

# Floating Homes Tour: September 18th



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Bill McNeill and Linda Mikulicich's home on 2017 Fairview is featured on the Tour.

## Tour Info

- *Noon to 5, Sunday*
- *4 Westlake homes*
- *6 Fairview homes*
- *2 Hospitality houses*
- *Shuttle between Fairview and Westlake*
- *Tickets \$10.00*

## Talking to Marty . . .

Marty Gardner is convinced that, "Honestly, I feel that this will be the best tour we've ever had. One person even asked to be in it."

The Floating Homes community is proudly presenting 12 of its homes to the public on Sunday, September 18 from noon to 5 pm. About half the homes will be on Westlake and half on Fairview. A shuttle bus will carry tourgoers from one area to the other. Tickets are \$10.00 per person.

Gardner is the chair of the tour committee again this year. She actually had most of the homes lined up by late last spring. She and her committee have been working on details since Christmas. What's missing now are volunteers for an assortment of 1-2 hour shifts during the Tour helping people move through the homes. Please help if you can. These little jobs often turn out to be more fun than going on the Tour itself.

The Tour has had several formats since the first

one in 1982. Early tours had a boat pick up tourgoers at a lakeside restaurant and transport them to the houseboat docks. One tour was held on Portage Bay. In 1986, we experimented with the split format on Fairview and Westlake. According to Gardner, "It worked so beautifully that we decided to try it again." About 800 people attended the 1986 tour. Last year a "mini-tour" of 5 houseboats was part of our Silver Anniversary extravaganza.

This year, about 100 tickets have been sold so far, but both the Times and the P-I are planning articles about the tour the week before, and experience suggests that we'll sell out fast after that. So, if you want tickets, you'd be wise to buy them now. Contact the office for details, 325-1132.

"When we were putting it together last spring we had a feeling in our bones that this would be a good one. Things just seemed to go right. I guess people have just come to expect us to do one and want to be a part of it," says Gardner.

The tour committee has sadly dedicated their efforts this year to the memory of their founding chairman, Jim Knight.

## Seaplane Talks Falter

After initial encouraging signs, negotiations among seaplane operators, residents and the city aimed at reaching an accommodation restricting seaplane traffic on the lake have encountered some obstacles.

The Seaplane Environmental Coalition (SEC), of which the Floating Homes Association is a member, has been meeting periodically since late spring with Kenmore Air, Lake Union Air, Chrysler Air, the city's Office of Long Range Planning and representatives from assorted other government agencies to try to find some basis for reasonable limits on seaplane activity on Lake Union. At the last meeting, held in mid-July, the SEC presented its demands to the operators. They included restricted hours, specified flight paths and limits on total number of flights per day.

a prelude to expansion of Lake Union Air's business; and, in the words of Lynda Caine, chair of the coalition, "feel like chumps" for talking in good faith while the other side was out buying more room. Thus neither side is very happy going into the next meeting scheduled for after Labor Day.

Excessive seaplane operations is a perennial problem on the lake. At a hearing before the state Senate Transportation Committee in June, Fritz Newmeyer, a Fremont resident and member of the SEC, said that, "Gentlemen's agreements to limit seaplane traffic have been tried in 1978 and 1985 and they've been violated again and again. When I moved here in 1977, seaplanes took off every now and then. Each year it has increased. Now there are planes taking off every morning before 8:00 am." Caine says that on some days during the summer, there are over 80 flights out of Lake Union.

The senate hearing was convened at the behest of Sen. Janice Niemi (D-32), who has supported the SEC's efforts from the start.

The committee first listened to a parade of government witnesses, from the FAA to the local harbor police, deny responsibility for the problem. Sen. Niemi was heard to mutter that they "sounded like an Abbott and Costello routine." After residents and operators presented their sides, the committee members were clearly impressed with the problem and seemed willing to help sort it out.

Caine says that in view of the state of the negotiations and Lake Union Air's recent purchase, the SEC will probably begin to seriously pursue the offers of help it has received from state and local officials. She also says that

expenses have begun to mount up and mount up and that they will need to raise some money to continue their effort. Checks (\$25,00 suggested) may be sent to the Association office at 2329 Fairview, 98102.



Sen. Niemi



The operators naturally balked at these proposals to set a few restrictions on their currently unregulated activities. Then in late August, Lake Union Air bought the Kurtzer property next to their present facilities. The SEC sees this move as

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**Seaplane Noise Hotline**  
**684-8811**

## State Lease Progress

by Connie Jump

Many floating home moorages on Westlake, Fairview and Portage Bay extend beyond the boundary separating developable property from navigable waters. This boundary is known as the Construction Limit Line (CLL) and is overseen and controlled by the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Most of the houseboats and docks past the line either have temporary leases or none at all.

The ones which have got theirs about 15 years ago when DNR issued non-renewable leases for property extending beyond the CLL to some moorage owners on Portage Bay. These leases begin expiring in 1989. We are faced with the prospect of having to remove the houseboats and docks the leases cover if they aren't renewed.

The Floating Homes Association has been working closely with DNR; and informally, they have expressed interest in granting renewable 12-year leases at the water dependant rate (about 1/3 of the non-water dependant or "upland" rate) to affected property around the lake. They are looking for documentation of which properties (moorage and houseboats) are over the CLL. In many cases, these have never been identified nor assessed, and so are considered "trespassers" on the state-controlled land, a situation which DNR wants to rectify soon. Their goal is to do it by the end of 1988.

The Association is hoping to deal with all these leases -- both renewals and new -- as a comprehensive package. We remind ourselves that the state is neither required to offer these leases, nor to do so at the desirable rate. It's imperative that we work together to document and establish the information which allows the state to process the leases expeditiously.

As a houseboat owner or moorage owner you can help. We need documentation which identifies the location of the CLL in relation to your dock. If you are over the line and haven't had a lease before, we

suggest that you offer this information as a way of becoming legitimate, rather than waiting to be caught as a trespasser by DNR when they examine their aerial photos. If you have a houseboat which moved to its present spot after 1974, we also need to know that -- this situation is slightly different, but we are confident that we can work with the city and the state to legitimize all affected houseboats and moorages.

## Water Quality

The "Greenlake/Portage Bay Water Quality Project Citizen's Advisory Committee" has been meeting every week for most of the summer to evaluate Metro's plans for reducing raw sewage outflows into Portage Bay. Not a whole lot has been accomplished, according to Joan Rosenstock, a Portage Bay floating home owner.

The reason for the lack of progress is the intransigence of a coalition of community groups from

the Ravenna area which oppose any suggestion to run a pipe through their neighborhood. Metro's favored plan would run lines down Ravenna from Greenlake to Union Bay. Rosenstock says, "They are being very rigid. Their negotiating position is that there will be absolutely no negotiating." Alternatives to the Ravenna plan include running the pipe down the freeway corridor or underneath Stone Way, but these routes would be considerably more expensive than Ravenna according to Metro.

"You do have to give the Ravenna coalition some credit," she says. "They turn out in force for the meetings, vote as a block, and have pushed through rules which dilute the effect of other groups." One example is a rule which requires attendance at several consecutive meetings before a member is qualified to vote on recommendations of the committee.

Metro's Draft EIS on the project, which analyzes a 75% cleanup of raw sewage outflows into Portage Bay is due in late fall.

## In Memorium . .

### James H. Knight, MD

9/30/34 - 8/24/88

by Ellen Hansen

Jim Knight died at his home on August 24th after a long fight against lung cancer with his best friend, wife Linda, and his son Christopher at his side.

Jim had lived on the lake for close to twenty years. The lake was part of him, and he became a vital part of the lake. His activism should have been no surprise to those who knew him. From his earliest years, Jim worked hard to make a difference in the lives of those around him: he helped found the first NAACP chapter in Texas.



Jim Knight

Working in the civil rights movement in Mississippi, he helped build a church. During service as a medical officer in the Third Marine Division in Viet Nam, he helped build a civilian hospital in Phu Bai and spent

his free time treating villagers. As a pediatrician, he treated everyone, without regard to ability to pay.

When the floating home community needed help, Jim stepped forward. He volunteered to serve as fundraising chair for the Floating Homes Association. His efforts brought us from a debt of \$40,000 to a position of solvency.

At the same time, Jim began working closer to home. He founded the Log Foundation, a 52 home co-operative, and served as its president until his death. He also shared the knowledge gained from that experience to help others around the lake buy their docks.

That kind of commitment, warmth and energy were typical of both the public and private man. We will always remember both Jim and thank Linda and Christopher for sharing him with us.

### Andrew M. Walkover

6/10/49 - 8/2/88

by George Yeannakis

Seven years ago my friend and neighbor, Andy Walkover, confronted me with yet another complaint about the lord of our docks. This time he said he had a plan. A plan to free us! His plan called for the formation of a California corporation called Dox. His plan demanded the near-unanimous participation of 31 households at 2219-2225 Fairview.

For ten months Andy directed the weekly meeting of the Dox conspirators, while nudging us in the direction of co-operation with references to Terry Pettus, a man he greatly admired, and the provision of sound legal advice from the University of Puget Sound Law School where he taught for ten years.

In June of 1982 the million dollar sale closed and the co-op opened. Andy declined any leadership role in the co-op, citing his anarchist nature. Yet, he never let an issue go by without asking, "Sure, why not?"

Two years ago, Andy received tenure on the UPS faculty, took a sabbatical, and was diagnosed as having cancer. After an experimental cancer treatment

in the summer of 1987, we all knew that it was just a matter of time.

Andy made the best of that time, teaching through Spring Semester and organizing the planting of flowers and shrubs that will bloom for many years at the foot of Dox.

Andy passed away in his houseboat on August 2nd. His wife Barb and daughter Lilly will continue living on their houseboat. We at Dox mourn his passing and will miss our good friend.

### James Wandesforde

8/8/11 - 7/10/88

by Sally George

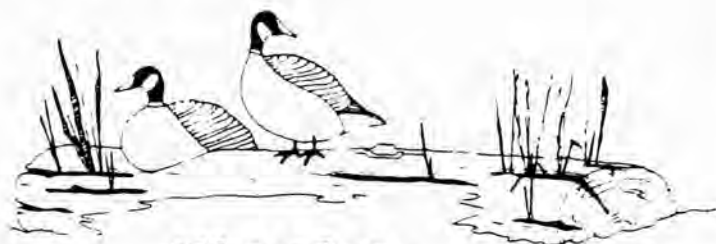
On a Sunday afternoon several weeks ago Seattle and her houseboaters lost a dear friend and associate with the death of James Wandesforde, owner of the 2035-2037 Fairview dock.

Jim passed away in the house he built at the end of the dock where in earlier years he watched his two children play with the resident herd of geese ensconced on the deck, and in later years entertained friends with delightful meals and stories of old Seattle.

Jim was a native Seattleite, born in the shadow of Queen Anne Hill, and, as a young man, attended commercial art school by day and played in smoky jazz clubs as a musician by night. Music and art were two great pleasures for Jim, who painted and played jazz with rare passion. He began both his work as a commercial artist and as a painter during the Depression; during the war he began his long association with Lake Union and her houseboat community when he built his unique dwelling by hand. His house became a mecca for good talk, fine wines, excellent meals and conversations that lingered long after the sunsets faded on the lake.

As a dockowner, while those on both sides of him used the moorage monopoly to gouge and terrorize their tenants, Jim set a quiet example of fair play and concern for his houseboaters with his moderate rents and cordial (if slightly gruff) manner.

His keen mind and earthy exuberance will be sorely missed by all of us fortunate to have known him.



## Waterlog

by Sheri Lockwood

I don't know about you but I'm not used to having summers with so many sunny weekends. Using them to the fullest is wearing me out. Not that I'm complaining. (Not me!) I still have a few good weekends in me, I'm sure. And a great one is coming up -- this year's houseboat tour is going to be a doozy. Tell your friends. In addition the docks are abuzz with these interesting tidbits:

**WELCOME ABOARD:** On 2727 FV, Carolyn and Cheryl -- one of their dockmates states, "We're first name people here. It takes a few years to get the last names down" ... Tom Valentine has moved from 2822 Boyer after 19 years, but they welcome a new neighbor, John Moore ... Jane Evanson is back on her old dock, 2025 FV ... and the Dox Co-op welcomes Dillon Jackson and Misha Halvarsson.

**WET BUT FLOATING:** On 2219 FV Mary Sue and Dave Galvin are new parents to baby boy Nicholas born in May and 2025 FV Residents Bill and Susan Korbonitz have a new baby boy, Alexander, born March 7, and weighing in at 6 lbs 9 oz.

**KNOTS TIED:** Bob Burk and Blair Rice were married in June. They're on the Log Foundation on Farrview.

**SPLICE THE MAIN BRACE (PARTIES):** On 1213 Shelby, Jeannie Aronszajn was a prime mover in planning the surprise party for Lucy Leonard's 75th birthday. Dockmates and friends from "all over" helped celebrate and agree "she's the youngest 75 year old we've ever seen ..." The Log Foundation held their 19th annual Pig Luau on July 16th which featured a bluegrass band, "The Cascade Mountain Ramblers," a new T-shirt depicting a pig in sunglasses (rumour has it a few of them attended) and 220 paying guests ... The Dox Co-op Annual Garage Sale that same weekend featured lots of junk and sunburn. Their annual dock party is financed through recycling. They'll have music, potluck and, hopefully, sun ... 1213 Shelby has "caught fire" recycling. They now share 4 bins between 8 houseboats. They feel they're doing their part and no longer have to make the long trek to the recycling depot.

**ANCHORS AWEIGH:** Tim Easton of 2025 FV has accepted a position in Jordan and will be away for two years ... Sue Drum of 2219 FV is spending a year in Hawaii. Dockmate Ruth Coffin hosted a going away party for her on June 18th ... Jenny Hansen on 2025 FV spent a month in Africa. She's now saving money to get all her snapshots developed. Her mom, Ellen is recovering from a broken leg and is learning new tricks in the art of "creative scratching" ... On 2331-39 FV Florence Yerxa has just returned from a summer in Greece, and Tom and Peggy Stockley are leaving soon with Peggy's mother and sister to visit "the olde family sod" in Ireland ... Dock neighbors Ruth Coffin and Bob Schroeder and Jack and Carol Hilton have recently returned from cruising Desolation Sound -- Their neighbors across the dock, Rosemary Parker and Shirley Lashua spent 10 days cruising the San Juans .. Charlie Hale of 2232 FV, with the help of a nephew from "back east," got his Hans Christain "Loki" under sail again after a year and a half of being morage-bound. He celebrated via a sailing trip with his daughters. One had just returned from France, the other from a Scandinavian visit ... 1213

Shelby resident Alan Hunt won the NW Division Lightning Championship over entrants from Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. He represented the district in the National Championship in San Diego. Carol McGinnis and daughters Casey and Kathleen leave soon to visit the wine country in France. Carol says she'll be bringing back a few bottles of fine wine. (Say ... isn't it time for a party on that dock?)

**FLOTSAM AND JETSAM:** On 2235 FV Jeannette Day has just received her license as a "Licensed Massage Practitioner" She's very good and has been known to offer special rates to houseboaters. Her number is 325-8523. Call evenings and weekends ... 2331-39 FV resident Regina Lyons and her brothers have opened "My Brother's Pizza" at 2109 N 45th near the Guild 45th Theatre. It's deep dish and I hear it's delicious ... Plants and planters were stolen off the end house on 2235 FV and a car prowler is still at work on Fairview. Ruth Williamson of 2219 FV had several valuable sample cases stolen from her car this month ... This reporter's "Team Armadillo" placed second in the Annual SandBlast Sandcastle Contest on Alki August 14th. Their entry was an armadillo talking on a car phone in his flame decorated BMW. It was titled "Cruisin' Upscale." ... The FHA needs a team. It's great fun!

2460 WL is looking for 2 existing houseboats to fill moorages on their dock. They are nearing the end of their permit process and things are going well. They already have 25 applicants for the spots, but most want to build new homes. They would rather welcome existing homes. The spaces cost from \$75,000 to \$80,000, and feature room for a boat, and there are size restrictions. Their co-op meets again on October 3rd to go over the applicants. They would like all interested parties to contact them before October 1st. Call Marty Alexander, 281-0927.



**FAUNA:** Bernard the beaver is back at his hounds around Little Lynn Street Park -- get out your chicken wire and save a tree. George Yeannakis netted a 30" salmon right off his deck. His biggest catch of the year. Unfortunately it was quite dead ... Shelby houseboaters have been treated by the numerous visits of a great blue heron silently stalking fish off the Shelby Street End Park. He's also roosted on the ridgepole of one of the houseboats where he appears to be a monstrously outsized windvane. Canoe trips earlier have offered sightings of beaver and baby grebes hitching rides on the backs of their parents.

**NOTE:** Last issue's lovely story about the relocation of goose couple Neptune and Nemo to Vashon Island was mistakenly attributed to me. This upgrade in writing style was in truth the work of Peggy Stockley. Thank you Peggy, and I'm sorry.

Well, I'm off to cruise the San Juans ... remember your sunscreen -- there can't be too many of these sunny weekends left, so enjoy!

The "Waterlog" has always been a forum for the lighter side of houseboat life. It's difficult to be light-hearted this summer with the losses we've shared. Three sonderfully gifted, charismatic, and dedicated men are gone. Jim Knight, Andy Walkover, and JJ Wandesforde will be missed by all who knew them. They gave us a vision of just how fully aware, fully involved and fully alive the human spirit can be. There is an awful emptiness now that seems impossible to fill. Perhaps the memory of their generous spirits will help fill our hearts again.