

Will Roanoke  
Reef Have A  
Happy Ending?

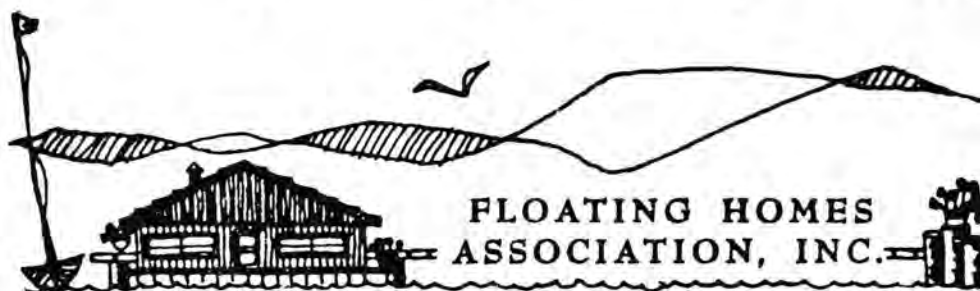
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Members Have  
Things To Say:  
See Mail Bag.

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Nominations  
Still Open For  
April Election

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2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phones: 325-1132 or 329-1517

FOUNDED 1962

Number 75

*Newsletter*

March-April 1978

## New "Equity" Ordinance is Working

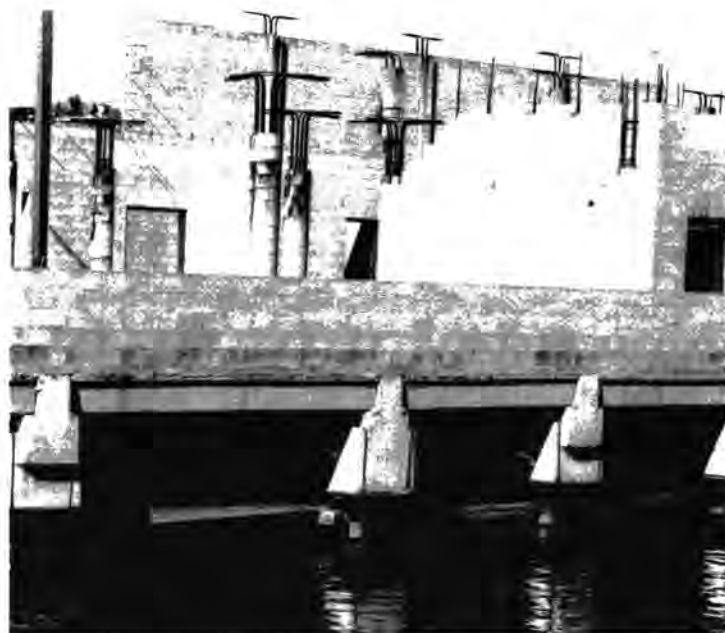
The first two "Fact-Finders" designated by the City under the Equity Ordinance, which went into effect in December, have had nothing to do. Both cases, one involving eviction of two houseboats, plus moorage charges of \$462.00 a month, have been withdrawn. Although a court challenge to the Ordinance has been threatened so far none has been filed.

Without the Ordinance in 1977 Robert Weppner's houseboat was evicted under a court order from its moorage at 3123 Fairview E. and still is in dead storage in a State Waterway under a temporary permit from the Board of Public Works. With the Equity Ordinance Charles and Juliet Sauvage and Steven Haugseth have had the eviction notice served on them withdrawn as well as the \$462.00 month moorage fee demand.

The petition for a "Fact-Finder" was filed against the property owner, Albert F. Lee, M.D., a retired physician now living in Honolulu, on December 22nd. On Jan. 12 Dr. Lee was informed that Attorney Philip L. Burton had been named as the "Fact-Finder" to hear the case. On Feb. 7th Edward E. Merges, attorney for Dr. Lee, notified Malcolm S. Haris, attorney for the Sauvages and Haugseth, that the moorage owner "has instructed me to inform you that he will accept rent as tendered (\$80.00 a month) and will not proceed under any of the presently pending notices to vacate and notices of increase of rental." The floating home owners have informed Dr. Lee that they would like to make an offer to buy the property.

There was an equally satisfactory ending to the case filed against Mrs. Evelyn Farrell by four owners of floating homes on her Portage Bay moorage property. On Jan. 1st Mrs. Farrell gave notices of a moorage increase from \$150.00 to \$175.00 a month. Barbara E. Reardon, Bellevue attorney, was named as the Fact Finder. A meeting was held with the owner and tenants, Lois Lontjens, Edward Courtney, Patricia Drumhiller and David Kruglinski. It was the first such ever held and resulted in a frank and amicable exchange of views and indicated a mutual concern on all matters pertaining to the moorage. The parties came to an agreement and the \$25.00 increase and the request for a Fact Finder were withdrawn.

### A View of The "Reef"....



This is the "vista" of Lake Union from the Eastlake neighborhood which many will be happy to see improved. It is, of course, the "Roanoke Reef" platform which has had a long life in spite of a State Supreme Court decision that it was constructed illegally. [Photo by Jonathan Ezekiel.]

## Co-op Investment Fund Elects Three Trustees

Shareholders in the co-operative Lake Investment Fund heard progress reports from President Henry L. "Skip" Kotkins, Secretary-Treasurer Jack MacIntyre and elected three trustees at the first annual meeting Feb. 17th. The first dividend checks were distributed prior to the meeting. Formation of the investment co-op was part of a two-point 1977 program of the Floating Homes Assn. Its purpose is to assist in the formation of "joint ownership" houseboat moorages.

As floating home moorage property does not often do on the market, the co-op this year will emphasize the obtaining of the "right of first refusal" to be effective if and when the property does go up for sale. The co-op is continuing the membership solicitation with a view to increasing total investments to at least \$50,000.00. Shares are in \$500.00 units. Its funds are invested in secured deposits with a view to getting maximum returns with liquidity and safety.

Besides Kotkins and MacIntyre, hold-over trustees are Vice President Sandra Lill and Roger Edwards. The new trustees elected are Susan Drum, Todd Warmington and Margaret S. Hageleen. The other shareholders are:

John P. Southern, Terry Pettus, Robert F. Pintler, Mary D. Johnson, Eileen MacIntyre, Julie North, Rosemary M. Ruff, Brian and Patricia Hunt, Julia Forbes, David J. Kruglinski, Lucille Leonhardt, P.D. Keightley, Mark Clemmens, James and Barbara Donnette, John and Gail Budleman, William B. Fryberger, Michael Schick, Joseph and Shirley Penn, Elizabeth Jackson, Theodora Ninesteel, Elias Schultz, Robert H. Nielsen, Stephen and Mary Elayne Dunphy, Douglas G. Rives, Ann Birnbaum, Gertrude Eva, Douglas and Gail Wikley, Kathern Bischel, Michael and Doris Taylor, Allen and Carol McInnis, Elizabeth Springer, G. William Korbinitz, M.D., Richard J. Meyer, Leonard and Marie Johnston, Thom Laz, John H. and Louise Colin Davidson, Robert T. Sherenski, M.D. and Derith A. Sherenski, James C. Mason, M.D., Claire Tangvold, Karen, Adrian, Margit, Elsa and Arrika Winquist, William Richard Ludwig, M.D. and Lonmari Ludwig, R.A. and Margaret Batchelder, Elmer and Barbara Nelson, Thomas Susor.



A COOPERATIVE

Lake Investment Fund

**THE LAKE INVESTMENT FUND** is unique in that it offers floating home folk an opportunity to put some of their savings to work on behalf of the community.

**THIS MEANS** that your investment is safe in an insured depository while it earns a good rate of return and is available to assist in the formation of joint-ownership or "co-operative" moorages if and when such property goes on the market.

**WHY NOT JOIN** with some 62 of your neighbors who are shareholders in this exciting and constructive enterprise?

**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.

## On April 21st Program....



**Michael Hildt, chairman of the City Council's Committee on Planning and Housing, will speak at the membership meeting of the Association Friday, April 21st at St. Patrick's Parish Hall.**

## Here's How To Quickly Contact Harbor Police

In calling the emergency number 911, floating home members should always request that the Harbor Police be notified. This advice comes from James S. Rogers, member of the executive committee and chairman of the newly formed Dock Safety Committee. The Committee was set up following a survey which indicated that houseboat residents are crime victims to a greater degree than thought but that seldom are they reported to police.

In recent weeks the Association has found that there have been thefts from decks (particularly small boats), attempted and successful breakins with money, high-fi, TV's and personal belongings stolen. In most instances the perpetrators come by boat.

"We have long thought that our walkways and the closeness of neighbors was all the protection we needed," Rogers said. "This may well be a myth and the problem has remained hidden because for whatever reason these deprivations go unreported." The committee will soon present a program to the executive committee and needs the cooperation of at least one member from every moorage. Those interested should contact the Association.

Following a meeting with Lt. Harry Bergmans, head of the Water & Air Patrol of the Seattle Police Department, Rogers urged prompt reporting. Only in that way, he said, can we know the scope of the problem. In addition to requesting the 911 operator to notify the Harbor Police it can be reached direct through three lines. The numbers are 625-4311, 625-4312 and 625-4313. It is suggested that you keep these numbers your phone.

**Slide Show: "Houseboating in Britain" April 21**

## Julie North Nominated To Head Association

Julie North of 2339 Fairview Ave. E. has been nominated to succeed Richard W. Wagner as president of the Association. She will be on the ballot along with other nominees at the 16th annual election to be held at the membership meeting in St. Patrick's Parish Hall, Friday, April 21st. For the past five years Julie has served as treasurer and member of the executive committee. Dick Wagner, who has served as president since 1974, will not seek re-election to that post but will be a candidate for the executive committee.

Since February nominations have been made to the executive committee and will remain open at the April 21st meeting. Any member in good standing, who agrees to serve if elected, is eligible for nomination. One trustee position for a five year term will also be filled at the 16th annual business session. Susan Drum, 2219 Fairview, will seek re-election. Five executive committee members are to be chosen. Besides Wagner, they are: Anthony Johnson, 3226 Portage Bay Place E.; James S. Rogers, 2464 Westlake N.; Ellen Hansen, 2025 Fairview Ave. E. and Roger Johnson, 2017 Fairview Ave. E.

Larry Clifton, 2818 Boyer, has been nominated for vice president to succeed Patrick Scott who will not seek re-election. Lucy Dodd, incumbent recording secretary of 3236 1/2 Portage Bay Pl. E., has been nominated for re-election. Incumbent trustees, serving staggered five year terms are: Eileen MacIntyre, 1213 E. Shelby; John P. Southern, 2207 Fairview Ave. E.; Greg Smith, 2017 Fairview Ave. E. and Todd Warmington, 2339 Fairview Ave. E. The executive committee fills the positions of administrative secretary, treasurer and organizational director.

Also on the business agenda will be the proposed amendment to Article 1 of Section 2 of the By-Laws increasing the annual household dues from \$12 to \$16. Copies of the 1977 Financial Report will be mailed to every member with the official notice of the April 21st meeting.

## Emergency and Legal Fund ...

The 1977 financial report, being mailed to all members in April, shows that the Emergency and Legal Fund had a total income of \$4,316.53 of which \$2,563.75 was in contributions and \$1,752.78 from the Holiday Cruise. Expenditures, mainly legal costs involving the Weppner eviction case and the Equity Ordinance, came to \$5,060.96. The fund did not go in the red, however, because of a \$928.38 carry-over from 1976. As of Jan. 1, 1978 the fund balance was at an all time low of \$183.95.

The 1978 budget projects a minimum of \$1,500 in contributions. Between Jan. 1 and March 25th a total of \$256.38 has been received. Contributors are: Betty Ann Morse, Paul and Shirley Thomas, Herb and Betsy Sigmund, Georginia E. Elgin, Elmer and Barbara Nelson, Salmon Beach Historical Committee, Jack C. Alhadeff, Robert and Deri Sherensky, William J. Burks, Jr., Bob and Carol Sale, Joseph and Shirley Penn, Jim and Karen Dawson, Raymond and Dianne Sly, Ken Hartung and Beth Means, R.A. and Marjorie Batchelder, Ann L. Helmholtz, Arthur and Dolores Goodfellow, Marilyn L. Kuksht, Burt and Helen Nelson, Jeffrey and Cheryl Lucas, Richard Pratt.

ON THE ROANOKE REEF PLATFORM: "It is inconsistent with the policies of the Shoreline Management Act, the Master Program of the City of Seattle and the regulations of the Department of Ecology in that it represents piecemeal development of the state's shorelines."

Assistant State Attorney General Robert V. Jensen.

Here are six reasons why the April 21st membership meeting is as important as it will be interesting.

1.

### Councilman Michael Hildt

Chairman of the Planning and Housing Committee on some of the problems and possibilities of the Lake.

2.

### Officer Nick Bulpin

of the Water and Air Patrol, Police Department. In charge of Lake Union and Portage Bay patrol areas.

3.

### Roanoke Reef Happy Ending?

An updated report from the Executive Committee and David Kohles, President, Eastlake Community Council.

4.

### Dues Increase Proposal

Members will vote on proposal to increase annual household dues from \$12 to \$16.

5.

### Election of Officers

Nominations open from the floor for all offices.

6.

### Houseboating In England

Slide presentation by Terry Pettus.

Friday, April 21st, 7:45 p.m.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH HALL  
(Basement)

2609 Broadway East  
(E. Broadway and East Edgar Sts.)



# Concerted City Action Could Solve Reef Beef

By Terry Pettus

Will the "Seven Year Sorry Saga Of Roanoke Reef" have a happy ending—will our municipal government hang tough and insist that any use of the property conform to law? The answer is **maybe**. While possible as well as desirable it is by no means certain. While this is the position taken by the State Department of Ecology, the Eastlake Community Council and the Floating Homes Association there are signs of more waffling in City Hall.

On the positive side there was an historic break-through March 14th, only hours before the State Shoreline Appeals Board was to begin a three-day hearing (March 15-16-17) on an appeal from the decision of the Department of Community Development to issue a permit to use the illegal platform as a part of a 46-slip boat moorage on adjacent state leased property. This approval came on Aug. 1st, 1977 from James Hornell, acting director. The appeal was filed by the Eastlake Community Council and the Floating Homes Association with the Department of Ecology and the State Attorney General's Office as supporters. This favorable ruling on behalf of the developers resulted in at least a minor storm of protest. [See **Association letter this page.**]

It was an agreeable surprise when, in the late afternoon of March 14, all parties were summoned to a conference by City Attorney Doug Jewett. It was wall-to-wall bodies in Jewett's modest office. In attendance were representatives of Roanoke Reef Associates, Eastlake Community Council, Floating Homes Association, Mayor Royer, Department of Community Development, State Department of Ecology and the State Attorney General. It was the first such in the long and complicated controversy during which the city had to pay the developers \$2.8 million in damages for issuing an illegal permit for the construction of the platform which is the core of the present problem.

Jewett quickly got the attention of all with the unexpected announcement that he had been asked to research legal aspects of bringing abatement proceedings against the platform. He stressed the futility of proceeding with the expensive three-day appeal hearing which would settle nothing. He said the time had come for all parties to work out and agree on a more constructive course of action. After considerable discussion and a caucus agreement was reached on asking for a postponement in the appeal hearing for six weeks. This to give the City Council time to pass legislation authorizing the Department of Community Development to make a study as to how the property could be used and conform to the Seattle Shoreline Master Program and the State Shoreline Act. This study to take not more than six months and the consultant employed would work closely with all parties.

This agreement was verbal so it is important to point out that twice during its formulation Assistant State Attorney General Robert V. Jensen emphasized the importance of the property being brought into conformity with law. This was also the position of Eastlake and Floating Homes. But soon there were causes for caution. In the University Herald (2/22/78) Assistant City Attorney Gordon Crandall (who participated) is quoted as saying, "if we took a hard line and pushed for compliance the city might face a law suit." In the same story Larry Jones, who represented the Mayor, made no mention of the Department of Ecology being a participant in the agreement. Perhaps that was an unintentional over-sight.

The present stage in the saga began in September, 1976 when the developers applied for the permit to use the platform which five years before had been declared illegal by the Supreme Court. This drew immediate opposition.

## An Open Letter....

TO:

Mr. Charles Royer, Mayor of Seattle.

Mrs. Phyllis Lamphere, President, Seattle City Council.

Mr. Doug Jewett, City Attorney, City of Seattle.

Subject: **The Seven Year Sorry Saga of Roanoke Reef.**

The most recent development in the perennial "Roanoke Reef" saga impells us to take the unusual step of addressing this joint communication to you as the heads of the three branches of our municipal government—executive, legislative and legal. It is done in the hope that it might be helpful in bringing an end to the present **contradiction between what the City says and what the City does**. We know that this is a matter of concern to all of you.

On March 15-16-17 the State Shorelines Appeal Board will hear our appeal from the decision of the Department of Community Development which will permit the "piece-meal" development of this steel and concrete platform which continues to disfigure the shoreline of Lake Union in defiance of the Seattle Shoreline Master Program and in spite of a State Supreme Court Decision that it was constructed illegally.

Once again our Association, together with the Eastlake Community Council and the State Department of Ecology, finds itself in the unhappy position of having to fight our municipal government. We are compelled to ask—why is it that the City, when confronted with this latest ploy by the developers, shirked its responsibility to enforce its own regulations? Why did the Department of Community Development, after a spell of waffling, close its eyes to the serious problem raised? The Department of Ecology had no problem in recognizing the dangerous implications of this step. It contends that this attempt to use the platform in connection with the operation of a 46-boat moorage on the adjacent state leased land, is a move to legalize what the State Supreme Court has said is illegal.

The Department of Ecology contends that this is "piece-meal" development which, if permitted, will inevitably lead to the construction of additional buildings and over-the-water parking on the remainder of the illegal structure. **This should have been the position of the City.** If this proposal has any merit the burden of proof should lie with the applicants. Instead it chose a course which puts the prestige and resources of our municipal government on the side of the developers (who have already pocketed some \$2.8 million in public funds), and in opposition to the community groups and the State Department of Ecology.

How did such a sorry and frustrating malfunction of municipal government come about? Why this contradiction between policy and performance? **Whatever the reasons we respectfully suggest the necessity for the City to get its act together in respect to the Seattle Shoreline Master Program.** In doing so we believe it must face up to the fact that "Roanoke Reef" will not dry up and blow away. As long as it exists the developers have made it clear they will continue to try to use it. Must we resign ourselves to seven more years of controversy and expensive litigation?

Any solution, which meets the command of law and the interests of the community, will require that this property be brought into conformity with the Seattle Shoreline Master Program. If this requires biting the bullet then the bullet must be bit. We have proposals and suggestions we would like to make. We would like to discuss them with you. We don't relish the role of treating our municipal government as an adversary. We much prefer working with you in seeking a constructive solution to this seven-year long controversy which would be in the public interest.

THE FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION

# A Pictorial Study: The Lake Buried Under Concrete



The camera peers through the chain-link fence blocking off the city street entrance to the Roanoke Reef platform which has buried more than 70,000 square feet of Lake Union under the huge concrete slab. There is now an "armistice" in the seven-year long controversy with all

parties, including the City of Seattle and the State Department of Ecology, during which a study will be done to explore what can be done within the constraints of the Seattle Shoreline Master Program and the State Shoreline Management Act. [Photo by Jonathan Ezekiel.]

## WELCOME ABOARD! ...

The Executive Committee has set a goal of 100 new members by July 1st. Organizational Director Jack MacIntyre reports 30 have joined between Jan. 1 and March 25th. They are: Michael and Marie Bain, Trish Drumhiller, Philip and Sandy Swigard, John Lysaker, Robert and Doris Joppa, David B. Singer, Jerry Moos, Kevin Craig, Ken Davidson, Susan Mucklestone, Eldon Durham, Richard and Rebecca Mueller, Glenn L. Mattson, Dale Hagen, Chris and Jane LeCuyer, Thomas and Judith Barrett, Keith and Laura Limpton, Miles C. Olds, Nan Kinnier, Betsy Torrance, Marilyn L. Kuksht, Conner Soules, Joe Grossbuck, Sandra Oellien, Judith Y. Williams, Larry H. Sund, Michael and Blythe Ridell, Hans Dunshee, Bonnie Harris, Beth F. Eisling, Kurt Johnson, David and Doreen Keyes, Richard Pratt.

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## Litigation Is Expensive ....

- The seven year long controversy around Roanoke Reef is now in a lull. Out of it may come a solution consistent with Shorelines legislation.
- During these years we have had as allies the State Department of Ecology and the Attorney General's Office.
- But we have had to pay our own legal way. As things stand there are now some \$1,500.00 in legal obligations unpaid. These must be met. So we ask those who can and will to send contributions now to:

**THE FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION**  
2329 Fairview Ave. E., Seattle, Wa. 98102

**Councilman Michael Hildt on Lake Union, April 21**



# Association Mail Bag....

## DID NOT SPARE THIS TREE ...

To The Association:

I am writing to publicly thank Mr. Gordon Jeffrey and the City of Seattle for the positive stand they have taken to protect our shorelines and our streets from any potential glut of 40-year old White Poplar trees. Evidently the rooty resident of our neighborhood had become brittle and threatening to shed a branch or two. So rather than a little trimming, the tree had to go. The felling of timber may be old hat to a logger but to houseboaters such as ourselves the whine of the saw in front of 2219 Fairview was an experience we will long remember. Marvin Black, the city's agronomist, who gave Mr. Jeffrey the permit, has indicated we may see more of urban lumberjack activity. He says that in addition to White Poplar there are Cottonwoods along Fairview that are fast approaching "execution" time.

**Paul Bunyon**

(The tree in question had been a landmark on Fairview and its destruction has created quite a local furor. Mr. Black has offered to come to the community and explain the city's tree cutting policy.)

## YES. WE ARE INTERESTED IN LAKE PHOTOS ...

To The Association:

Since moving to the lake I have found myself using the camera more and more. There seems to be no end of fascinating subject matter. Have a number of photos that may interest others. Would you like to look them over for possible use in the Newsletter.

**Camera Freak**

(Yes.)

## WE ARE VULNERABLE FROM THE WATER

To The Association:

The warning in the January-February Newsletter that we are vulnerable from the water is timely and well taken. For the first time in all the years I have lived (so securely, I thought) on the water this pleasant illusion has been shattered. It was in the early morning hours in mid-January when I was awakened by what I first thought was the family of friendly raccoons romping around on the deck. But along with this was the distinct impression that my bedroom window was being forced.

I got up and went into the living room with the intention of letting the raccoons know they should beat it. I have done that before. Then outside the large bay window was the figure of a man. I instinctively let out a yell. He turned and ran down the end of the dock. Frankly I was badly frightened. I first thought to dial 911 for the police but as he had obviously come and gone by boat I didn't think that would do any good.

Our lake is friendly but some who use it are not. Our one way docks offer real protection from the landside but we certainly are vulnerable from the water. We can do something about it. We need to join with neighbors in our own special kind of "block watch" with this in mind.

**Delphine Haley**

## ON MAKING RENTORS FEEL WELCOME ...

To The Association:

As a charter member I wonder how many feel that every member should be concerned about organization and how important that is in protecting the gains we have made over the years? I own a rental houseboat and as a condition for rental have always required taking out a membership. It is good for me and good for the tenant. They quickly feel they are a part of a very unusual community. Do others do this?

**D.J.K.**

(You are in the minority but you are setting a good example.)

## FORMER MAYOR SENDS HIS THANKS...

To The Association:

One of the rewarding things about being Mayor these past eight years has been the rediscovered sense of community and citizen involvement in the lives and future of our neighborhoods. Our floating homes constitute a unique community of the city and the work of the Association has virtually guaranteed that they will remain a part of the Seattle "scene." For that and the many times I have been able to call on the Association, I can only say thank you.

As I leave office, though, I want you to know that I fully intend to stay involved in what happens in this city. We have accomplished a great deal, but new problems will always need to be met and new solutions found to old ones that somehow keep creeping back up on us. I hope we'll get a chance to meet some of these challenges together.

**Wes Uhlman**

## NORTHWEST SEAPORT OPENS NAUTICAL SHOP...

To The Association:

With a fine selection of nautical gear which should interest my fellow houseboaters, Northwest Seaport has opened its "The Laughing Gull" shop along with its offices at 218-B Kirkland Ave. in Kirkland. The shop has acquired an unusually fine collection of bronze and American brass ship's fittings the like of which you do not see very often any more. These are from dealer's stock and were made in a small Connecticut foundry some 25 years ago. They are very functional and can be used for hatches, doors and chests and ideal for dressing up a houseboat.

Also among the pieces are two-hooked coat hangers, door knobs with drop rings, box strikes, door holders and chest handles. Prices range from \$3.50 to \$12.00. The shop also carries a fair stock of Taiwan brass lanterns and fittings. Also a broad selection of sterling marine charms that can be made into earrings or pendants.

As most Floating Homes folks know, Northwest Seaport feeds, protects and defends three historic ships now berthed at the Moss Bay Marina in Kirkland. They are the schooner Wawona, Lightship Relief and the Tug Arthur Foss which will be open to the public again after May 1. For further information call 822-1014.

**Helen Mitchell**

## LET THERE BE LESS LIGHT...

To The Newsletter:

We are writing because, during the past year, we have come to feel that we are living inside the domed stadium. New developments along the Westlake side of Lake Union have installed brilliant, glaring lights which makes it impossible to look out our windows without wincing. Believe it or not it is possible to read in our living room at night with the curtains closed and the lights off.

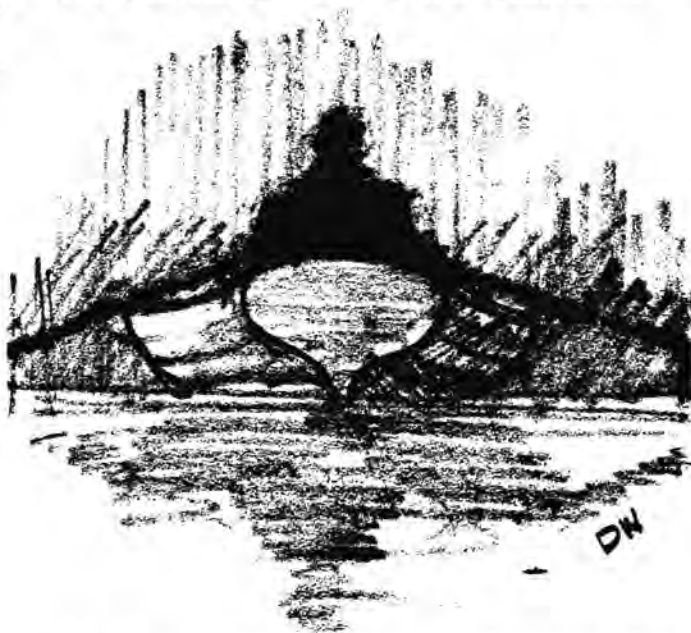
Also there are six huge lights just north of the Gas Works Park on Northlake which ruins the view to the north. Three large lights over the dry stack boat marina also shine directly into our living room with some assistance from Ivar's Salmon House. What used to be a wonderful night view has been totally destroyed. And we once thought Grandmas Cookies and the Elks Club were a nuisance.

Are others concerned about this? It might be appropriate to compel the screening of lighting along the shorelines. This kind of problem is particularly objectionable around the lake as the water multiplies the glare unless properly shaded.

**Beth Means and Ken Hartung**

(It has been suggested that those concerned with this problem contact the Department of Community Development, Old Public Safety Bldg., 400 Yesler, Seattle, 98104.)

## Reflections on The Lake....



IT WAS ALMOST Christmas. Coleen and I had spent most of the night wrapping presents. Now at 2 a.m. the lake was as flat as a pancake. A mist held the lights of the city's towers and reflected them down. The effect was a suffused glow from the water. This special moment seemed ideal for a row. I started cold and stiff but forgot it after a few quick strokes. The beauty of the scene was filling my whole sensory system. I was making a wake that furrowed the lake's clean, untouched, translucent skin. Everything was singing in high harmony.

There was a bustle of activity on the Harbor Patrol dock as I glided by but a moment later I heard the muffled sound of a motor craft. I turned and saw the police boat coming my way. Then the spotlight picked me out. Damn, I thought, the end of a perfect row. I shined my flashlight back but the police boat came bearing down and pulled along side. As soon as the officer saw me all was O.K. Just a check, he said, to see if the boat was stolen. He pulled away. The lake was a corduroy of small ripples now. I thought how tired I would be when the boys woke me up in a few hours so I headed back to the houseboat and a warm bed.

THE SEAPLANE LANDED amid a flotilla of small sailing craft one Sunday morning. The wing tip clipped the boat's shroud and the mast snapped. It was a scene of confusion with everyone seemingly in shock but it seemed only a moment before the Harbor Police were there checking for injuries, getting statements and then towing the crippled sailboat to its berth.

THE HARBOR POLICE don't make the news with spectacular busts of dope rings or the arrest of counterfeiters or bank robbers. They sometime come to public attention when they haul the pathetic, broken body of a "jumper" out of the water. There is nothing spectacular in deterring theft from boats and marinas ... from being our front line of defense against houseboat rip-offs ... in towing a disabled watercraft home or in picking up the wet and cold boaters who insist on picking the wrong day for a sail. Day and night they keep their ever-loving eyes peeled for fire. The Harbor Patrol craft are the only fire boats on Lake Union and the Ship Canal. Lake Union is rimmed by power craft, large and small and intermediate. A loose fitting, a little gas in the bilge, someone starts the engine, a spark and KABOOM. You have a dangerous situation which only the Harbor Patrol boats, in their fire-fighting capacity, can deal with.

## Wood Boat Show Big Coming Attraction

The Seattle Wooden Boat Show, first held last summer as an alternative to larger and more commercial marine affairs, will be repeated over the 1978 Fourth of July weekend (July 1-4). Last Year's event drew 75 boats, all traditional and mostly under 10-feet, and several thousand spectators. This summer's show will again be held at the U.S. Naval Reserve Center, on the south shore of Lake Union. Sponsored by the Center for Wooden Boats, the 1978 show will feature, in addition to watercraft, a variety of on-the-water activities and demonstrations. Rowing and sailing races will be scheduled, and a "grand parade" of traditional boats will circle the lake. Onshore exhibitors will share their knowledge of small craft and demonstrate a variety of nautical skills—lofting, steam bending, boat construction and the use of tools and fastenings. Several displays will offer information related to the history and development of small craft in the Northwest.



All events will be free. To help raise funds for its planned small-craft museum, library and apprentice boat-building program, the Center will sponsor a public auction of maritime antiques, boat-building tools, hardware, fittings, fastenings, memorabilia, "keen junk" and perhaps a few boats. Organizations interested in displaying wooden boats, tools or educational items closely related to the construction of small craft are invited to contact the Center for Wooden Boats, 2770 Westlake N., Seattle, 98102, phone (206) 282-9166.

### *we want to pick your brains!*

- Every member of the Floating Homes Association will soon receive in the mail a copy of our very first questionnaire.
- We think you will find it interesting. It is an opportunity to say what you think about the Association and matters pertaining to life afloat.
- There should be a copy in the letter for every member of the household. If not let out a yell and it will be taken care of.
- You may remain anonymous if you wish. Please take a few minutes to let us know what you really think. Fill out and return by April 30th. The results will be published in the May-June Newsletter.

For everyone who lives or does business around the lake—for everyone who uses its friendly waters—the Harbor Police provides a vitally needed service. We had better keep their boats patrolling or we will eventually pay a price that is unacceptable.

**Dick Wagner**

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(Call them mood pieces or what you will. We would like to see "Reflections On The Lake" as an ongoing feature in the Newsletter. Perhaps you would like to share with others what you feel or think about our fascinating neighborhood.)



## Around and About The Lake ...

### FLOATING HOMES AGAIN IN "EYE OF STORM"...

The hassle over the intention of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (affectionally known as NOAA) to locate its "great white fleet" in Lake Washington as a part of a scientific campus at Sand Point, threatens to put our floating home community in the "eye of the storm." If it comes about it would be an ironic example of history repeating itself. Some of us will never forget the dark days of 1962 when the selection of the present site meant the forced eviction of 75 floating homes.

While there is no cause for panic, it would be irresponsible not to recognize the present danger—however remote it may now seem. A determined group, fighting under the attractive banner of "Save Lake Washington" filed suit against the location of the ships. It challenged the environmental impact statement, issued by NOAA, and sought an injunction. Federal Judge Marshall Neill issued the injunction Feb. 24 on two grounds: (1) **failure to deal with possible alternative sites**, (2) the potential navigation hazards from ship operation through the Montlake Cut.

Even before Judge Neill called a temporary halt to the project, NOAA was very busy indeed in gathering information on one possible alternative site—**expanding the present installation on Lake Union**. At the time it was thought that this would come out at the hearing on the injunction. For whatever reasons it did not but will surface with the revised environmental impact statement NOAA is now in the process of preparing.

What will NOAA say it would need to expand its Lake Union facilities? First it requires all the shorelands on Fairview Ave. between Newton and Boston Sts. This would mean the elimination of the 80 floating homes now moored there. Then it would have to march upland from fairview to Eastlake by acquiring property and businesses including Coolidge Propellor and the Victoria Station restaurant. This detailed survey was made under the direction of Lewis Fiola, assistant regional appraiser for the General Services Administration. An off the cuff estimate of the cost of this property acquisition was set at about \$20 million.

This is the dollar cost. What about the cost to the Floating Homes and Eastlake Communities. The 75 displaces houseboats

## Historic Ship Visits Lake....



Photo by John Southern

**Last of the steam-powered ferryboats, the San Mateo, has spent the winter at the Navy Reserve Armory at the south end of Lake Union.**

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in 1962 was the "price" we paid for the present installation which many of us would like to see stay where it is and just as it is. It is difficult to imagine the survival of our community if the present number of moorage sites shrunk from 443 to 363. This should but probably will not be in any impact statement. We hope it will deal with the massive fills which would be needed on Fairview as well as the density avalanche which could bury Eastlake as a viable community.

We can expect to see some battles before the controversy subsides. Tacoma has happily made a bid for the installation, lock, stock and fleet. Other western states have hungrily eyed this prized federal plum which was, and is, in the firm grasp of a powerful senator—Warren G. Magnuson. The odds still are that NOAA will end up intact at Sand Point but those who have the future of Lake Union at heart had better, as the saying goes, keep their powder dry.

**Terry Pettus**

### Here Is The "Security Blanket" For Your Home



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Moorage No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.

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