



2329 Fairview Avenue East

Seattle, Washington 98102

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Newsletter

Spring 1996

The Floating Homes Association's
34th Annual
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, April 25, 1996 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Tyee Yacht Club
3229 Fairview Avenue East

Fun! Information! Refreshments!

- Update on State Leases
- Where our Water Comes From
- The Year in Review
- Executive Board Election
- Floating Homes Cookbook On Sale

See You There!!

DNR Floats New Leases

by Bill Keasler

Dare we hope, after years of delay, that the floating homes community's standoff with the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) over its aquatic lands leases is about to grind to a conclusion? There are some auspicious signs.

According to Lori Price, the DNR Land Manager in charge of houseboat leases, "Things are starting to roll." Her office has been "inundated with calls" since they sent out a re-lease package to all moorage owners who have expired leases with the state. The good news is that the situation has apparently progressed past the point of squabbling over the lease itself. The bad news is that the package includes a radically expanded application form, among other things, which complicate the re-lease process substantially.

Well, no one promised any of this would be easy.

However, progress since this time last year has been remarkable. You may remember that in January 1995 we were so discouraged that we had decided to try going to Olympia for legislative relief. Four of our local legislators, Sen. Pat Thibaudeau (D-43), Rep. Frank Chopp (D-43), Sen. Jeanne Kohl (D-36) and the late, lamented Sen. Cal

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Leases, continued from page 1

Anderson (D-43), took up our cause with the Commissioner of Public Lands, Jennifer Belcher. Belcher responded immediately with several policy directives to her staff. As a result, over the course of the next months, most of the critical issues in the original lease language were settled. It took most of the rest of the year to nail down the final language, but Belcher's promise to "resolve this by the end of 1995" was kept.

On a chilly evening late last January, about 25 people gathered at the "Hydro House Cafe" next to the Steam Plant to hear about DNR's freshly minted lease. Notice of the meeting had gone out to all moorage owners and interested parties announcing that copies of the lease would be available and that the Floating Homes Association's attorney and lobbyist, Peter Eglick and Mike Ryherd, respectively, would be available to answer questions.

The meeting began with an explanation of the two most important breakthroughs of the new language, 30-year (rather than 12-year) terms and hazardous waste provisions which set the lessee's liability no greater than prevailing law (rather than essentially liable for everything). Mike Ryherd praised our legislative delegation and Belcher for their roles in bringing us to this point. He also explained that the DNR was only willing to negotiate collectively with the houseboater's through the FHA after making it clear that they would be very reluctant to subsequently negotiate with individuals. In short, you might try to cut your own deal, but you'll go to the end of a very long line waiting for DNR's attention.

Most of the questions revolved around the hazardous waste issue. No, we are not responsible for pre-existing conditions. Yes, we can keep household cleaners on our floats

without violating the terms of the lease. No, DNR has no approval over houseboat remodels (but it does over the dock itself.) One question was about just exactly what the required bond was against, cleanup or non-payment. No one quite knew, but the language says it's "to secure performance under the lease", which, the attorneys said, could mean both. There was some discussion over DNR's statement that the lease does not apply to condominiums, evidently because they are still deliberating their position on ownership and windfall profits in condominium situations.

A few weeks after the January meeting, Lori Price sent out DNR's renewal package to moorage owners with expired leases. Response so far has been mixed. While relieved that they are finally going to see a lease with reasonable language, people have been a little shocked by the elaborate (seven pages) renewal form. Some multi-dock moorages also question why they must pay for the area between the docks. Other dock owners were dismayed by the fact that the cover letter did not acknowledge that they already had applications on file. As one owner asked, "Why do we have to start over? Did they lose my file, or something?"

There may be problems, but at least they're new problems.

The Floating Homes Association is tracking all this closely, prepared to jump in again, if necessary. For the most part, however, we hope that the remaining issues can be settled between individual moorage owners and DNR.

State Leases will figure prominently on the Agenda of our Annual meeting in April.

Floating Homes Association Board

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(2466 WL)

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Phil Webber (2466 WL)

OFFICE MANAGER: Peg Stockley

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Peg Stockley, editor 329-7973

John Nelson, production

Office Hours

9-1 Tuesdays and Thursdays

(The Floating Homes Association office is located at 2329 FV, roughly two blocks north of Lynn Street. Phone 325-1132)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

—Serving on the Board.

—Marketing the second printing of our wonderful cookbook, "Floating Kitchens."

—Revitalizing our cottage industry. We need to re-stock our popular sweatshirts (maybe try a new design) and explore new items.

—Directing our Houseboat Tour next spring.

—Exploring the possibility of including a page of classified ads in future issues of the newsletter. Etc., etc., etc., etc.

If you're interested, call the FHA office, 325-1132.

AROUND THE LAKES...

Historic Steamer "Virginia V" Needs Our Help

Floating Homes Assn. member McNair Smith encourages his fellow members to contribute to the Restoration Fund for the Virginia V. Checks should go to the Virginia V Foundation, marked "Restoration Fund" and mailed to Virginia V Foundation, c/o Andrew Price, Jr., 2040 43rd Ave. E., #612, Seattle, WA 98112. Price is looking for 1000 contributors at \$250 each. He hopes to find them in and around the documented 215 former ports along the shores of Puget Sound, Hood Canal and Lake Washington where the mosquito fleet steamers used to call. The 1922 steamer Virginia V is the last member of the fleet and one of only two surviving historic steamships in the United States. Restoration will cost \$2,200,000. Price and others working on the project feel the achievement of finding "1000 Friends of the Virginia V" will be persuasive to potentially large donors.

Bush, Roed & Hitchings Speeds Up Fairview Ave. E. Traffic Calming Efforts!

A big Thank You to these good neighbors!

Bush, Roed & Hitchings generously donated their services to survey the East Roanoke, East Lynn & East Newton intersections on Fairview Avenue East. The Seattle Engineering Department (SED) is now using the surveying data to create basemaps which are a necessary first step in designing traffic calming measures. Designs for these intersections will be jointly developed during March by Hiro Takahashi (SED) and the Fairview Avenue East Traffic Calming Steering Committee. Community review of the designs is scheduled for Tuesday evening, April 9th, at the Seattle Police Officers Guild, 2517 Eastlake Avenue East. If you'd like more information, please call Mary Sue Galvin at 323-6439. This project is funded by a neighborhood matching grant awarded to the Eastlake Community Council and the Floating Homes Association.



Illustration by Veronica Galvin, age 5

Speed Lane Issue

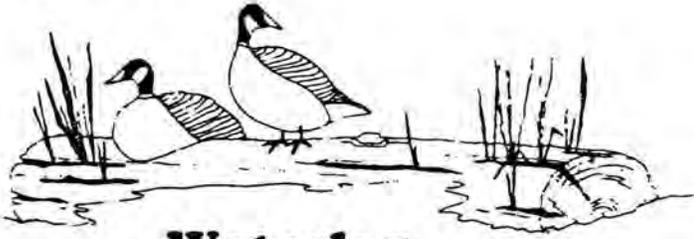
Houseboaters Rachel Balsam & Michael Douglas (2321 FV) have been concerned about the impact of boat speed lanes on floating homes. Part of their response was attending meetings of the Seattle Harbor Advisory Council. The Council meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:30 am, at the Seattle Police Harbor Station. Many business and commercial interests attend these meetings, but not many from the houseboat community. As compromises are struck, our point-of-view should be heard. If you have questions, call Rachel or Michael at 324-3693. Better yet, drop by those meetings and find out more about the issues.

Tea On A Houseboat

Jaywalking Tour Company is looking for host houses on Lake Union and Portage Bay to accomplish small (no more than 6 people) tea & tour events between the months of April and October. Only thing required of the host is the place. Tea-time would be roughly 3-4 p.m. and Jaywalking would do the work. As their CEO Hannah Jay puts it: "We have technical support to set up tea and snacks (we may need to boil water). We clean up afterwards and disappear fast."

Learn To Row

Popular rowing classes are now available at the Pocock Rowing Center. Call 328-0778 for schedules and information.



Waterlog

by Sheri Lockwood

Well, I'm back at the helm again. After a year in Poland and a few months to sort out where I live and work, and who to seek out for the local dirt and news I'm reinstated as the Floating Homes gossipmonger. Neighbors seem to have flown to warmer climes or are eyeing their docks waiting for the animals to come marching down two by two. The 1995/96 rains may have had us measuring our room space in cubits and finding leaks we never had noticed, but some news has filtered in over the seeping transom.

WELCOME ABOARD

Michael Gooden is new and Michelle (Mike) and Tom Naylor are new to 2321 FV... On 2466 WL Bill and Barrie Taraday moved in over Christmas... Dox Co-op welcomes Lee Redden and Susan Jenkins, Jennie Navone and Carrie Crockett, and Rachel Pascal... 1213 Shelby greets Betty Swift and Penny Lewis... on 933 NL Connie Ricca is a new dockster and Kit Pomeroy and Bob Cambell make Roanoke Reef their new home along with Gifford and Mary Jones at Mallard Cove and Bill and Jane Sutherland at Hamlin Pier ... New on 2331 FV is Nadine Morin.

Did anyone warn these new folks about freezing pipes, sinking sailboats, winds blowing things overboard, and breaking mooring lines or Fourth of July parking?? They are probably figuring it all out by now...

ALL HANDS ON DECK

The winter of 1995/96 was the rainiest on record in the Seattle area, and the weirdest. Ice, sun, floods, wind, fire and mudslides; what's next, locust?

ICE: Hamlin pier's sewer main froze up along with every bypass. Hoses were running everywhere until the main could be fixed. I've heard that some plumbing stores have a thermostat you can put on pipes to heat them automatically. If you vacation without a housesitter or neighbor to watch over things it might be a good idea. Otherwise leave the water running a trickle. The Taradays, new neighbors on WL moved in and got their pipes frozen before anyone could warn them.

In fact many houses on 2466 got frozen pipes, but white-hatted Frank Koterba took matters in hand and rented a barn heater (150,000 BTUs). It got passed around until everyone got unfrozen. He's getting A's in cooking school—look for a new restaurant soon.

RAIN: On Portage Bay Place the backyard of a house near the Red Robin Restaurant slid down the hill onto the yard/parking lot/street near Joyce and Boyd Brown's houseboat. They had noted and reported a suspicious looking bulge on the hillside and were monitoring its growth. They left their car at the top of the hill just in case. The hillside came roaring down at midnight. No one was hurt, but the only street into Portage Bay houseboats was buried, and there is still more of the hill that doesn't appear very stable. The road was blocked for a day as trucks loaded with dirt crawled in and out of the area through the day and night. Boyd Brown was the First Floating Home Association president, and their house was the first connected to city sewers. At the other end of PBPI another slide came down, topped off by a Christmas tree.

A sailboat on 2025 FV was a rain victim too. It flooded and sank, but fortunately the water wasn't very deep and it could be recovered. The drain in its footwell got clogged with leaves and the downpours filled it with water. It's floating again, but its interior was pretty swampy.

A carpenter working on John Battle's houseboat (2466 WL) had a chilling experience. He was standing on a ladder working on a narrow, sloping roof. He lost his balance and fell into the lake, losing most of the tools from his big leather tool belt. He hauled himself out of the drink and went inside to put his clothes in the dryer, donning the only thing handy to wear, a pair of yellow bib rain pants. He walked out the door to retrieve his soaking wet wallet and slammed the door behind him. Whoops! No keys, no clothes, just yellow rain pants. Next time he'll probably double the bid to work on a houseboat.

This reporter's sister was evacuated from her home in Oregon as the Willamette River rose. She reported seeing news footage of Portland houseboats taken from the air. Along the docks were houseboats floating next to the roofs of houseboats underwater.

WIND: Fortunately we got enough warning to batten down for the big windstorm that calmed somewhat as it left Oregon. I found my flamingo with the spinning wings in the lake, but rescued it. Maybe some of you out there have hairier wind stories. I wonder if anyone misses the lawn flamingos I had on my roof. They were good for directions—pass the house with the tacky flamingos.

Don Brownlee, UW astronomer (PBPI) is heading up the seven year NASA Stardust project. Launch is scheduled for Feb 1999. Its mission is to return samples of interstellar dust to the earth. The dust will have remnants of the earliest moments of the formation of the planets and stars. There is additional information available on the WWW at <http://pdcsrva.jpl.nasa.gov/stardust/home.html>.

Janet Yoder and Bob Rudine have a new dog, Saba, a

one year old Keeshond. They are the Dutch houseboat dogs.

SPLICE THE MAINBRACE

After many fits and starts ("the party will be held next weekend AND WE MEAN IT!"), the Dox Co-op finally held its Winter Party and Progressive dinner. Seven households hosted including: Janet Hardman, Elaine and Chuck Magnusson, Carol and Jack Hilton, Ruth and Bob Schroeder, Barb Walkover and Robert Blumberg, and Susan Jenkins and Lee Redden. Along with hosting Barbara Wilson and John Phillips showed a video of Neighbor Jocelyn's (our very own ex-Huskie coxswain) in her championship race ... Dariusz Rawa, (perennial Houseboat sitter 2235 FV) issued an invitation in November to the grand opening of Amandari at the top of the Harbor steps and across for the Seattle Museum. The new shop and gallery offers Indonesian artifacts and antiques, features full size antique structures and featured Indonesian music and dance ... Keith Magnuson (2031 FV) owner of Rally Round Foreign Car Repair on Fairview (for 17 years) opened a new business in July. It's called Stone Garden and is an indoor rock climbing facility. It is in Ballard next to the Ballard Locks, Ph: 781-9828. Great idea, especially with the winter we have been having ... Cork Foster, (2727 FV) held a fund-raiser to benefit battered women on her houseboat 2/22/96 and raised over \$1000.00. She is planning another to benefit People for Puget Sound at the end of March ... North Lakers Bob Bowman and Terri Hall hosted a dock party for Christmas 12/17/95 that featured the caroling kayakers.

LAKE UNION MONSTERS

Rats from a dock where no cats are allowed are swimming across the channel to check out the feeding grounds on nearby docks. Ironically, it appears they are looking for dishes of cat food left outside ... A very large raccoon on 2332 FV attacked Alice, a very large Grand Pyrenees dog. Alice is Ok but received puncture wounds to her throat. Bob Martin is concerned that his wire-haired fox terrier "Eggbert" might make a nice hors d' oeuvre ... Raccoons are digging out nests in the styrofoam houseboat floats. Especially on the Boyer and Portage Bay docks. The nests they carve out are warm and cozy and can be detected by the white Styrofoam chips they kick out to mingle with the milfoil. Perhaps chicken wire around the edges of the floats is the solution, but first the raccoons have to be coaxed from their cozy homes—not an easy feat. By the way has anyone spotted the big FV Ave beaver lately? ... Those majestic white Polish mute swans are becoming the talk of the lakes.

Geese are beginning their March through August talk-fest. —Look for a mate/HONK, Find a mate /HONK,



protect your mate/HONK, make a nest/HONK, defend your nest/HONK, hatch babies/HONK, defend babies/HONK, — while their neighbors, the hapless houseboaters wonder if they will ever sleep again. (Wasn't there a movie made about that?) One night I was struggling with numerous pillows over my head and ears to sleep through the din. I heard my new neighbor walk out onto his deck at about 3:00 am and scream "Shut up! SHUT UP!" It only helped for a couple of minutes but made him feel better and made me laugh. He's moved away since. It was interesting while visiting Greece with 7 other docksters to realize how much conversation time over meals, coffee, and Hoppy Hoppy Hour could be dedicated to the detestation of geese.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

Christy Robinson and fiancé Weldon "Smitty" Smith (2466 WL) spent September in Ireland reuniting with his siblings, some he hadn't seen since he left when he was 8 months old. Other relatives in England and Scotland were also visited... Robert and Surain af Sandeberg (2205 FV) went to India over Christmas and New Years. They went by land to Bombay and the southern tip, spent New Years with thousands of pilgrims and continued on to Madras... This reporter took advantage of a \$125 hotel and airfare ticket to Las Vegas before Christmas. I'd never been and was curious. Tell me, is there a weirder place on earth? I only lost \$50 and have a very funny photo in feathers and sequins for a souvenir.... This is the EXTREMELY CONDENSED VERSION of Mary Gey and Fred McCulloch's 2-day birthday adventure to the French Polynesian island of Moorea. They booked a \$699.00 (hotel and airfare ticket) for over Christmas. This price is too good to be true, right? RIGHT. Included in the adventure were a search for their

Waterlog continued...

airline at LAX, Dr. Mary distributing sleeping pills from a sample with no dosage (result: dead to the world or dazed husband), extreme humidity, extreme heat, one day of sun, stealthy mosquitos, crowing hotel roosters, torrential rain “we needn’t have worried about the crowing of the roosters...the rain was so loud you couldn’t hear anything but rain...we had 20 minutes of torrential monsoon and 10 minutes of just regular rain. It had quite a comfortable pattern after a while.” A hand-carried champagne treat dropped to the tiles after nearly a day of trips to the ice machine to cool it (Fred raised an eyelid as it crashed—then he went back to sleep). Fred got the flu and they began their marathon of catching planes to get back home. Dinner in Tahiti featured a lengthy wait in the disreputable part of town (in the warm monsoon rains Gourdes will get wet inside and out) for a restaurant van that took them up a steep, muddy mountainside while threatening to pull apart on every turn. They and another woman were the only passengers and patrons of the restaurant which ONLY served its specialty beef fondue, at \$50 per person. “That’s \$3.00 per morsel of food” says Mary. They made it to the Tahiti airport after the van driver dropped every restaurant worker off, and volunteered to pay the \$100 fee for leaving early. A clerk took pity on them and upgraded them to first class. Mary got her birthday champagne on the flight home. I wonder if Fred remembers any of this.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Now that Jeri Callahan (2331 FV) has returned from her winter in Puerto Vallarta, the “refugee” Galvin family has moved back home into their remodeled houseboat on the Log Foundation (2019 FV). Dave & Mary Sue, and kids, Nick & Veronica wintered in Jeri’s house on Tenas Chuck. Jeri couldn’t believe her homecoming. There were primroses planted, a basket of fruit on her kitchen counter, and food in the refrigerator. Not only was her winter bathrobe waiting in the closet, her favorite bar of herbal soap and a packet of Secret Garden bubble bath were laid on the bath towel by her claw-foot tub ... Dr. Ruth Patterson, 2331 FV, (our own Dr. Ruth) was part of a panel discussion at Fred Hutchinson on the subject of genetics, nutrition and treatment as it relates to prostate cancer ... I had guests from Ireland for Fat Tuesday weekend and took them to Pioneer Square to carve Spam. Our “Spamdora’s Box” and “Spamrocks” didn’t win but we didn’t practice before hand. We’ll do better next year.

MEDIA MADNESS

According to Seattle Times columnist Jean Godden, Newsweek magazine interviewed Mayor Norm Rice in a variety of scenic Seattle locations this winter, including the Lake Union houseboat community. Newsweek was apparently seeking answers to the question “What makes Seattle

Seattle?” Publication date unknown ... Speaking of media attention, Channel 9 did a two-hour special on NW gardens on March 4 and one segment was filmed on the Tenas Chuck dock at 2331 FV. Particular attention was given to the can-on-the-pole watering device but time didn’t allow a conversation with our gardener-mentor, Bob Lilly ... And the New York Times in September featured a piece on Surain & Robert afSandeberg’s houseboat on Flo-Villa. One caption read “A lake houseboat with an earth-friendly attitude”. This happens to reflect the couple’s priorities of environment, community and rugged individualism. (What else in life is there?)

That’s all folks. Please magnet my number to your refrigerator door. It’s 322-4536. I’m back and I’m eager to hear of parties, wildlife (maybe that’s the same thing), babies, weddings, vacations, promotions, handy tips for our unique lifestyle, just plain silly stories and news. I truly appreciate all of your help. Na Razie (in Polish that’s “Later”). PS: My email is dillo@u.washington.edu.

Passages

The houseboat community lost one of its pioneers in early November when Marie Johnston passed away at the age of 83. She had lived on a houseboat with her husband, Leonard, for almost 50 years, and had been through the bad times of evictions and lawsuits and the good times of neighbors helping neighbors. They started out on a dock down by NOAA in a houseboat Leonard bought for \$800. Their next houseboat cost \$1150 and is the same one Leonard still lives in at 2466 WL. Marie was a tiny little ball of fire, always smiling and friendly to visitors who came along the dock, especially the two-legged quaking variety. Every year she planted what seemed like hundreds of pots of colorful petunias, and every year she’d say next year I’m going to plant something different.” She had more energy than most people half her age, and in her eighties was still climbing onto the roof to patch up leaks. Marie never forgot a name and could tell you the history of every house on the dock as well as the story of everyone who had ever lived there. From Marie we learned the true houseboat spirit of being good neighbors; she loved life on the water and lived it to the fullest until the day she died.



by Bob Lilly

(Ed. Note: Bob Lilly (2331 FV) has lived on his houseboat on the Tenas Chuck Moorage for over 24 years and knows what grows and what doesn't in a garden afloat. Professionally, he's with Charles Wilson Company, brokers and sales reps of perennials for growers. He's also one of the principal designers of the NW Perennial Alliance Border at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. In 1994 and 1995, he designed the Arboretum Foundation Display Garden at the NW Flower & Garden Show.)

THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST ON LAKE UNION:

—A list of plants that do well in containers and on houseboats—

For early spring color, narcissus are most unpalatable to the geese and flower very well for many years. Primroses are ok but this year the ducks or geese are after the flowers. Hyacinths & Crocus do well but don't last as long and tulips in pots are only good for one year. Treat primroses as annuals. Mine don't do well the second year. Pansies are good to follow the bulbs but they need to be kept picked to flower through spring and summer.

Shrubs for color in spring are best if kept dense and low with a bit of pruning and a summer pinch so they don't get leggy. Deciduous azaleas, like the Exburys & Viscosas

are very good and rebloom well if fertilized through their growing season. For evergreen foliage, the smaller-leaved rhododendrons are all very good with their cousins, the azaleas, although you will find the rhodies more hardy. Of course, the various waterfowl won't bother these plants at all.

Summer color is where we all like to put most of our energy as we spend more time outside with the longer daylight hours and swimming. The greatest success can be had with geraniums: Zonal; seed varieties like the Ringo series and the scented ones. There are rose-scented and lemon-scented ones with an incredible trailing peppermint variety I like best of all. Be sure to pick off the old flowers faithfully. It does make a big difference.

Other good annuals are Cosmos for sun, Impatiens for shade (away from the ducks) and petunias most anywhere. We have problems with marigolds and chrysanthemums being devoured by geese.

Lilies (the oriental types) do very well in pots and give about 3 weeks of spectacular bloom and fragrance. I plant a lot of herbs and they all do well. Basil loves the extra sunlight and reflection but should not be put out until May 15th. Keep the flowers picked off. It's easy to grow oregano, sage, parsley (away from the ducks), thyme (short lived) and rosemary (best in a good-sized pot).

If you need some evergreen foliage, many conifers do very well. I have found the best to be Hollywood Juniper for a good kelly green and an informal upright form. Bristlecone pine for a good dark green and very slow growth can be in a small pot. Other dwarf pines will work just as well.

I use a lot of silver or grey foliage. It gives a beach-like effect and a wonderful look to a lake garden in the moonlight. The best of these are Dusty Miller, Curry Plant, Helichrysum (sometimes called licorice plant) and of course, lavenders, which in pots are unfortunately short-lived.

Perennials in pots are problematical. Through the years, the best performers have been the Hostas- used alone in 2-gallon pots. Some have been in their pots for 5 years or more!

In general: Plant containers densely, water everyday (containers need it), feed on a regular schedule and pick off dead blossoms frequently.

Floating Homes Association
2329 Fairview Ave. E.
Seattle, WA 98102

8/91



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Help preserve and protect Seattle's colorful houseboat colony.
Join the Floating Homes Association today!

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____ HB#: _____

PHONE: _____ Condo/CoOp Name: _____

Houseboat: Own Rent Regular Household \$36 New
Moorage: Own Rent Retired Household \$24 Renewal

The Association's Legal Fund Needs your support also. Donations of \$50 or more are tax deductible! Make your SEPARATE check payable to SCCCF/FHA and mail today!

I have enclosed \$ _____ for the FHA Legal Fund.

Floating Homes Association Inc. 2329 Fairview Avenue East Seattle, WA 98102 Telephone 325-1132