that." . . . "Continue the effort to buy moorages for co-ops."

"Development of street ends into parks with emphasis on trees and foliage." . . . "Promotion of the Lake Investment Fund. Work with banks on improved financing of floating home purchases. This alone keeps lots of families off the water." . . . "Development of public lands, such as street ends, for public use." . . . "Put teeth into 'Equity Ordinance' with compulsory enforcement of Fact-Finder decisions. Also use Face-Finder instead of courts on evictions." . . . "Work with city officials for a comprehensive plan for Lake Union that recognizes the present realities of the Shoreline Management Act." . . . "Everything involving moorages." . . . "Keep the lake clean." . . . "Send out notices to all property owners asking the right of first refusal on any sale of their moorage." . . . "Construction over the water that does not conform to the Shoreline Management Act."

"A policy on those moorages now protected by the 'Equity Ordinance,' 2812 Westlake Ave. No. (owned by the City) and 1409 N.E. Boat St. (owned by the University of Washington)." . . . "New uses for NOAA and City asphalt plant property at the south end of Lake Union. Use talents of membership in seeking property for the Investment Fund." . . . "Improve Fairview Ave. in re: parking and pedestrian areas. Noise and safety problems of the float planes. Houseboat security from theft." . . . "Make the Lake Investment Fund work by getting more money and locating moorage property for co-ops." . . . "Speed boats on Lake Union—parking problems—thrift from houseboats." . . . "Be alert to changing city, state and federal regulations that could affect our way of life." . . . "Promotion of dock organization—getting more co-operatives established—making our streets liveable with more trees and shrubs as good noise and pollution barriers."

"Work to strengthen the 'Equity Ordinance' and the Co-Op Investment Fund." . . . "Noise pollution, particularly sea-planes." . . . "Setting up community/dock block watch systems." . . . "Preservation of the old and colorful houseboats. How do we control proliferation of suburban wonders? Security is becoming a problem so we need to look toward protecting ourselves." . . . "Leases—Leases—Leases." . . . "Continued encouragement of City and private property owners to clean up Fairview Ave. Doesn't have to be a park but there are some messy areas." . . . "Better enforcement of seven knot and wake law. Keep NOAA ships without sacrificing houseboats." . . . "Stop the discharge of drain water into the lake. Do something about noise pollution and control of seaplanes. Better control of boat wakes." . . . "NOAA is playing political games with the lake and the houseboat community. We should be involved in it. Suggest keep the ships on Lake Union with scientific and administrative buildings at Sand Point." . . . "Follow up on the Weppner eviction case. Sounds like a terrible situation."

"Let's have any comment you wish to make about anything."

Comment: "Consider having two semi-annual meetings (fall and spring) so the one doesn't run so long." . . . "A cocktail party? Is that really the social set I find myself in, in the Association? April issue of 'New Age' magazine has article on the assault on Sausalito (Calif.) houseboat community. Suggest you get a copy." . . . "Support amendments to the Building Code to permit seven foot ceilings on first floor with six and half ceilings on second floor with only two thirds of floor area on second floor. Second floor area (one third of first floor) should be on the dock side. This would permit legal two-story houseboats within 16 foot limit. I can help work on this if wanted." . . . "If dock owners can sell out and leave us high and dry we think this should be stopped. Also we think dock owners should be responsible to dock opinion. For example Gorden

(Continued on page 6)

Association Mail Bag

To the Association:

We, of the Flo Villa Corporation, have lost our manager. If the manager of a Corporation sounds like an Ivy League type with a large dose of self-importance and dignity, the image bears no resemblance to our friend John Southern.

Carl King, Muriel Eklund and John formed a trio that brought to fruition the first owner-occupied houseboat moorage. During the planning and construction phase, they encountered many, many difficulties and, at times, felt that the name should be changed, as so many suggested, to "It'll Never Happen." Determination, the help of the Floating Homes Association and a year's hard work by these three and others and the dream became a reality. We are all most fortunate that this was really John's introduction to involvement with Lake Union and the Floating Homes Association. Although he had lived on the lake for many years, it was after the building of Flo Villa that he became really involved in the community.

John was an unusual person and very talented. He continually came up with different but practical ideas regarding construction, floatation, energy conservation—practically any technical subject—as well as his usual concern with floating homes and moorages. He was also an artist as the decor of his own houseboat at-tests. He did not require a great deal of money as long as his modest day-to-day needs were met. The important thing to John was to be occupied on a daily basis with the kind of activity he had chosen for himself and what he enjoyed.

In his inaugural address President Kennedy said in part, "... ask rather what you can do for your country . . ." Lake Union was John's country and Flo Villa was his home. He could not do enough for either of them. His entire energy was devoted to making both a better place to live. He loved working on floating homes and with his many abilities, it seemed he could "fix" anything. He was available to one and all to do a multitude of tasks—from fixing a sewer to moorage design; carpenter work to carpet laying; a permit from City Hall to selling cruise tickets. John took the time to do it, any and all of it, with good humor and a willing spirit.

No one who knew John, and he had many friends, will ever forget him. He was truly an individual. He was a great help to us all and he seemed happy and satisfied with his life. Therefore his death, at such an early age, is extremely tragic. We miss him now—and we are very much aware that we will miss him more and more as time goes by. Some people are not replaceable for they leave a very special void in the lives of their friends and neighbors.

Because of John's great interest and devotion to the Floating Homes Association and his special interest in the Legal Fund, it is our feeling that a contribution in his name is a fitting gesture.

Sincerely,

FLO VILLA CORPORATION, 2207 Fairview Ave. E., Carl King, president; Ruth Foss, vice president; Lois Oswalt, secretary.

(The Association has acknowledged with appreciation the \$200.00 contribution to the Legal Fund in John's name.)

JOHN'S SISTER SENDS HER THANKS

To the Association:

I want to thank the Association and others for the lovely flowers and expressions of sympathy. John talked so much about his friends in Seattle so I feel I know many of you. As John was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps a flag was sent for his funeral. I would like for the Floating Homes Association to have it in his memory. I don't know just when I will get to Seattle but probably around the first of June. **Waunetta Southern**, Route 3, Box 229, Rosedale, Indiana 47874.

(The Executive Committee has gratefully accepted the flag and thanked Ms. Southern for her thoughtfulness. Ms. Southern will be in Seattle June 13th.)



John Southern 1921 - 1978

John P. Southern, 57, charter member and past president of the Floating Homes Association, died of a heart attack April 25th while on a visit with his sister, Waunetta Southern, at the family home in Rosedale, Indiana. John left on his annual visit April 1st and was to have returned to his home May 3rd.

John lived at the Flo Villa co-operative moorage, at 2207 Fairview Ave. E., which he helped found in 1967. It was the lake's first co-op. He was a member of the Lake Invest Fund organized in 1977 to assist in the formation of co-operative floating home moorages. During World War II John served four years as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific theater. He graduated from the University of Denver in 1950. John worked as a graphic artist with advertising firms in the Midwest before coming to the Boeing Co. He left the Boeing Company to become a marine site planner. Among other installations he was the planner for Mallard Cove Village, the first floating home installation under the new Shoreline regulations. John participated in the Seattle 2000 movement and served on the executive committee for six years prior to his election as president.

Funeral services were held in Rosedale April 28th, with burial in the family plot in the Rosedale Memorial Park. The Rev. H.H. Howell, a boyhood friend, officiated. The memorial flag used at the services has been given to the Association by Ms. Southern, who will be in Seattle about June 1st.

Jeffrey should have consulted us about cutting down that tree on public property. We don't see why, if we own our own home, we can't have pets. How can dock owners tell us what we can do in our own home?" . . . "Have the owners pay for renters' membership in the Association." . . . "I believe the Association's aim should be to protect the colony." . . . "Write up dock owners who are doing a good job as landlords. Have some dock parties to get to know each other and include the renters." . . . "How about a door-to-door membership drive some sunny, summer Sunday?" . . . "Encourage the formation of dock committees such as the one at Tenas Chuck. Work for better insurance and the re-zoning of Lake Union. Our members have many talents. Reach out to them for membership on various sub-committees. I'd like to see a volunteer 'talent bank' of persons who would be willing to help on something specific such as Newsletter graphics and writing, telephoning, etc."

Around & About The Lake

TWO BOAT MOORAGE PROBLEMS SURFACE...

As if to prove that we will never be without problems, two separate but connected hassles involving boat moorages have surfaced this spring. Both arise out of the acute shortage (to put it mildly) of moorages in this, the much-vaunted "Boating Capital of the World." One is the proposal of a floating home moorage manager to impose (for the first time) a charge of \$1.50 a foot to the houseboater who ties up a watercraft alongside their home. The second involves congestion, the moorage of boats in such a way as to block the water channel.

Having your boat alongside has traditionally been one of the pleasures of houseboating. In the past, charging for this was virtually unknown. However, with the Equity Ordinance looming, a few moorage owners, acting in concert, imposed a uniform \$25.00 moorage increase last fall. Two then put some additional "add-ons" including charges for boat moorage. They beat the Equity Ordinance to the wire by a nose, but this joint venture has raised some serious legal questions not yet resolved, and we may hear more about that in the future.

But an attempt to impose boat moorage charges now opens the door for the application of the "Fact-Finder" provisions of the Equity Ordinance, as it is obviously a moorage increase under another name. And it is an increase totally without justification by the criteria outlined in the Ordinance. In the interests of all, it is to be hoped that this rather obvious attempt to make an end run around the law will be quietly buried.

The Association has had a friendly and constructive discussion about channel blocking with the Zoning Enforcement Division of the Building Department and the Harbor Patrol. There is a provision in the Floating Home Regulations that houseboats must abut on a 20-foot open-water channel. Does the reduction of this channel by boat moorages constitute a violation? The answer seems to be maybe yes, maybe no. No matter what the "legal" situation is, the fact remains that in the interest of safety a channel of at least ten feet is a necessity. Several moorages where this problem exists have set up Moorage or Dock Committees to deal with this and other housekeeping problems. Through co-operation with moorage managers and the Harbor Police we know this problem can be resolved. There must also be a recognition that at most moorages there is simply not room for everyone to have a watercraft cuddled up alongside.

AN INSURANCE RATE CUT WOULD BE NICE

The Fire Department's official report on floating home fires in 1977 has just come to hand. During the year there were two houseboat fire calls. One caused by a defective fire place resulted in an estimated \$200.00 in damages. The report on the other is worth publishing as is. It reads: "A six-pound turkey was in the oven set at 300 degrees and left to bake while the occupants went out to breakfast. It was ignited by a malfunction in the oven's thermostat. A passerby heard the smoke detector and notified the Fire Department. The occupants later returned the stated that the oven, a Sear's Kenmore, was brand new and confirmed its apparent malfunction. No loss." That is hardly accurate as the occupants did lose a Thanksgiving dinner.

But once again the low fire losses (which is good) is hard to justify against the thousands of dollars annually we pay out for insurance—at more than double the rates paid for a home ashore. True, the fire insurance situation is better than it was years ago when it was difficult to get any kind of coverage and houseboaters paid as much as \$36.00 per \$1,000.00 for straight fire. More than ten years ago when the Association tried to deal with the insurance companies for a fair deal we were told that we needed some "experience rating." The Fire Department obliged by segregating houseboat fires. We have now had such official statistics since



1965—for 13 years—but we continue to be ripped off.

If figures bore you now is the time to stop reading. If not here are the official Fire Department reports with estimated losses: 1965, \$1,700.00; 1966, \$1,450.00; 1967, \$3,850.00; 1968, \$800.00; 1969, \$1,000.00; 1970, \$300.00; 1971, \$4,400.00; 1972, none; 1973, \$220.00; 1974, \$5,525.00; 1975, none; 1976, \$350.00, and 1977, \$200.00 Total for the 13-year period is \$19,795.00 or an annual average loss of \$1,521.50.

There are no doubt many reasons for our low fire losses. One is the early reporting and the quick response from our highly efficient Department (rated one of the best in the U.S.). All our moorages are within a three-minute run from a fire station. Maybe we are also getting more careful. It has been years since "smoking" has been given as the fire cause. Used to be quite common, amounting to some 50% of the stated reasons. We are pleased that the loss is low, that there have been no deaths or serious injuries, but the discriminatory rates in another matter. One word describes it: GOUGING.

LAKE HOME PORT FOR "POT" SHIPS

Lake Union is definitely not, as some wag put it, "going to pot," but it is the home port for two vessels assertedly involved in the much-advertised 37-ton marijuana high seas bust by the U.S. Coast Guard. The rather forlorn "mother ship," the 168-foot coastal freighter *Helena Star* (shown above), is in custody at the south end of the Lake. The famed facing yacht *Joli* (recently sold for \$250,000) is the guest of the Cadranelle Yacht Landing, 2370 Fairview E. This trim vessel is suspected of supplying the *Helena Star* while she hovered some 250 miles off the coast, and perhaps bringing ashore the makings for many a joint. If the government proves its case both vessels could be confiscated by the government and sold at public auction. Anyone interested?

NOAA NOT INTERESTED IN LAKE SHORELANDS

We can put away our trusty muskets. NOAA is no longer interested (if it ever was) in the acquisition of Lake Union shorelands, which would knock out 80 of our floating homes. In compliance with a federal court order to consider sites other than Sand Point, the federal agency has settled for five possible sites: two in Tacoma, at Kenmore (at the North end of Lake Washington, of all places), Manchester in Kitsap County, and South Mukilteo, west of Everett. But hear this! NOAA has also said it could live with a split site, which means that the ships could remain on Lake Union with the "scientific campus" at Sand Point. That would please a lot of houseboat folks who have come to cherish the "great white fleet" as a very good neighbor.

WHAT STAGE ARE WE IN? "Like people and plants, organizations have a life cycle. They have a green and supple youth, a time of flourishing strength and a gnarled old age." **John W. Gardner, Common Cause/Washington.**

Reflections On The Lake



First impressions are so vivid—and at the same time so fleeting. So you know what I mean?

If you live on a houseboat, perhaps you can remember the special feelings of those first days and nights, when everything was still unfamiliar.

- the sound of water gurgling through the logs.
- the floor moving under you when the swells came by.
- ducks carrying on early morning conversations right under your bedroom window, before you were really ready to wake up.
- reflecting sunlight weaving its patterns of light on the ceiling.

And don't you remember what fun you had hanging things from the ceiling? Hanging lamps, hanging plants, mobiles, everything you could think of that would add visual impressions of movement

to your physical sensations.

So exciting, so delightful and so ephemeral. Why? When a houseboat becomes a home, life is just as in any other home. Home is routine. Home is floors to sweep, meals to cook, repairs that take over your days off, and all the countless other little things that demand attention. You can get so wrapped up in what is happening inside the house that you are only half aware of what is happening outside. The water environment gets to be normal and therefore ordinary.

Well, there is a perfect cure for that bland condition, get away! Leave for a time. Let some new impressions take over your conscious mind for a while. How great it is to be back home then!

Solweig and I have just had that privilege. We were gone from our floating home on Portage Bay for a little less than two years. We returned a few months ago. You can't believe what a pleasure it was to look at everything with wide-open, fresh eyes again. It's all new again. All those first impressions are renewed now, clear and sharp.

We've rediscovered sunlight dancing on the ceiling, ducks talking to each other and Canada geese signalling to us that they are on their sunrise swing over Union Bay, Portage Bay and Lake Union before they settle down to some serious house-to-house begging. We're aware again of our hanging candles swaying and the feeling that nothing is static. I know once more the luxury of turning down indoor lights at night and watching moonbeams glancing off calm waters.

After nearly two years of living in apartments and hotels we had turned into "landlubbers"; now we have received the rare gift of experiencing first impressions anew. It's more gratifying than I can say. It's good to be back. **Blaine G. Hammond.**

(As some of you know David Wagner is the 7 year old son of Dick and Colleen. He is our youngest contributor. Do you have some "reflections" you would like to share with others? If so, send them along. We want to make this an ongoing feature of the Newsletter.)

Contributions to the Legal & Improvement Fund in memory of John Southern have pushed the total for the year (mid-May) to \$973.85. Of this, \$687.50 came in since the report in the March-April Newsletter.

LOTS OF TRUTH IN THIS: "Our floating community is so small and our common problems so large, we simply cannot afford any gaps in our ranks." **Policy Statement, Floating Homes Association.**

Here Is The "Security Blanket" For Your Home

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues \$12.00 per year.



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

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Moorage No. _____ Phone _____

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