

VANCOUVER BETWEEN THE STREETS

For all you know your warm-hearted landlord may be letting you sleep in the basement of a genuine California Bungalow. Do you know what a pilaster is?

You can find out down at the Centennial Museum on Kits Point. There's an exhibition currently showing there called Vancouver Between the Streets (get it, "between the sheets"?) which takes a good look at Vancouver's early buildings. Two hundred and seventy-five photos (how do I know - singsong-the Press Release tells me so!) form the core of the exhibit. But there's more. The display is arranged into neighbourhoods and a brief history is given for each area. Additional information is provided on some of Vancouver's early architects and builders.

Pretty exciting, eh? Well, the exhibit isn't about to turn you into an instant city historian or a competent architect, but that's not the point.

After spending the fifteen minutes it takes to view Vancouver Between the Streets you'll find yourself appreciating all kinds of obscure buildings, like the Homer. Why is that important? Ask the folks who are trying to save the Orpheum.

The life expectancy of buildings in Vancouver is notoriously short. If the exhibit at the Centennial Museum does anything for us at all, it impresses upon us that buildings do not necessarily have to be void of character. The Hotel Europe or the Black Tower? Make the choice. The people who have compiled the exhibit make no judgement on our new buildings, they merely give us a strong line-up of old ones and leave it at that. But after seeing what this city used to look like

it's not hard to make some pretty shrewd quality judgements on what's been going down lately (or rather, up!)

As Enid Buttress, high-flying building reviewer for around Kitsilano has said: "Next to clothes, people spend more time inside buildings than anything else."

So take your dog, or failing that the one you love, to see Vancouver Between the Streets. Combine a spring walk with a little education. And here's the clincher - the exhibit at the Museum is Free! Free! Free!

(The show has been compiled under the joint sponsorship of the Community Arts Council of Vancouver, the Vancouver Historical Society and the Museums and Planetarium Association. It runs till June.)

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public MEETINGS:

- MARCH 5 WEST BROADWAY CITIZENS COMMITTEE, 7 pm Kits Library Auditorium
- MARCH 11 Information meeting on COMMUNITY RESOURCE BOARDS, 3 pm Henry Hudson School at Cypress and Cornwall
- MARCH 12 COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION, 7:30 pm, Room 210 1720 Grant
- MARCH 12 AROUND KITSILANO NEWSPAPER, 10 am, 2741 West 4th
- MARCH 21 KITSILANO AREA RESOURCES ASSOCIATION general meeting with discussion on tenants rights, 8 pm Kits House
- MARCH 28 KITS CITIZENS COMMUNITY ON MENTAL HEALTH, 7:30 pm Kits House

???

If you would like your April meeting listed in our next month's issue - let us know by March 27.



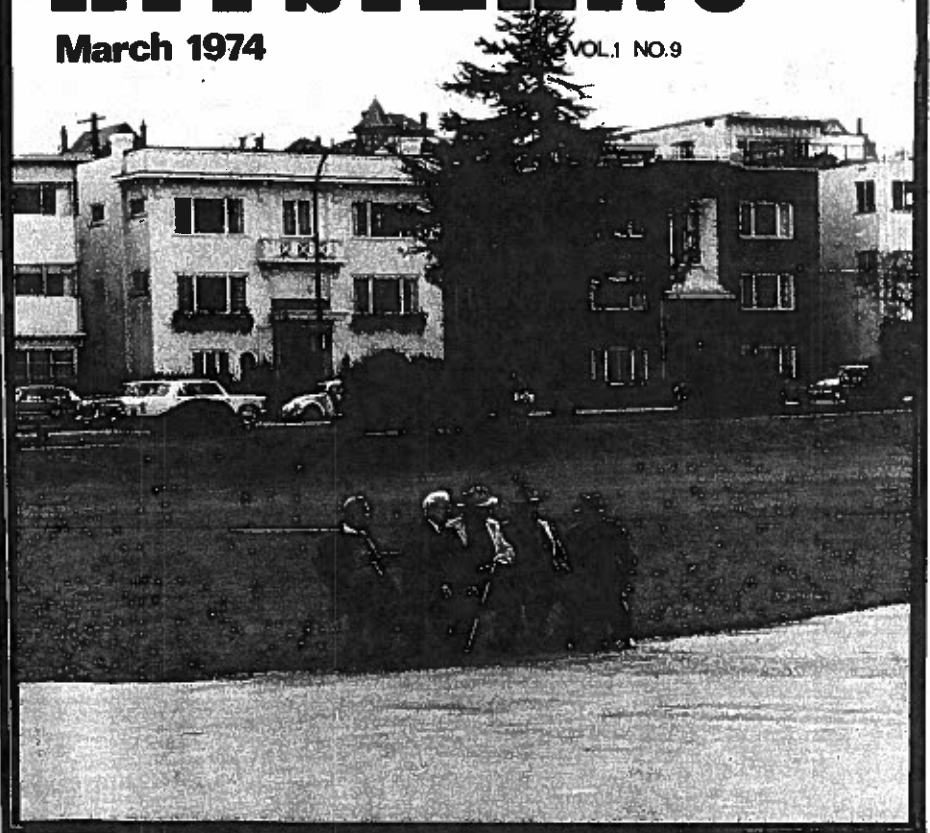
Canada

around KITSILANO

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Deadline for the April issue is March 27.

Staff: Elsie Patmore, Christine Jansen, Michael Kluckner, Pat Fitzgerald, Suzanne Huxel, Jake Muller, and Alan Twigg. Cover photo by Ann Terris

BOARDS cont'd from page 1
rently was one of those in a "fair state of readiness".

The Vancouver Resource Board will host an information meeting on the issue, time and place to be publicised as soon as they're decided. Those attending will be encouraged to vote in a task force on the spot, whose function will be to organize the June election. However, if enough of those who turn up make it clear that in their opinion Kits isn't ready, the whole process will be postponed to a date agreeable to both citizens and the Board. This would likely be February '75, the date set for the next four areas to join the act.

The VRB also move to ensure that at least one member of the Task Force comes from the consumer groups affected by the programme - if no-one's elected, they'll make an appointment.

SWEETS cont'd from page 1
legal suites in West Point Grey but added that he would encourage council to pass legislation preventing ownership by absentee landlords.

Volrich also suggested that changes in zoning be approved by individual neighborhoods, perhaps by referendum. Anti-climax: true to form, the committee deferred any decision.

Members of the Board have been moving fast. Not only have all these local community cogs been set in motion but they've made a few new appointments of their own. Apart from Goard, they've just got Frank McDaniel, present Director of Catholic Family and Children's Services, as interim Superintendent of Child Welfare, and Bert Winn, an executive from the Welfare Dept., as interim Director of Finance.

They've also been discussing the expansion of the programme to include more local resource boards than originally planned. And considering guidelines for procedure at the polls - like whether to have open elections or keep back some positions for their own appointees. They've already endorsed the concept of equal representation from consumer groups and at large, and have an ear to the ground for further suggestions (McDonald can be reached at 873-3131, if you have any).

After all this, what will you be getting, citizens of Kitsilano, what's a Community Resource Board to you anyway? According to Minister Levi, it's "an organized grass roots set-up that we policy makers will get our responses from ... an attempt to establish a new

KLAPP cont'd from page 1
Todd presented a detailed proposal for a citizen-controlled local planning programme, stressing the need for an elected council to direct planning in the community.

Frank Hyde of the West Broadway Citizens' Committee agreed with the City proposal, which would have local participation through delegates from the various groups in the community.

Hyde asked only that all groups who want to be represented have a say in the programme.

Other speakers, especially those from the smaller groups in the area, worried aloud that if the City's proposal were acted on, they'd lose their voice to the bureaucracy of the larger groups.

Alderwoman Marzari made it quite clear that the city's decision on "participation" versus "control" has already been made, when she said to Dave Todd:

"You're talking about an alternate political process; we're talking about a means of citizen involvement".

So all that remains to be decided are the little details: Which groups?

level of partnership between the Dept of Human Resources, service programmes, and citizens". More specifically, the members of the local board will identify the needs of the community and allocate the funds to groups that meet them.

This means that services like Kitsilano

Seniors' Housing

Fifty units of good quality, low cost housing - this is what the Kitsilano Senior Housing Association is aiming for.

The association has applied to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for initial funding and are now waiting for final approval from Ottawa. A \$500 grant from C.M.H.C. in Vancouver has enabled the group to set-up an office at 2865 W. 4th, and to begin incorporation proceedings.

For further information on how you can get involved in planning this new project, contact the coordinator Susan Holmes at 736-2946.

How many people? Tea or coffee? Malmac or Wedgewood?

But, it's rumoured, Human Resources Minister Norm Levi may throw a monkey wrench into the city's plans for "citizen involvement".

Once the Community Resource Boards are set up (see lead story), it's said Levi will press for citizen-controlled planning within a couple of years to augment the citizen- and community-control of social services.

Information Centre and Kits House will likely be relying on the new board for financial support. Whether or not they get it will depend on the board's judgement of their efficacy.

It's probably the nearest thing we'll get to real neighbourhood government for quite a while.



Vandalism and a fire have closed the Indian Centre at 3rd and Vine. The building, which is architecturally something of a freak, had previously served as a church for several generations.

A young Indian man, in need of therapeutic counsel, entered the Centre on a Sunday in mid-February. He asked for some food and was given money to go to a cafe; the kitchen being closed on Sundays. But the man did not leave - he proceeded instead to overturn furniture and destroy office files.

When this led to a fracas between several of the Centre's other visitors the attendant on duty left the building to call the police. During this time the building was set aflame.

Police are holding the young man apparently responsible for triggering the incident. Indian Centre officials, however, are trying to get the man transferred to Riverview for a psychiatric examination.

The building was covered by insurance but it is not yet known whether this extends to the circumstances under which the fire began. This is contributing to uncertainty about the Centre's future.

A Library for Children's Toys

Are your children members of the Toy Library?

If not, here's a chance for your family to enjoy a special free service now operating at your local branch of the Vancouver Public Library. The Toy Library consists of a group of designer-craftsmen who make wooden and cloth toys in a small workshop on Cambie Street. When finished, the toys are taken to a branch library, where a toy librarian is on hand to lend them out during regularly scheduled hours.

What might you find when you enter the Library? Here is a description of one active branch taken from a mother's letter.

"I would like to briefly describe a typical Tuesday morning in our library: Eager children rushing into the library returning toys they had for a week, playing on the floor with other children and sharing toys; decisions about which toy to borrow, and compromise if someone has already "bagged" the toy they had chosen; a sense of responsibility to look after the toy so that other children will be able to borrow it at a later date, also the excitement of finding toys made of wood, and animals in soft cloth - important sensations that are almost lost in the commercially made toys of today. And the toys that the library make are functional, they do work, trucks can be sat on, puppets can be used without disintegrating, wooden puzzles are suitable for small fingers".

The Toy Library is open at the Kitsilano Public Library on Tuesday afternoons from 3 to 5 and on Thursday morning during story hour: 10 to 12.

Group Declares War

by Jake Muller

At the February general meeting of the West Broadway Citizen's Committee (WBCC), a resolution was passed to use any tactics necessary to stop two proposed high-rise projects in Kitsilano.

Despite the recent downzoning of Kitsilano by City Council, two high-rises are still going up: the one at 7th and Maple, and the one at 3rd and Balsam.

WBCC has declared war. The main target will be Imperial Ventures, who are putting up the luxury eleven-storey condominium "Carriage House" at 3rd and Balsam. Starting price for a one bedroom unit is \$49,500 - 1974 price! It's a solution of the housing crisis for the "fat cats" at the expense of the low and middle income families.

Imperial Ventures is one of the biggest developers in Kitsilano. A 1972 federal report placed the Imperial group among the six largest developers in Vancouver, controlling seven-eighths of land set aside for residential development in the Lower Mainland.

The WBCC is convinced that if the residents of Kits can win this battle against a multi-million dollar developer, they should be able to tackle any developer. Needless to say, many Kits residents will have to get involved to guarantee success. Call 736-2944 if you want to help out.

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LET THERE BE MUSIC Conservatory proposed for Kitsilano

by Pat Fitzgerald



The musicians are coming! The musicians are coming! The cries can be heard across the low mainland in response to the announcement that the Community Music School of Greater Vancouver is to expand its facilities and move to Kitsilano.

The School, now lodged at 557 West 12th Avenue, has experienced phenomenal growth since its inception in 1969. At that time the enrolment was about 50 while their annual budget was only \$5000.

This season, the enrolment stands at about 700 - from three-year-olds to adults. Their budget has also increased enormously to somewhere in the neighbourhood of a quarter of a million dollars.

Because the facilities of the School have become uncomfortable and overcrowded they have been looking for new premises. Last year their plans to move into the Shannon mansion in South Granville fell through.

They recently persuaded City Council to lease Building 14 in Vanier Park next to the Planetarium to the School for a nominal rent of \$1 a year for 25 years - providing the School can raise the funds to renovate the building by December 31st this year.

Cost of the renovation of the former RCAF hangar has been set at \$1.3 million. This will cover interior and exterior refurbishing, new equipment, heating, air conditioning and extensive landscaping to integrate the building into its surroundings.

When news of the Music School's plans first leaked out, residents of Chestnut Street took a petition to Council charging that the building was an "eyesore" and should be demolished. The petitioners have since withdrawn their plea - providing that the renovations are completed within a reasonable time.

The Community Music School offers its students the advantages of a distinguished faculty of artists-teachers working within a challenging cultural environment. Their enthusiasm has attracted a wide variety of professional musicians who are bent on providing a centre for musical training that Western Canada so desperately needs.

"What we have in mind is more along the lines of a conservatory", explains Jerold Gerbrecht, CMS musical director and principal trumpet with the Vancouver Symphony. "At all levels of study the student would have the clear benefit of working in a conservatory atmosphere - of performing with other students and listening to professional musicians in concert".

While the CMS faculty strongly supports the conservatory concept they are quick to point out that this is by no means the only role played by a community music school. They believe that it should operate as a centre where all members of the community have

an opportunity to learn to play.

Nor is the scope of their definition of community confined to Kitsilano or, for that matter, Greater Vancouver. It is designed to service the entire region of Western Canada.

"Every large city in North America has at least one music school", explains Gerbrecht. "Toronto has two - the University of Toronto and the Toronto Conservatory of Music. Yet Vancouver has never been able to successfully satisfy this vital cultural need".

At present, the CMS offers a diversified instruction programme. Courses include private study in piano and all instruments of band and orchestra, study in voice, ensemble playing, music playing and composition. A Master Class in violin is available for advanced students who require a higher degree of competence. These lessons are given by Steven Staryk, a recording artist and former concertmaster with the London Royal Philharmonic and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra - to name two of his appointments. Staryk moved in to head the CMS string department in the fall of 1972.

The Music School maintains that although the U of BC has a well-established department of music the functions of the two schools are hardly likely to clash. Mrs. Otto Koerner, chairman of the Music School board, has explained that "music study begins at the age of three. You can't enrol at the university at that age...and there are many persons who would like to become professional performers but who don't want a degree in music as well".

The move to the new premises in Kitsilano will take place in the fall of 1975 and the conversions will be carried out in the 1974-75 school year - providing the funds can be raised by the end of this year. The School plans to obtain the \$1.3 million necessary from three sources - the Federal government, the Provincial government and the private sector. Although the governments have not officially confirmed their support, the response from the private sector has already been overwhelming.

In the past many people have complained that a music school serves only those who are comfortable enough to afford it. The CMS believes that there should be no specific requirement for admission other than a desire to learn. For those who are incapable of paying for the high standard of instruction, the School has made available a variety of bursaries and scholarships for students who can demonstrate musical aptitude.

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WHERE NOW?

On November 21, 1973, at an in-camera meeting of the Metro Board of Health, Provincial Health Minister Denis Cocks killed citizen participation in the Greater Vancouver Mental Health Project by declaring that citizens could no longer be directly involved in matters of budgeting, planning and hiring.

The Project - a mental health care delivery system placing professionals and token non-professionals right in local neighbourhoods - was designed to reduce admissions to Riverview hospital and to involve citizens.

The Kitsilano Citizens Committee on Mental Health, formed about a year ago in response to the call for citizen participation, had been pressing its claims for a say in budgeting, policy and program development and in actual hiring of team members. It had evolved a democratic structure in which decisions were made by the entire group at general meetings every two weeks. People were elected to specific positions on a regular twice-yearly basis; the chair was rotated at every meeting; working committees were formed and a socio-political/economic model of mental health was developed in opposition to the medical or "sickness" model endorsed by the Project. As a result, the Kits Committee soon became known in professional circles as a progressive thorn in the Project's side.

After Cocks' ultimatum, many people left the Kits Committee - which then consisted of about 70 to 80 people - feeling their efforts had been wasted. The group floundered, seeking some purpose within or without the mental health bureaucracy. It found something of the kind when it was asked to participate in hiring the members of the Kits Mental Health Team and had a strong, effective voice in the selection procedure. Regular meetings were set up with team and a council of citizens, team representatives and patients is being established. The Committee continues to monitor the team's progress in order to protect the civil and legal rights of patients and through its representative on the Executive Committee of the Project, maintains an influence on major policy and program decisions.

It remains to be seen whether an efficient local mental health program can be developed within a large, inefficient system. The Kits Team is a good one; it is fairly attentive to the voice of the Citizens Committee. Hopefully, it will, with encouragement, extend itself beyond mental health and become a progressive force in Kitsilano.

If you are concerned with developing a mental health program that is responsive to community needs, help shorten the distance between professionals and citizens by attending the next meeting of the Kits Citizens Committee on Mental Health at Kitsilano House on Thursday, March 28, 7:30 pm.

by Barry Coull

The Kitsilano Community Care Team (736-2881) hopes you'll drop in to their new office at 2144 West 12th and find out what they're doing for mental health services in Kitsilano. They'll be open from 8:30 to 4:30, Monday to Friday.

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KITSILANO HISTORY part 5

The Pomp & The Glitter

by Michael Kluckner

Ah yes, it was a fine time, so what if she was an American?

It didn't matter, even though Mrs. Harding wasn't a viscountess, or even a crummy baroness, for heaven's sake. She was the wife of the U.S. president, a very important person, so all of Vancouver Society turned out to welcome her.

In June, 1923, at the Jericho Country Club, amidst the rhododendrons and azaleas and honeysuckle, the sun shone down on the twittering matrons as the Society reporters stood by with their quills sharpened. The pity was, Mrs. Harding was too sick to make it.

The ladies hardly missed a beat. White-coated waiters flitted around, topping off teacups while upraised lacquered pinkies flashed in the summer sunshine. Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, a member of the entourage, was "charmed" by the reception, as were the many matrons whose fashions made the bottom half of the page-long write-up in the Province the next day.

Society was a gas back then if you were lucky enough to be into it. The teas, the debutante balls, the gala charity affairs, the fund-raising drives for the Hart-McHarg Auxiliary or the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), spearheaded by such notables as Mesdames Spencer, Leggatt, Malkin, deB. Farris, or, chances are, Mrs. Jessie Columbia Hall of Killarney, the fabulous estate at Point Grey Road and Bayswater.

Jessie Hall (see also part 3) was the first white child born in the Cariboo, in 1872. Her father was Sam Greer (see part 2), the pioneer who had his house and barn where the Kits Beach offices are now, at the edge of the gloomy Kitsilano rainforest.

Mrs. Hall spent her childhood days in the eighties raking smelts off the beach when they'd hang around too long at high tide, and dodging bears in the huckleberry thickets back in the hills. Her husband, James, whom she married in 1893, was the first notary public in the city. A rich man, he seemed to prefer being known as Vancouver's "first volunteer soldier".

Most of the few houses in Kitsilano in 1908 were little frame shacks and log cabins, but the Hall's place was different. Stone foundations, oak and mahogany woodwork, stained and bevelled glass, bathroom tiles set with gold, a massive fireplace with inlaid shamoocks, and a fully outfitted ballroom in the basement.

It took a while for the garden to grow in, and although Mrs. Hall eventually gave the eastern chunk to the city as Tatlow Park, it was a pretty impressive place, standing all alone out there on the Point Grey wagon trail.

It quickly became the centre of social activity for Kitsilano, and, in some cases, for Vancouver itself. For Mrs. Hall was an incredibly energetic person, and a generous one too, always opening her place for meetings of groups like the Kitsilano Ratepayers, the VON, the Native Daughters of BC, and, while the First War was on, the Hart-McHarg Society.

This latter group was a classic of patriotic fervour and charity. Named after a dashing, fallen war hero, the group poured aid overseas to "our boys in the trenches" and even managed to support an entire field hospital in France.

They feted returning heroes and cripples on Killarney's lawns, visited



Killarney, the estate at Point Grey Road and Bayswater, in 1910. The present Tatlow Park is on the left, Bayswater on the right. (archives photo)

the maimed in Shaughnessy Hospital, knitted socks far into the night, sent boxes of food and medicine, and met together in Killarney's ballroom, worrying on the fate of the trench-footed losers who'd actually gone over there to save the British Empire.

The newspapers gave them tremendous write-ups, like "Gay Throngs Amused on Killarney's Lawns", when the soldiers came back, or "Among Society Matrons devoting their leisure hours to patriotic work is Mrs. Blott". A request for sweet lavender bags to ease the pain of the wounded met with a terrific response - the ladies went out into the woods and picked their own lavender.

The Armistice put an end to the Hart-McHarg Auxiliary, but there were plenty of other things for Kitsilano Society people like Mrs. Hall to get into. Her first achievement had been on April 12, 1908, the same day Peter Veregin announced the Doukhobors were moving from Saskatchewan to the Kootenays, when she was elected vice-president of the Women's Auxiliary of Christ Church.

The VON was another of Society's darlings, and Mrs. Hall was its president for 10 years. Every year at their annual meeting, a "strong committee of representative citizens" would come forward and try to raise \$20,000 or so for the VON's charity drives.

The press responded eagerly, with two-page splashes showing the VON directors in cameo poses, with little human-interest sidelights like "Pearl, aged 4, comes to show the nurse her dolly's 'new wempers'". They gave half pages to such notes as "VON Board plans reception for Miss Smellie".

Alas, society has, sigh, fallen on harder times of late. Any social event in those days merited a write-up, largely consisting of detailed descriptions of the ladies' hats and gowns. It was easier then to be rich and charitable when there wasn't any chance of a bunch of angry peasants banging on your door demanding a better deal in life. You were either High Society or else out of it, and the poor were docile and happy to accept the crumbs sprinkled upon them by Mrs. Hall and her friends.

While many of the garden parties were held at Killarney, and many more on the lawns of mansions in Shaughnessy Heights, often enough visitors were feted at the Jericho Country Club, which ceased to exist

when the Army took it over for defense at the start of the Second World War.

By all accounts it was a lovely place. Back in the eighties and nineties it was the Dalgleish ranch - they'd come to it when it was a swamp and elk pasture - and a popular site for church picnics. In the early part of this century, when Dunbar Heights was still called Queen Anne Hill and the German proconsul, Alvo von Alvensleben, was the owner of the "grandest porch in Kerrisdale" (now Crofton House School on 41st), the land was bought up for a golf course.

Other events, either larger or more official, were held in the old Hotel Vancouver or in the Arena at Coal Harbour, where the Prince of Wales was feted at a Military Ball in September, 1919.

Kitsilano's Society church was St. Mark's. It was first opened in 1907, in a tiny shack at the corner of First and Maple, and stayed there until 1909, when the Diocesan Executive set the boundary of the parish as that part of the city west of Vine Street.

Lots were secured at 2nd and Larch for \$6000 (remember, the land boom was on), and A. H. Sovereign was hired as rector for \$1200 a year, paid out of the parish's pocket. The site was chosen as being near the highest point of land in Kitsilano.

St. Mark's ran a summer camp for well-off boys and girls, beginning in 1910 on Bowen Island. Later they moved it up 7 miles north of Whytecliff, where, "in such surroundings, by the sea and mountains, (a child) is naturally religious".

The church was also a centre of culture, like in the 1927 performance of "How I Earned My Dollar", with Jessie Hall in the role of "Grandma Wise".

Kitsilano Society clomped its way through the twenties with an exacting eye for trivia: "Native Daughters plan Annual Ball with Special Decorations Distinctive of Quaint Dutch Land". They blew their collective minds when Countess Haig arrived in July, 1925, and again when Her Excellency Viscountess Willingdon showed up in 1927.

When the stock market crashed in 1929 and there was general talk of a regular dole, Mrs. Hall wrote into the papers demanding that, for their own sake, the poor be made to weed lawns or dig and refill holes so they

wouldn't lose their dignity and forget the meaning of hard work.

The lines hardened. Society people thundered against the dole, ranted against Mayor McGeer (a Liberal), and the papers printed it all, laying on the unreal world of stock charts, Hollywood, and international finance.

Most everyone else cursed the dole, cursed Prime Minister R. B. Bennett, cursed the finance companies who were foreclosing their mortgages left and right, and sunk into the depths of apathy.

Some Kitsilano residents remember that it was the British immigrants who were hit the hardest. Rather than wander to the beach and net smelts, they'd spend their welfare money on the same fish in the markets on Fourth Avenue. Rather than take a saw and cut some driftwood, they'd pay to have pre-cut cordwood delivered to their door, and sit over their cups of tea and wonder when it was going to get better.

Mrs. Hall, a Conservative, ran for public office several times on a ticket stressing balanced budgets, which meant no welfare. She was more into the VON and Community Chest brand of assistance, the kind where it helps when people are really grateful. She did her best to get elected to City Council in the old Ward 10, which included her part of Kitsilano.

She never did, though supported by such upstanding figures as MacKenzie Bowell and the daily papers, which usually predicted she'd top the polls. However, she did manage to get chosen, in 1934, as the first winner of Vancouver's "Good Citizen Award".

In 1937, when politicians were threatening to clean up the hobo jungle under this side of the Burrard Bridge, Mrs. Hall and her other friends in Kitsilano Society sent a box-car load of jam to Saskatchewan for the victims of the great prairie drought.

But who wasn't saddened when they opened their papers the morning of June 23, 1949, and read: "Kitsilano pioneer Jessie Hall dead at 77"? It was the end of an era for Kitsilano, or at least partly so.

The real end came in 1956, when a real-estate and development firm announced they were going to build a radically different luxury apartment building at Killarney. Protests flowed in from all over town. The Kitsilano Ratepayers wrote to say they opposed any demolition of the old mansion. People talked of its history, of what it represented . . .

One of Mrs. Hall's daughters had the last word, though: "There doesn't seem to be a place for Killarney anymore". The developers held one last cocktail party in the ornate ballroom, then the wreckers moved in.

And Kitsilano's never looked back.

(Much of this material, plus the pictures, was released by the Vancouver Public Archives - thanks again. Next month talks about the Great Indian Reserve rip-off, so all you followers of the land claims hassles these days can learn what happened in your own back yards. Then, it's back to the Depression for another look, then on about how industry nearly took over the eastern end of Kitsilano.

This completed series of articles will be published, with some new material, as a book sometime this coming summer.)



SACRED WRITE OF SPRING

by Alan Twigg

"Though men in their hundreds of thousands try their best to disfigure this little corner of the earth where we crowd ourselves together, paving the ground so that nothing will grow, weeding out every bit of vegetation, filling the air with fumes, cutting down trees and driving away every beast and every bird -- spring, however, is still spring, even in the city."

With apologies to Leo Tolstoy, who wrote much the same sentence around the turn of the century, we give you spring in Kitsilano for 74. Tolstoy's words provide an all too apt description of an adventure the Kitsilano Kid recently had on an exceptionally balmy Saturday afternoon. To herald in the new year, the Kitsilano Kid had somehow managed to tear himself away from his typewriter (behind which he had been ensconced all winter, trying to write the Great Kitsilano Novel) and had actually exposed his sensitive nature to the harsh realities of the outside world. In other words, he went out.

Notice, if you will, the key phrase of that last verbose paragraph: 'herald in the new year'. January 1st, we should all realize, is an impostor. Purist that he was, the Kitsilano Kid had always refused to celebrate 'New Year's' on that date, preferring instead to wait a few months until the real new year came along. Then, with all the ritualistic enthusiasm of a drunken groundhog coming out of his hole in February, he would step into the nearest phone booth and discard his coat for the first time since the previous summer. Behold! A new man was born. Shorn of his winter armour, the Kitsilano Kid was then ready to begin his annual search for the first sign of Spring.

At first, things went rather badly. With a plastic daffodil clenched firmly between his teeth, he flitted down West Broadway, in what could only be described as a Marcel Marceau imitation of a butterfly in heat. A butterfly, for those who aren't old enough to remember, is a small insect belonging to the great Order of Insects called Lepidoptera. (I give the scientific name to aid those of you who might want to look up a picture of one at your local library.)

In front of the liquor store he slowed down the flapping of his arms just long enough for a pair of fifteen year old lovers to accost him with their adorably glazed eyes. Would he be so kind as to...? Yes, the Kitsilano Kid would serve as a bootlegger, but he righteously declined any payment for his good deed. That anyone should desire alcoholic stimulants on such a stimulating day saddened his pure heart, but he was determined not to give up his search for some sign of spring.

He continued to the ice-cream store where he found the price of a rainbow ice cream cone had gone up over the winter (God forbid!) and now exceeded his meagre means. Sigh. If he had accepted payment for his deed of only a few moments beforehand, he would have been able to afford the ice cream cone. As it was, of course, he had to go without.

Crossing Collingwood, the exhaust from a B.C. Hydro bus nearly knocked him over so the Kitsilano Kid took refuge in a nearby laundromat. There he found the air was very dry and only served to increase his dizziness. An old woman, dressed exclusively in black, had seated herself in front of a clothes dryer and was protectively watching her family's underwear spin round and round. She appeared very bored. This upset the Kitsilano Kid, so much so that he did not even bother checking the notice board for any significant neighborhood news. The lost cats of the area, for that week at least, would just have to remain lost.



Out on the street again, still earnest in his belief that a sign of spring could be found, his brain hit upon a strange idea. Perhaps spring had lost its promoter! That is to say, perhaps all these years he had been looking forward to spring, he had actually been cooned into it. Spring was perhaps a production, like Christmas, which was under the control of those same people who had put advertisements on the sides of buses. An illusion, like the tooth fairy. Perhaps, due to lack of interest, spring had been cancelled. What was there left for the Kitsilano Kid to believe in?

The Kitsilano Kid was very sad indeed. He went down to the beach and sat on a big rock, and gazed out to sea. Had the springtime of his happy childhood just been illusions? 'April showers bring May flowers', he supposed, was just another clever jingle. As he fondly reminisced his sweet youth, the Kitsilano Kid did not notice the approach of a small boy, who was carrying with him what appeared to be a very large kite.

This kite was so big, in fact, that it was almost as big as the little boy himself. When the Kitsilano Kid finally saw this boy, he leapt with joy from his rock. There was a tear on the little boy's cheek and the Kitsilano Kid quickly understood the situation. The boy had not been able to get his kite into the air.

Now it just so happened that the Kitsilano Kid was an expert at kite-flying. Every spring, when he had been around the same age as the little boy, he too had taken his kite to the beach. So....

Of course you know what happened. The Kitsilano Kid helped the boy get his kite in the air and together, they spent a very pleasant afternoon. The kite was not a homemade kite, but nevertheless, the Kitsilano Kid was in such a fine mood that he even allowed himself to put aside his usual scruples as a kite-flying purist and he declared that the boy and his kite were very definitely a sure sign that spring was on its way.

And so our story has a happy ending after all. The Kitsilano Kid went home that night with his belief in spring completely restored.

And spring was still spring, even in the city.

new style credit union

During the last five months a group calling itself the Community Council for Economic Change (CCEC) has been studying the feasibility of setting up a community-owned and controlled credit union which will foster the growth of alternate economic models, and consequently, lifestyles.

The credit union will be democratically organized and will provide, through loans to co-operative projects, financial assistance for the material and social needs of the community as determined by the members of the community. As the CCEC working paper says: "We believe that the goods and services most basic to survival - food, shelter, clothing (to name the obvious ones) - must be removed from the speculative market and that the means of their production be accessible to all".

In consideration of this objective the CCEC has been studying the legal requirements for incorporation of a community credit union, and seeking support from groups active in community affairs. It should be emphasized that the CCEC wants to encourage participatory democracy, both in the formative stages as well as in the actual administration of the credit union. To further quote the CCEC working paper: "At an early workshop some principles were defined to aid participants in the project in working as a collective: collective decision-making; free access to all information; regular meetings; free expression; equality of pay; accountability to membership.... The growth and realization of the credit union should be extended only through a vigorous member education program consisting of a regular newsletter, workshops, regular meetings and radio programming".

Groups which have expressed an interest in working co-operatively to help organize such a credit union include Fed-up; Federated Anti-Poverty Groups; Waterfront Housing Co-op; Consumer Resource Service; Free University; Federation of Learning Options; Co-op Radio; Co-op Woodshop; and Consumer Action League.

A meeting of two representatives from each of these groups has been scheduled for March 12, 7:30 pm at 1720 Grant, room 210, to set up a society which will qualify as a "bond of association". Under BC law, a credit union charter may be granted to such an association. Target date for incorporation of the credit union is in the Fall.

Any groups or individuals not yet contacted and interested in helping organize this community credit union are invited to contact the organizing office of the CCEC at 144 West Hastings, or Mal T. at 738-2362.

More on the community credit idea will appear next month. - by Michael O'Dell

LORD BYNG IN THE SWIM

A swimming pool has just opened at Lord Byng High School - 3990 West 14th Avenue. The pool will be used for school swimming programmes and will also be available for public use.

As well as recreational swimming, instruction will be offered in scuba, swimming and life-saving. If you're interested, call the school at 228-9734.

Rare Discovery a comfortable relaxed atmosphere where handcrafted leather on carved shelves mingle with B.C. pottery, you can discover for yourself perhaps a replica of old or a unique piece of modern jewelry to go with a dress from the near or far East

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Tue - Sat 10 - 6
Fri - 10 - 9

RARE DISCOVERY
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"The name is not an accident", says Rudi, who is responsible for most of the finely finished leather articles in the store. He spends a lot of time and care on his work, and it shows. He's also very selective about the things he accepts from other craftsmen: the sterling silver jewellery in contemporary "art nouveau" designs by Jack Bischke; the locally made pottery from artists like Richard Hubble, who uses Gabriola Island clay and glazes; the leather boxes with glowing freehand patterns by Armando de Santos. Everything commercially-made Rudi chooses himself for quality and originality, often on his trips overseas to buy the hand-finished English bridle leather he uses for his craft. There are enamelled copper rings and bracelets from Austria, and little wooden puzzles from Scandinavia, caftans from Pakistan and more leather, this time in coats and skirts from Poland and England.

One of his recent treasures is a three-thousand year old bronze bracelet from Western Iran - very beautiful, very simple. Rare Discovery has had a limited number of copies made in sterling silver and when you've seen them, \$50 doesn't seem too much to pay.

Shop Walk

by Chris

And before you go inside, take a look in the window at the Indian beading. That's more of Rudi's work and the magnificent war bonnet is part of a complete costume he made 10 years ago and wore to a boy scout jamboree.

Part of the attraction of the shop is the skill with which the various articles are displayed - the carved wooden shelves for pottery; the old drop-leaf desk for the leather covered notebooks; the wallets and coin purses; the dark textured corkboard for the silver pendants and earrings.

When Rudi leased the place 18 months ago, there were none of these. He and his friends ripped the place apart and rebuilt it in 6 weeks, sometimes working through the night, and the heavy carved door was still unfinished when they opened. Everything made on the premises has the distinctive RD brand on it - Rudi's initials; the name Rare Discovery came later when it seemed to fit - and the shop has a name for tackling specialised custom work in leather which no-one else will try.

There's an interesting story behind one of these occasions. A girl came in to have a design toolled on a folder, she'd bought elsewhere. Rudi used an ancient Celtic pattern of endless knots, worked long hours to adapt it to the shape of the folder, and finished it Christmas eve after closing time. When the girl came round to collect it, he refused to talk price - she could send him a cheque for whatever she judged its worth. Came the new year and she paid up - with a Dalmatian puppy, who's part of the family now, and whose name is, of course, 'Celtic! And that's not the end of the story: the folder was a gift to a group of three musicians, an Irishman, a Scotsman, and a Welshman. They call their group "The Celtic Circle".

Now, the store is developing a reputation. People come once, and keep returning. Don't go there for a bargain, or a shoddy imitation, but if you're after something unique, long lasting and beautifully crafted, Rare Discovery just might be the place to find it.

MOD SQUAD

The two polite constables make their way down Fourth Avenue. They approach a brightly-coloured converted storefront known as the Kits Info Centre. They decide to enter.

"Hi... what's new?" says the young one, with a face like a stand-up comedian. And a neighbourly conversation ensues over a cup of coffee.

For the two police constables, Dave Blakeman and his partner Dennis Savage, it's just another day on the Kitsilano crime-prevention beat. When not responding to calls they make a point of stopping in on the local storekeepers and agencies.

This new approach to community policing has been in effect since mid-January and has already generated a great deal of positive feedback. The new program is designed to focus on the origin of criminal activity in the area as it arises, by keeping a close rapport with the community.

A NEW CONCEPT IN COMMUNITY POLICING

The man responsible for making this concept a reality is Inspector Irving Bailey, head of the policing in Vancouver West. "The problem at this time is certainly not out of control", he said.

"Kits has had a low crime rate compared with anywhere else in the city. But there has been an escalation of problems such as harassment by juveniles of storekeepers and residents, auto theft, shoplifting, false fire alarms, and things like that."

"Most of the complaints Bailey's department receives are directed at the youth of the community. We are dealing basically with juveniles in the 13-18 years age group. Harassment only harbours further anti-social attitudes within the groups. We believe that an amiable police presence will act as a deterrent with these juveniles", he said.

Until recently, a police unit operating within a com-

by Pat Fitzgerald

munity has had a limited capacity. When responding to a complaint they would investigate, identify, and assess the wrong-doer. Their assessment would be limited to the person's criminal activity without respect to existing social agencies in the area. There was no machinery for follow-up.

But by getting to know the community they are able to size up the prevailing social agencies and make recommendations on the operation and growth of future agencies within the community. Their assessments would be directed to Kitsilano's Community Resource Board for consideration and action. (Unofficially, the Community Resource Board is expected to be implemented in June of this year - see lead story).

Inspector Bailey points out that the programme is not entirely new to Vancouver. "We tried it last year in the Dunbar area and the programme was highly successful", he said. But he added that "a few of the delinquents have migrated to Kitsilano and we want to determine the effect they have on our youth".

So whether you're a resident, merchant, or even a delinquent, when you see Constables Blakeman and Savage walking down your street, smile.

DEVELOPMENT SCENE

THE CITY HAS RECEIVED APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMITS TO ALLOW FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WHICH ARE PROPOSED FOR KITSILANO

- 3205 W Broadway Use as billiard hall. Request relaxation of parking requirement from 10 to 7 spaces. 65788
- 2060 W 10th Alter warehouse to use for refrigeration storage, with office and service areas. 65685
- 3005 W 15th Add sundeck to single family dwelling. 65683
- 3336 W 2nd Convert single family house to duplex. 65678+
- 3541 Point Grey Add floorspace to rear of upper and lower floors of duplex. 65666
- 1991 W 10th Use as fur garment repair workshop. 65662+
- 1909 Bayswater Convert single family house to provide suites in basement and on main floor, and 2 housekeeping rooms on 2nd floor. 65625+

- 2364 W 4th Use as dance studio. 65621+
- 2042 W 4th Erect restaurant with suites above Request parking relaxation from 4 to 2 spaces. 65615
- 3431 W 1st Convert single family house to duplex. 65606+
- 3355 W Broadway Erect 3 storey apartment, office and retail complex. Request parking relaxation from 20 to 18 spaces. 65557+
- 1766 W Broadway Use portion of main floor as pet shop. 65555+
- 1640 W 11th Erect 2 storey, 18 suite apartment. 65553
- 2204 W 14th Add garage to rear of multiple conversion dwelling. 65529+
- 1726 W 7th Use portable prefabricated unit a temporary medical clinic. 65522+
- 1601 W 10th Retain use of portable classroom. 65521

APPLICATIONS TO RETAIN THE USE OF NONCONFORMING DWELLINGS+

- 2900 W 3rd Retain basement suite - total of 3 suites, RT2 (two-family zone). 65763
- 1987 McNicoll Retain basement suite - total of 2 suites, RT2. 65736

- 3003 W 7th Retain basement suite - total of 2 suites, RS2 (single family zoning). 65732
- 2146 W 1st Retain basement suite - total of 2 suites, RM3 (medium density apartment zoning). 65731
- 2516 W 7th Retain basement suite - total of 5 suites, RT2. 65726

nb + projects requiring the approval of the Technical Planning Board.
* projects requiring the approval of the Director of Planning.

This listing includes only applications made between January 28, 1974 to February 21, 1974, inclusive. Considerably more information, including plans for most of the above projects and others, is available at the City Zoning Desk, City Hall Annex on Yukon St between 10th and 12th Avenues - phone 873-7613. If you have difficulty there or want further help, call Suzanne at the Kitsilano Planning Centre at 733-5614.

COSMO

HAS LEFT KITSILANO ON A WORLD WIDE SEARCH FOR TRUE DEMOCRACY. HE TOLD FRIENDS HE HOPED TO FIND IT IN TIERRA DEL FUEGO.

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FREE CLINIC NEEDS SHOT IN THE ARM

by Alison Hogan

The Vancouver Free Clinic may be forced to close down in the near future, due to financial difficulties and the loss of its old house at 1952 West Fourth Avenue. The clinic, which has been serving thousands of Lower Mainland residents and transient youth since it opened several years ago, has received an eviction notice effective March 15th. Financial troubles stem from failure to obtain funding from LIP and the Department of Health and Welfare. The only sources of income at the moment are donations, medical plan reimbursement and a two dollar charge from each uninsured patient.

The service was originally begun on a federal government grant, and was run by CoolAid, an organization known for community services in Kitsilano. When the grant ended in 1973, CoolAid withdrew from the scene, and the clinic became the Kitsilano Community Health Society. Since the rejection of its applications for funds, the clinic has managed to sustain itself until the present time; now it must turn to the public for assistance.

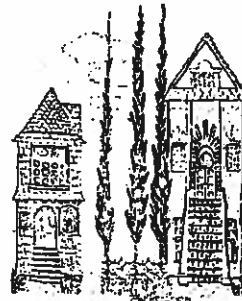
The most pressing problem at the moment is that of finding new premises in the Kitsilano area at a reasonable rental. The clinic is now housed in an old two-storey home near Fourth and Cypress. The space is cramped: two examination rooms, a small laboratory and a bathroom upstairs, and the old living room/reception area and the kitchen on the main floor. The basement space is put to use as a free store for those who cannot afford even Salvation Army clothing. The atmosphere is relaxed and homey, with the staff taking a person-to-person attitude rather than doctor to patient. The Free Clinic also offers medication at extremely low cost to its patients,

and anyone totally without funds receives their medication free of charge. It is estimated that only 10 to 15% of those who attend the clinic are covered by some kind of medical plan through which the clinic is reimbursed. The rest of the overhead is covered by donations and by those who staff the service.

The house is open for a few hours every evening from 7 p.m. to those who do not wish to attend or cannot afford a private practitioner. There are seven fully qualified doctors, and several nurses, as well as others who donate their time and energy to the cause. On Friday nights the Women's Health Collective runs the Women's Self-Help Clinic, and the old house comes alive with children, mothers and women who wish to find out for themselves how to deal with the problems of being a woman. There is a qualified nutritionist available to help out with any questions people may have. These services may cease to exist unless something is done as soon as possible.

If the Clinic closes down, the people who go there now without money or medical coverage will have to resort to this city's already overburdened free medical services. Some may avoid their problems elsewhere through fear of the institutional atmosphere and relatively impersonal attitude of such places. And although many may be able to afford some sort of medical coverage, they cannot afford to pay inflated prices for prescribed drugs following a visit to a regular doctor's office.

Tentative plans to raise money for the Kitsilano Community Health Society include a benefit by local musicians. If you have any ideas or help to offer, please contact the Clinic at 731-6929 most afternoons or evenings.



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KITSILANO
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE
2305 - 2325 West 7th
736-3588

SENIOR CITIZENS' DANCE

It's time again for the monthly Senior Citizens' Dance - Friday, March 8th from 7 to 10 pm in our program hall on the corner of 7th and Vine. The music this time will be provided by "The Wiesers", and coffee 'n sandwiches will fill in the breaks. Admission is 50¢ per... plus a smile and the desire to meet new people and share some fun.

TENNYSON OUT-OF-SCHOOL DAYCARE

The Tennyson Out-of-School Daycare parent cooperative project has grown and stabilized in its first month, providing creative supervised care for children in grades 1 to 5 at Tennyson School during the period, before school starts in the morning and after closing in the afternoon. Like its companion program at Henry Hudson, this project fills a very clearly defined need here in Kits - as we who live or work here know, ANY supervised day care is like the winter sun in Vancouver... VERY RARE! There are still a few openings available, and interested parents can get more info by calling either: Joan Harivel at Kits House or Rose-Marie Larson at 733-2446.

Planner hits City on Traffic

by Pat Fitzgerald

An urban planner working in the Kitsilano area has criticized City Hall for its incompetent methods of dealing with the prevention of traffic fatalities.

The remarks were prompted as a result of a study done on automobile accidents and traffic flow. Planner Bob Wallace charged "that only pressure from local residents will generate any action within the city's traffic commission".

He was referring to the petition circulated by residents near Broadway and Vine to have a pedestrian-operated traffic light erected in the vicinity. The intersection has been the scene of two fatal pedestrian accidents in as many months.

"In the past eleven years there have been six fatalities at that intersection. The petition was drawn up after the fifth fatality but it was not acted upon", says Wallace.

The commission recommended the light be erected after engineer Ken Dobell labelled the entire strip of Broadway between Arbutus and MacDonald as dangerous. Dobell submitted a report recommending better lighting and a corner clearance of 40 feet instead of the standard 20 feet. But the traffic engineer argued that the issue should be referred back to the engineering department for study, and still no action has been taken.

Wallace told around Kitsilano that there have been five fatalities at 4th Avenue and Balsam in the last eleven years. This is because a hill crests at Balsam and at night the lighting is poor - the same situation as the Broadway-Vine crossing. Yet no traffic changes have been made.

City traffic engineering officials have said that regarding six fatalities as the quota for action is complete nonsense although they have admitted that it is the deaths that often bring rapid action through political pressure on City Council.

Wallace noted that 4th Avenue and Broadway are the streets with most potential danger for the pedestrian.

"There have been 53 fatalities in Kitsilano in the last eleven years - 29 pedestrians and 24 in automobiles. But only 3 pedestrian and 9 automobile fatalities were away from the main arterials".

Wallace's studies assess damage in the first ten months of 1973 at about \$1 million. He suggests that for the amount of money involved "we could afford to buy a series of buses and shuttle people through the area".

LANDLORDS, TENANTS & GARBAGE

by Suzanne Huzel



Do you live on a street that is always littered with garbage? Is there an unofficial junk yard of rusting car bodies and derelict refrigerators in your neighbour's backyard? If you live in that large section of Kitsilano that consists of old houses converted into suites, you will no doubt have become aware of this sort of eyesore in your own neighbourhood.

The responsibility of maintaining a property in good order, rests with the landlord. But in most cases, the landlord doesn't live on the property, and is interested only in making a profit without spending too much money, or energy, on maintenance or repairs. Up against a faceless and uncaring landlord, the neighbours often don't know what to do about the mess, or who to complain to.

Instead of grumbling silently, you can get on the phone to the Health Department at City Hall, if the problem is garbage, or to the Department of Permits and Licenses, if it is debris. The Health Department can order the landlord to clean up, and if he refuses, can take him to court. The Permits Dept. can, as a last resort, clean up the debris themselves, and send the landlord a bill.

A housing situation, in which there is high demand for rental accommodation, coupled with rapidly-rising real estate values, results in the kind of thing we see so much of in Kitsilano: speculation in "revenue" houses. This is how to play the game: buy a revenue house; raise the rents (and if they can't pay, evict the tenants); after 6 months, sell the house, and make a quick profit. The next landlord will probably raise the rents immediately. According to the landlord and tenant act, rents cannot be raised more frequently than once every 12 months, irrespective of whether the tenant or the landlord changes. If you want to know more about your rights as a tenant, come to a meeting on March 21, 8 pm, at Kits House, 7th and Vine, sponsored by the Kitsilano Area Resources Association.

As well as high and illegal rent increases, tenants are often faced with a landlord who refuses to repair his property, because it is not profitable. Over a period of time, the accommodation becomes very shoddy, but if the tenants complain too loudly, this type of landlord can give notice to vacate, knowing full well that he can get other tenants.

Although there is some talk of introducing legislation to deal with this sort of situation, right now there is no effective mechanism that can force a landlord to keep his property in good repair. The city can act only on those premises which are so run down as to constitute a danger to health or life. If you are concerned about this or any of the other housing problems in Kitsilano, make your views known. Write your views known. Write your MLA's and the provincial Minister of Housing; phone your mayor and the aldermen; form a tenants' association, or join an existing one.

If you have any questions or problems related to planning drop by the Planning Centre at 2741 West 4th, or phone Suzanne at 733-5614.



HOUSING INFORMATION (COOPERATIVES)
RENTAL LISTINGS
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Phone or Drop in:
1726 West 7th Ave.
738-1816

- **TENANTS** - Incorrect notice to vacate can cost you \$\$ - Come see us!
- **LANDLORDS** - List with H.A.R.K. free of charge!
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