

BOAT BASIN BULLETIN

Issue 2

All the news that floats we'll print

March 2008

Second issue already?

Ed Bacon
S/Y Prelude

I know what you're thinking. Here's another newsletter that takes off like a bat out of hell with frequent issues at the beginning, then a slowdown and finally a disappearance. There will be frequent issues up until the re-union, mainly to track down alumni and set up the re-union. Our charter season will then ramp up and there will be a slowdown of issues until the fall. The disappearance will be up to you. I need more feedback from you – articles, events, issues, pictures, paintings and e-mail addresses of other Basin users and Basin alumni. Send them to ebacon@nyc.rr.com This IS a community newsletter. Thanks to Lew Wood, Frances Gaffney and Ray Stevens for their contributions to this issue.

-ED-

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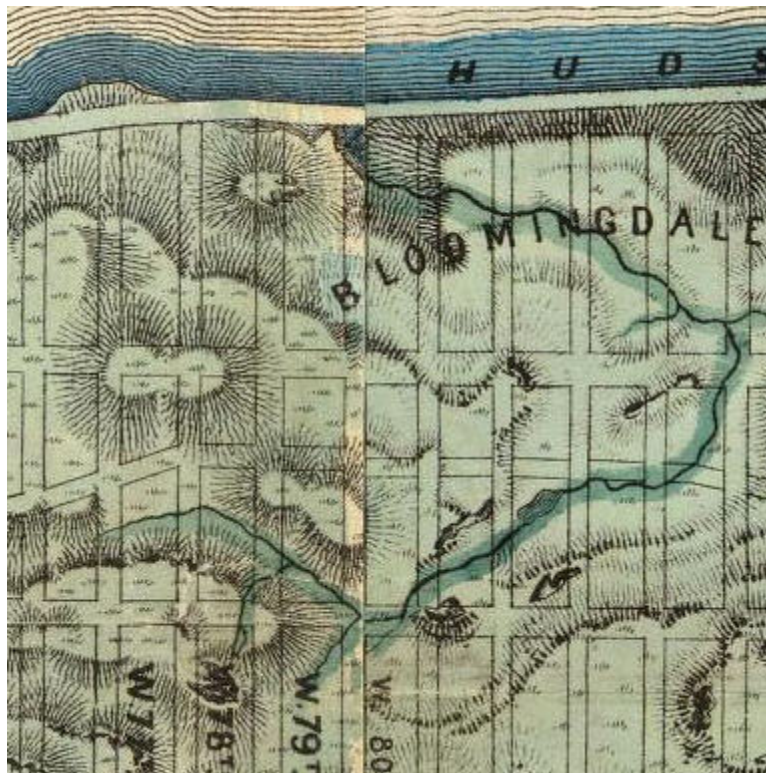
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PAST**W. 79th St Boat Basin History**

Egbert Viele's 1874 map shows the Hudson shoreline with the railroad tracks along the banks. A stream ran down the hills to the river between 79th Street and 80th Street. At low tide, one can see a constant stream of water flowing from a rock-framed opening in the promenade bulkhead midway between B Dock and C Dock. Possible outlet for the stream which is now underground?



According to "The Power Broker", when Robert Moses extended the park from the railroad tracks (the Parkway) down to the current bulkhead, fill was needed. Having no funds for the fill, he struck a deal with New York Central to use the excavated earth and rock from the cuts and tunnels required to lower the Eleventh Avenue railroad bed below ground level from the West 60's to the Penn Station yards. When you walk out C Dock gate onto the promenade, Hell's Kitchen may be underfoot.



From wirednewyork.com, Fairchild Aerial Survey-1937

This photo was taken shortly after the West Side Renovation opening on October 12, 1937. The opening day grandstand for Mayor LaGuardia on the traffic circle has already been removed, the rotunda fountain's twelve bronze frogs are spitting water into the center of the fountain and the Henry Hudson Parkway is already incurring traffic jams. Larger trees can be seen on the original park on the other side of the parkway and fresh plantings on the new fill. The dock in front of the rotunda is the current location of the dock office. The work barges and pile drivers are setting up for the construction of A Dock.



- 1947 Boat Basin from Riverside Park. *The Splendid Sliver*

The Basin hasn't changed much in its first nine years. No slips or finger docks on the south side of C Dock, no D Dock, no E Dock.

To be continued ...

Life after the Boat Basin

Alf Hansen lived with his wife Joan on board the Seagoing houseboat "Joanie" on D Dock from 1970 to 1975. Alf was born in Norway, went to sea on the Norwegian sail-training ships and was a merchant mariner on the World War II Arctic Murmansk convoys that lost 85 merchant vessels to the Germans. On one of his layovers in NYC, he met Joanie, a dancer who specialized in tap dancing on her hands. When Alf retired from his commercial building superintendent job in 1975, they drove their boat to Richmond's Marina in Edgewater, NJ, had the boat loaded on a truck and then flew to Tampa/ St Petersburg, FL to meet the boat. They had never been to Florida before! Joanie died of throat cancer and later Alf married Susan, swallowed the anchor, and lived in a house in St. Petersburg. When Susan died, Susan's family convinced Alf to move a few hours away to Ocala, FL to be near them. On March 23, Alf celebrates his 90th birthday. Cards can be sent to:

Alf Hansen
520 NE 52 Court
Ocala, FL 34470



- Alf and Regina – Ocala - 2005

You must have been a beautiful baby

In the late 1960's, the liveaboard era began at the Basin. The Basin quickly became a grass widowers' haven with the kids visiting on weekends. One possible explanation for the divorced men filling the Basin is that as a guy experiences trauma such as a divorce, he retreats to a comfort zone or a Benson's relaxation response that many received from boating. A more mundane explanation would be that the Basin was all that the guys could afford after the alimony/support awards.

With girlfriends and second wives moving aboard and single women establishing residency on their own boats, it was only a matter of time before the first Boat Basin Baby – Dana Bragonier arrived on Reg and Penny Bragonier's trawler "Stormy Petrel".

The second baby to arrive was Brigitte to Monique and Lew (aka The Father of Our Country) Wood . Lew, who reported news, weather and sports on the Today Show, had spelled "IT'S A GIRL" with signal flags to announce her arrival on E Dock. Here's a more complete description from Lew:

Brigitte Marie Wood, called Bri (NOT Brie...that's cheese!) was born to parents Monique and Lew Wood on July 27, 1976, the year of our big Bi-Centennial in NYC, including the parade of Tall Ships up the Hudson. Monique barely made it up the rickety finger piers in the dark of night to the taxi in the rotunda for a wild ride to the hospital on the east side.



Bri never lived in a house until she was about ten years old...always on a boat. First, the Chris Craft 46' Aquahome "Serendipity", then the Irwin 52 "Arcturus", which we sailed all over LI Sound and then to Florida, where we lived for ten years. She adapted well to the nautical life, and knew all the lingo. Once approaching dockside on the Intracoastal in the Carolinas, the four-year-old called out "four feet under the transducer, Daddy!" much to the astonishment of those on the dock.



Bri attended high school in Indianapolis and Indiana University, moving to California after graduation in 1998. There, she worked in a gallery for the famous Warner Brothers animator and director Chuck Jones (Elmer Fudd, Road Runner, the Grinch) then became director of acquisitions at the Franklin Bowles Art Gallery in San Francisco, a position she continues to hold.

Bri met and married her husband, Bruce White, in San Francisco where they live and enjoy that great city. Bruce is a NASA engineer, at Ames Research Center, Moffet Field, and is working on the concept for the next Mars lander. So far, no children, much to Mama Monique's chagrin.



PRESENT

That's my neighbor?

Frances Gaffney lives on "X-ta-sea" (the boat, not the designer drug) on D Dock with her husband Hubert Gee, a long-time resident of the Basin.

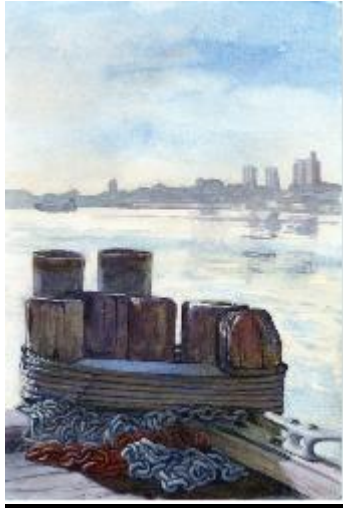


- #14 watercolor from francesgaffney.com



- #42 watercolor from francesgaffney.com





- January watercolor from francesgaffney.com



- 79th St Boat Basin from francesgaffney.com

From Frances: My introduction to the Boat Basin coincided with my introduction to Hubert. I met him through a mutual friend. It was love at first sight. No matter where he lived, we would be together - it just happened that he lived on a boat.

My first winter exposed me to the power of the river when the ice field south of the E dock broke loose. I had no prior delusions but this event solidified my respect for the water. It also confirmed my faith in the strength of the community. It was impressive how everyone worked together to save Dick's boat; pumps were brought out, fiberglass was repaired, coffee was brewed. No one left until everyone was safe. My respect for Hubert grew, too, as I saw him get up at three in the morning to pump out Meg Berlin's boat on what must have been the coldest night of the season. The beauty of the river makes any hardship worthwhile. I've tried to capture the ever changing colors of the sky and water in my paintings. There are endless subjects to paint up and down the river. I love the challenge of painting the patterns in the moving water. The southern Hudson is all about surface reflections. Further north there is a play between the surface and what can be seen below the surface, such as rocks and sand. The works are perforce small since my studio is on the boat. This has led me to develop a sense of vast space within a small painting. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for making me feel welcome? Your warmth has made my adjustment to a new life very easy. Life is precarious on a houseboat. Being surrounded by my special neighbors makes me feel safe. But when asked where my paintings can be seen I tell everyone, 'at Sofia Bros.' [storage center].

Jane's 75th party

A surprise birthday party was held at Carmine's Restaurant between 90th and 91st Streets on Broadway on January 16th by 15 of her neighbors and ex-neighbors.



- Jane and Linda Mays

Boat Basin staff

Marc Brown has left the Parks Department for a job in graphics design at NYC HRA (Human Resources Administration). We wish him luck.

Recent Basin press

Several winters ago, the first seal showed up at the Boat Basin. We've had a Second Coming:

The New York Times
Monday, January 28, 2008

N.Y./Region

WORLD U.S. N.Y./REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE TRAVEL JOBS REAL ESTATE AUTOS


THE CITY IN THE REGION N.Y./REGION OPINIONS

City Room

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January 28, 2008, 6:38 pm

A Seal Visits the Upper West Side
By JOHN SULLIVAN



A seal in the Hudson River, off West 79th Street, on Monday. This is not such an unusual sight in recent years, park rangers say, perhaps because the river is cleaner. (Photo: Joyce Dopkeen/The New York Times)

Cute is not a word normally associated with the Hudson River waterfront but when a juvenile harbor seal decided to take some sun at the 79th Street boat basin, the word sprang to mind. "He was moving around pretty fine, yawning and sunning himself," said Sgt. Rakeem Taylor, an urban park ranger for the city Parks Department.

Sergeant Taylor said the workers spotted the seal just before 10 a.m. The animal, which he estimated to be 3 to 4 feet long and about 90 pounds, was lying on the dock.

"It's not that unusual, but we don't usually get a chance to see them," Sergeant Taylor said of the visitor. "It's about as unusual as getting the occasional coyote."

He said the presence of the seal was a positive one. "It is definitely a sign that the river is in better shape that they are coming up this far for fish," he said.

Harbor seals typically stay around for day or two before moving on. Sergeant Taylor said he watched the seal for about 40 minutes on Monday and planned to return "tomorrow and see if he is still hanging out."

On a scale of 1 to 10 for unusual animals, Sergeant Taylor said, the seal rated about a 4 or 5. The strangest animal he has seen in eight years with the department?

"A nine-foot boa constrictor in Central Park," he said. "That had to be an 8 or a 9."

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TAKING QUESTIONS
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Lucas A. Ferrara, an expert on landlord-tenant law, is taking questions from readers through Jan. 31.
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• Jan. 25 Answers »
• Ask Your Question »

PODCAST
The Button Trail
Sam Roberts tracks a longtime political operative of sorts, a campaign button-making company, and observes: You can probably find more of the buttons on eBay than on people's lapels.
Listen to the Podcast (mp3)
5:08

Comments of the Moment


“If we had a world at peace today I may be more inclined to take a chance on Barack Obama, but we are a world in crisis.”
— peterdc
Clinton Stumps in the Northeast

“If Obama weren't achieving cross-racial appeal, the Clintons never would have had to resort to race baiting.”
— Rob
Ghosts of 1964

“Er...I hope there's not going to be a test on this - I'd funk.”
— Bernie
Mysteries of New York Democratic Delegates, Explained

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nytimes.com/movies

NEXT STOP
A Month of Commuting
During January, a reporter is riding to and from work with some of the commuting millions, documenting a different trip each weekday.



Hawks

The red-tailed hawks got their beaks out-of-joint and moved near the Basin for their own NY Times coverage:

The New York Times
Sunday, March 2, 2008

N.Y./Region

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City Room

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February 28, 2008, 4:37 pm

Riverside Park Nest Draws Hawk Watchers

By SEWELL CHAN



A red-tailed hawk scanned near its nest in Riverside Park, around West 57th Street and the West Side Highway. (Photographs by Robert Capin for The New York Times.)

Bird lovers have been congregating near the intersection of 81st Street and the West Side Highway for what several urban nature experts say is a rare event: the construction of a nest by red-tailed hawks on the Far West Side of Manhattan. [Leslie Day](#), a naturalist who lives on a houseboat on the Hudson River and is author of "Field Guide to the Natural World of New York City," said that bird watchers first noticed the nest around nine days ago, in a honey locust tree.

Blogs like [Urban Hawks](#), [Pale Male](#) and [Marie Winn](#) have been gushing over the new nest-builders.


"West Siders have seen red-tailed hawks for years, but no one has ever seen red-tailed hawks building a nest in Riverside Park before," she said in a phone interview. "This is the first time it is so out in the open."

She added: "As a birder and naturalist, whenever I see people looking up I follow their gaze. And there was a red-tail with a very flimsy nest in a honey locust tree. You could see the sky through it."

The nest has since become much more larger -- about three feet in length -- and more sturdy.

The red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is the city's largest hawk. An adult is typically 19 to 25 inches long, with a wingspan of 46 to 58 inches. Common nesting locations, according to Dr. Day's "Field Guide," include Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx, Prospect Park and (in winter) the grasslands at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn; Fort Tilden (in winter) in Queens; Sav Mill Creek Park on Staten Island; and the Central Park Ramble, Riverside Church, Inwood Hill Park and (in winter) the 79th Street Boat Basin in Manhattan. The predatory birds eat squirrels, rats, pigeons, doves and other songbirds.

In December 2004, an [uproar](#) broke out over a Fifth Avenue co-op board's decision to [remove](#) a nest used by the red-tailed hawks Pale Male and Lola. The board quickly [retreated](#), agreeing to [rebuild](#) the birds' nest.



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Ask About Nature in N.Y.C.
[Leslie Day](#), the author of "Field Guide to the Natural World of New York City," answered readers' questions about New York City's flora and fauna.
 • Feb. 25 Answers »
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PODCAST
The State of Conservatism
Sam Roberts reflects on the death of William F. Buckley Jr., a onetime candidate for mayor, and the permanent political legacy he left behind.
 ▶ 4:47

Comments of the Moment

"Only people who don't use the subways and buses could think of an idea like this."
 — Danny
 All About the M.T.A. Fare Increase

"\$17.39 -- a \$20 value -- for 10 rides. Cool."
 — zach
 All About the M.T.A. Fare Increase

"If the fare never increased, where would the money to operate the system come from? Higher taxes -- which everyone would complain about."
 — Kurt
 All About the M.T.A. Fare Increase

Recent Posts

February 29 0 comments **The Week in Pictures for Feb. 29**
Slide show: The 15th anniversary of the first World Trade Center bombing, a new swimming pool in Flushing, a mural by Tattoo Tan and more New York photographs from the past week.

February 29 4 comments **A Spitzer Tale Is Not 'Oll Korrekt'**
The earliest use of the phrase "O.K." to mean "all right" seems to come from the 1830s. But did the phrase come from the Dutch "o'll korrekt," or from an abbreviation for "old Kinderhook," a nickname for Martin Van Buren?

February 29 1 comments **Fatal Slabbing at Key Food on Lower East Side**
Two women were stabbed in the grocery store at East Fourth Street and Avenue A this afternoon; one died.

February 29 1 comments **Answers About Nature in New York, Part 3**
The final set of answers from Leslie Day, the author of "Field Guide to the Natural World of New York City," who took questions from City Room readers this week.

February 29 48 comments **All About the M.T.A. Fare Increase**
A guide to the subway and bus fare increases that take effect at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday.

Monthly Archives

Welcome to City Room

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BOAT BASIN BULLETIN Issue 2

Page 10

Boaters

Not to be topped, the community received its Times article. Except for the title, which was probably an editor's hook to attract readers, it was a positive article:

For Perhaps \$490 a Month, a Home on the Hudson River



Leslie Day finding one path from her 13-foot cruiser at the 79th Street Boat Basin. Dr. Day, a veterinarian and author with her husband, has lived at the boat basin for 22 years.

Leslie Day found, dated, married, raised a family and found her life's work in Manhattan — or rather, just off its shores.

Born on the Upper West Side, she moved to a 2 1/2-foot houseboat at the 79th Street Boat Basin when she was 30, single and a maerous. She found her future husband, a biologist, on the 43-foot houseboat next door. After they were wed, they traded up to a 57-foot houseboat, and they raised a son. Now, as empty-nesters, the couple live on a 43-foot cruiser.

Dr. Day, 61, who is now an elementary school teacher, recently wrote "Field Guide to the Natural World of New York City." When Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg honored her book last fall in a ceremony at Gracie Mansion, he reached the part of his script that noted where she lived and ad-libbed a reaction she had heard many times. "Do you really?" he said. "That's amazing. Thirty-two years and it never sunk or anything like that?"

Since 1937, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president, the 79th Street Boat Basin has been an object of fascination off the island of Manhattan, part fishing village, part Monte Carlo and all floating opera all of the time.

The boat basin floats on five main docks on the banks of the Hudson River. For decades, there have been as many as 100 pleasure craft, some private, others otherwise — schooners, houseboats, yachts and trawlers — tethered just off the Riverside Park promenade, three blocks from Broadway and Zabar's.

Cities have called the residents squatters on public property, in a high-end trailer park; even the city government, which owns the docks, has not always been comfortable with the arrangement.

But the boaters call themselves a community with rights like any other. Residents have ranged from millionaires to those between jobs. All seem to embrace self-expression. One man liked wearing a Superman sweatshirt as he bounced on a trampoline on the dock.

"Over the years," said Ed Bacon, 67, a yacht broker and the resident of longest standing at more than 27 years, "we've had starring roles, Wall Street financiers, rock promoters, computer programmers, United Nations employees and," pausing to laugh, "Dick DeBartolo." He is a senior writer at Mad magazine, who maintains a boat as an office.

Mr. Bacon, a former I.B.M. executive, would not have it any other way. Living among people like himself, he said, would be like "reading from only one page of a book."

Celebrities have visited, too. Aristotle Onassis once anchored his yacht there. Malcolm Forbes, Frank Sinatra and Mario Puzo, whose boat was named Godfather, used the basin.

But the living, despite appearances, is not always easy. When a ferry rumbles past, throwing up a huge wake, the residences buck and weave like horses. Low tide, meaningless on land, sends the docks downward by five feet or more.

In the cold months, pets fall into chilly water. People slip on icy piers. In an especially frigid winter, a miniature Antarctica can freeze around the basin. In 2005, ice flows caused more than \$400,000 damage to the river pilings and other dock infrastructure, according to the city's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Miraculously, there have been no major fires. But blasted corpses have bumped up boat side, spoiling someone's morning coffee. Once, a distraught man in a tuxedo leapt into the river, but residents saved him.

What the boat basin has not had for a while is newcomers, though that is beginning to change.

Kath Kerman, the chief of operations for the Parks Department, said the agency stopped issuing permits for year-round dockage in 1994 in an effort to gradually reduce the population of full-timers, who once occupied nearly all of the 140 permanent slips. The city wanted more public access, and more revenue. Short-term rentals bring in more money. Now, the number of full-timers has fallen to 43.

After years of clashes with the remaining residents, the two sides reached a compromise: The department would issue a small number of new annual permits, infusing new blood into the community.

A permit to dock a boat is one of the last real estate bargains in Manhattan, costing a fraction of even a tiny Upper West Side apartment rental. It costs \$108 a foot for the summer season; \$88 a foot for the other six months. Thus, a typical 30-foot boat would cost \$5,880 in annual dock fees, or \$490 a month.

Planned by Robert Moses when he was the city parks commissioner, the boat basin was built in 1937 to offer summer dockage to the public.

By the 1960s, however, boaters began to live there year-round and the number of so-called transient boaters, those who stayed for days or weeks, fell.

By the 1970s, there were problems. Outside managers stopped maintaining the docks, and residents filed lawsuits.

In 1989 the city resumed management of the basin.


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For Perhaps \$490 a Month, a Home on the Hudson River

Published February 19, 2008

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One of the fiercest critics of the boat basin has been the Riverside Park Fund, a private group that raises money for the park. In 1991, Peter M. Wright, then its chairman, said, "The people in the boat basin are squatters on public land."



Allyce Dushan/The New York Times
Ollie, a toy poodle, asleep in a berth of the 54-foot, two-mast ketch where Ed Bacon, a resident of the boat basin since 1970, lives with his wife, Regina Jordan.

Enlarge This Image



Getulio Stabile/The New York Times
The naturalist Leslie Gray on her cruiser. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg wondered if she had ever lived on a boat that sank.

Mr. Bacon remembers hauling six or seven buckets of water from the dock faucet just to take a shower.

"You learned to cooperate very quickly," he recalled. Camaraderie and cocktails were strong.

"At first, in the 1970s, the boat basin was a divorcee's heaven," he said. "All of these guys were divorced and all they would wind up with is the boat. It became a real party place."

With the increase in part-timers, revenues from dock fees have risen sixfold, to \$241,000 last year from \$40,000 in 2001. (There is a waiting list of 450 names for part-time slots, from May to October.)

Last month, an audit by the city comptroller found "fiscal irregularities" that raised "serious concerns about the possibility of fraud." The comptroller, William C. Thompson Jr., recommended a much tighter system of monitoring operations, including the collection, recording and reporting of gross receipts.

The parks commissioner, Adrian Benepe, said that the department had already strengthened fiscal controls and that there was no evidence of misappropriation of funds.

Last year, when the Parks Department began issuing new annual permits, the first two boaters began moving in.

Sim Cass, 51, a baker and a former sailor in the British merchant navy, is one of them.

He said that he fell in love with the boat basin at first sight, in 1983. "You can see the horizon and the sun and the arc of the moon," he said, "and yet you are decidedly in Manhattan."

Mr. Cass, who now lives in an apartment in the East Village, first applied for a year-round permit seven years ago and was finally issued one last October. He plans to move in this summer and live on his 37-foot trawler, which is already docked there.

"I'd love to live there now," he said, noting that he is waiting for his daughter to leave for college. "Wintertime is spectacular!"

Like other new full-timers, Mr. Cass must ensure his boat is seaworthy. By May of next year, the 19 full-time boats that the Parks Department considers unseaworthy must be fully operational, in case of an emergency evacuation.

Gene Greenspan, now 89, lived on his boat for 32 years until 2002, when an early-morning wake from a passing boat smashed his craft against the pier. He escaped but his boat sank.

A widower who now lives in an East Side apartment, Mr. Greenspan said the other day that he was miserable, as he put it, "on land."

But Mr. Greenspan, a developer of a manufacturing process for children's dolls, could not move back. "It was like a child dying," he said. "You don't hang around the place where the child died."

For Mr. Greenspan and others who have left, Mr. Bacon, the yacht broker, is planning a reunion June 12 at the boat basin. So far, he has contacted more than 100 alumni, out of several hundred.

"We'll have a lot to talk about," Mr. Bacon said.

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Parks

And finally, Parks received some unwanted press. Conforming to the time-honored practice of the City of New York Comptroller's publicizing his aspirations for the next mayoral race, Comptroller Thompson released his first headlines-grabbing audit report:

Boat Basin \$prings a leak: comptroller

By FRANKIE EDOZIEN
and HASANI GITTENS

The 79th Street Boat Basin is leaking money, an audit by the City Comptroller's Office revealed yesterday.

A close look at the West Side marina's financial statements shows that tens of thousands of dollars in fees may have flowed straight into Parks Department employees' pockets — and during the course of the audit numerous red flags were raised, Comptroller Bill Thompson said.

In fact, while the investigation was under way in August 2006, the boat basin's chief dockmaster resigned abruptly.

"It just appears as if there's just no controls over everything," said Thompson. "Everything appears to have been in total disarray and the lack of controls there is troubling. It's a strange coincidence that as we went through our audit the dockmaster left."

Chief among the irregularities noted at the basin are missing customer fees.

Twenty-three customers told the auditors they paid car-parking fees totaling \$66,250 in 2005, but the Boat Basin recorded only \$22,750 as being paid by those customers.

Twenty-five customers claim to have paid a cumulative \$71,000 the next year, but the basin noted only

\$57,000 on the books, the comptroller said.

It is still unclear where the missing money went — or why former Dockmaster Greg Smith resigned. He could not be reached for comment.

One Boat Basin employee tried to place an unauthorized order for a two-year supply of customer receipts, the auditors found, which could have been used to facilitate two sets of books.

Current Chief Dockmaster William Linden and Marina Manager Nate Grove referred all questions to Parks Department higher-ups.

"Parks has strengthened the management and financial controls of the 79th Street Boat Basin and has

already implemented many of the changes suggested in the audit," Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe responded.

"The audit found no instances of fraud or misappropriation and we continue to disagree with the audit's characterization of several events as 'red flag' fraud indicators."

The Parks Department also said the Boat Basin has enjoyed robust success in the past few years, with more customers than ever, and over the course of the audit switched from a cash system to credit cards, which the department said could explain some irregularities in the books.

frankie.edozien@nypost.com

- *From the New York Post*

For more detail, see the report:

http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov/bureaus/audit/PDF_FILES/FK06_123A.pdf

PFUTUREBoat Basin Alumni Reunion

The reunion will be on Thursday, June 12 at 6:00 pm on C Dock. Artists and photographers will be allowed to display their art as long as nothing is affixed/nailed to the dock.

Please send any alumni e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers to ebacon@nyc.rr.com

Here are some of the Missing in Action:

Leslie Strauss	Emily Lee	Didier
Henry and Toby Cohen	Helen Mignon	Mike the diver
? Patterson (stage mgr)	Paul ? (bought Marsten's boat)	Rick, Eric and Thor Field
Pat Pulley	Peter Addis	Lonnie Day
Paul Clive and Richard	Kip and Tiffany	Dave Foster
Greg Smith	Bonnie Munchen and kids	Jay Pellicane
Mike O'Rourke	Howard Chavell	Guessing Julian
Burns Patterson	Ruthie Hammerman	The Cat Lady
Jonathan Asche	Susan and Tanya Octaviano	Bobby Held
Jerry Berton	Paola and Roland Stern	Barry
Julie and Miles	Beth McCarthy	Orlando Rodriguez
Josh Bloomgarden	Mel Appelbaum	Pat Halvorsen
Leslie Smoke	Harum Avrum	Jill Baker
Judy Williams	Faye and family	Ida Smyer
Ione Haskell	Tom Salmon	Phyllis and Dave
Pat, Mariah and Morgan Carey	Lou Gonzalez	Neil Sendar
Richie Havens	Tom Glennon	Russell Johnson
Dr. Bob	Tony from "Seven C's"	Joan and Ed Wood
Hugh Downs	Jerry Fouche	Mike Samuels
John Edelman	Lillian Torgeson	Harry Wilkins

If you don't see someone on the list above or on the distribution list, contact me and I'll add them.

Boat Basin Tea, Literary and Duckwatching Society

At Jane Clegg's party, Ray Stevens suggested Boat Basin users getting together for a non-crisis, non-political, social quarterly dinner. The only order of business would be to select the next dinner spot. The first dinner will be held at Dallas BBQ, 27 West 72nd St at 7:00 pm on Saturday, March 22. See dallasbbq.com for menu. If you're interested in attending, contact Ray at ray123boo@verizon.net

Pfantasy pfuture

Minutes of a meeting in Parks Commissioner Benepe's office discussing the findings of the \$200,000 Boat Basin dredging survey:

Commissioner Benepe: Keith, could you summarize the dredging survey report?

Keith Kerman, Director of Operations: No need to summarize, Commissioner, it's a half page plus a few pictures:

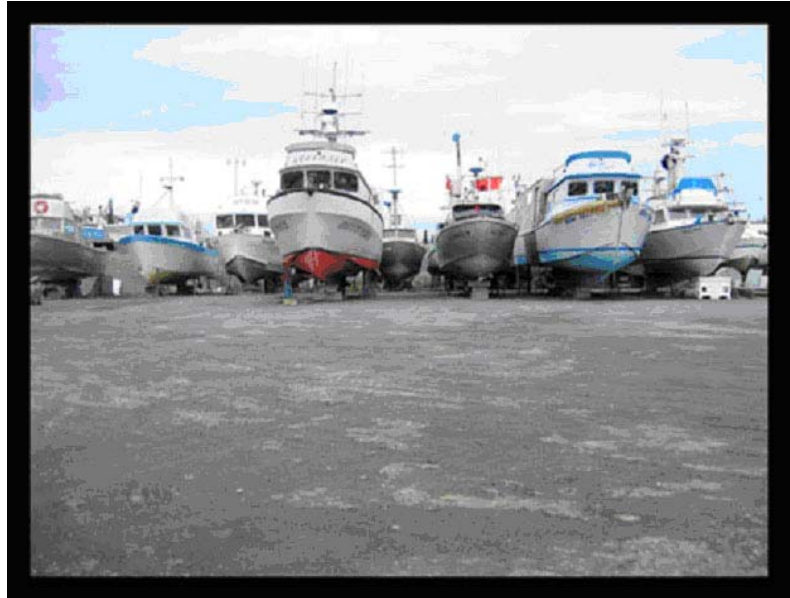
- Phase I: Communicate to Basin users that the survey is complete and that work will start in five years. Meanwhile, let the Basin silt in.
- Phase II: With the Basin completely silted in, install cinder block foundations under the boats, build asphalt walkways and landscape the Basin. Raise the rates to cover the costs.
- Phase III: Allow global warming to raise the Hudson's level to the top of the foundations, probably in fifty years, and float the boats off the foundations into plenty of water.
- Ergo, expensive dredging not required.

Nate Grove, Director of Marinas:
Commissioner, there are only four pictures with the report.

Nate: This is Phase I – low tide at the Basin now. As you can see, it won't be long before the foundations can be installed.



Nate: This is Phase II – you're looking at E Dock just before the cinder block foundations and the asphalt walkways.



Nate: Here's an overview of the Basin before Phase III global warming - check out the gardens near the boats.



Nate: And here's Phase III – thanks to Google Maps with some global warming software. The current ball fields can be a shallow wading pool for kids; the old promenade can be used for a kayaking and canoeing canal; and finally, the boaters will have enough water to arrive and depart at any tide.



Commissioner: Frankly, I was expecting a lot more for \$200,000.

Keith: I like it. Let's put it in the Mayor's Plan for the City. Easy to implement. No cost to the city. Although, there is a glitch. We'll need a new regulation: no towed trailers allowed, only running motor homes approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Nate: I don't like it! How am I going to go to my next Harvard re-union and tell my classmates that I'm managing a crummy trailer park?

Commissioner: C'mon, Nate, take one for the team. Let's go ahead with the recommendations. Oh, and remember, from now on no one mentions the dreaded "D" word.

D Dock replacement

Some allowed "D" words. This spring, D Dock will be Demolished. The D Dockers will be Displaced to other Docks. Don't expect them to be Delightful neighbors until they can Decamp for the new D Dock.

Parting proverb

A harbor, even if it is a little harbor, is a good thing...it takes something from the world, and has something to give in return.

- Sarah Orne Jewett