

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Doug Hagaman

We were deeply saddened to hear that Louise Crowley passed away on March 20th 1984. I am sure all of us will miss her intense enthusiasm for kiteflying and willingness to help others in her ever pleasant manner.

My first memories of Louise was at a Kite Festival about four years ago at Gas Works Park. She was astounded at the number of my Parafoils which she saw and wondered how many more I had.

As I looked at her kites, I noticed the great care, detail and craftsmanship in each of them. It became apparent to me that every kite she ever made was HAND SEWN. I told her I thought it unusual spending so much time on each kite. She promptly replied that she never keeps track of time while making kites, and in her words, "If you love doing something, time is important."

I became better acquainted with Louise this past Spring when we went on Dave Checkley's Japan and China tour together. She was by far the most inquisitive and enthusiastic of the group - always asking the kitemakers questions about construction technique and history of specific kites. She always seemed more eager to learn than any of us. During the trip Louise flew kites at every opportunity. She was the only one among all of us to fly a kite off The Great Wall.

Now being president, I can more clearly see what a loss the WKA is experiencing, not only as an active club member and kiteflier, but as a dear friend.

So as Louise departs on another journey of her life, may it be as peaceful and carefree as we have always known her to be. Who knows, someday Gas Works when we are "Fishing For Angels" maybe Louise will look down and smile.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PART II

The Retreat was a roaring success with 44 people from around the country and Canada showing up. We all had a great time, I would especially like to thank the following for all the help I received: Margaret Greger - who did an outstanding job teaching sewing technique; Angela Dittmar - who came from Michigan to help with sewing techniques and was given an honorary membership for all her hard work; Art Grossi - who enlightened many to his beautiful stained glass technique; Dan Kurahashi - for his demonstration of different kinds of traditional Japanese kites and how to build miniatures; Dave Checkley - with his fabulous side show; Julian Wolf - for his help on the fliers; Tom Mallard - for the art work on the fliers; Carl Brewer - who was

burdened with keeping track of people and money; and the clean-up crew who helped leave the chapel in the same state as when we arrived. 46 kiteflyers can sure make a mess in 2 days. And, last of all, the people who came, making it all possible.

\$\$\$ THE NUMBERS GAME \$\$\$ Food Service (\$1098), Lodging (\$782), Meeting Room (\$60), Tax (\$151.32), for a total of \$2091.32. We took in \$2156.95 for a profit of \$65.63. Total cost per person was \$50!

I will be heading off to China and Japan on March 26 with Dave and will not be back until the middle of May. Jack Van Gilder is in charge of the Cherry Blossom Kite Fly (April 28th). He can be reached at 938-0550. Kevin Saunders and Tom Sisson are in charge of the Kite Fair, April 7th and 8th, and will appreciate as much help as possible.

Between The Kite Fair, The Cherry Blossom Kite Fly, The Pacific Rim Kite Fly, The Thorp Kite Fly and the Memorial Day Kite Festival, it looks like a busy Spring for the W.K.A.

To finish up, there have been a few people who have pointed out that they would like to have another retreat, possibly this Fall. If I hear from enough of you, I will start working on a Fall retreat, if not, plan on another one in the Spring of '85.

So keep your feet on the ground and your mind and kite reaching for the sky.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

EASTERN WASHINGTON KITE FLY WITH GERRY OSBORNE AT THORP WASHINGTON
by Doug Hagaman

If you have ever wanted to get away from it all and just have a weekend of fun and kite flying, then plan to come to Thorp Washington, to Gerry's place in the center of the state, for Memorial Day weekend. Gerry Osborne has drawn cartoons for many Kite Newsletters, including this one, but has not, to date ever flown a kite with a WKA or an AKA member. This is a situation that both Gerry and I feel needs to change!

Gerry is working to set up a weekend of kite flying for us and if the wind is not just right for kite flying, Gerry advises us that there are famous Ellensburg Blues for Rock hounders to pursue, the Yakima river for floaters and gold panners to enjoy, and miles of trails for hiking. (ed for those WKA members planning to attend this function from West Washington be warned of the possibility of sustained sunshine)

People wishing to help Gerry with the details can write to him at P.O. Box 1225, Thorp, WA. 98946. We plan to have a flier concerning Memorial Day activities sent out closer to that time.

Pacific Northwest Kite Retreat by Bob McCort

After years of talking about it, the first ever Pacific Northwest Kite Retreat is now history. And, it was such a success that people are trying to decide when, where and what to do another one.

Ft. Worden is one of a series of Coastal Artillery forts built to protect Puget Sound from invasion. We were put up in what was, I believe, Non-commissioned Officer Quarters; mostly single rooms with just enough room for a bed, dresser and small table. We had our meals in the old mess hall which is now run by a local restaurant. It was little better than most cafeteria food but it sure beat fixing our own. Our flying field was the parade ground and our workshop was in the Chapel. Angela Dittmar said, "I felt so pious. Always saying 'Well, I have to get back to the Chapel!'"

Friday night was spent setting up the sewing machines and hanging up sample kites. When we were done there were 20 machines set up and the floor was a mass of extension cords (not many outlets in a Chapel). Some of the diehards were still comparing notes after midnight.



Margaret Greger

Margaret Holzbauer



Angela Dittmar

Doug H.
John Dusenberry

Saturday's seminars started with Margaret Greger and Angela Dittmar talking about materials and sewing kites. Margaret shared some of the patterns that she had brought along; a Snowflake, Len Conover's Eddy, and her Harper's Ferry Delta. Angela, who came from Detroit to be Margaret's assistant, showed Ansel Toney's Snowflake, with curved edges and no hem, and a new Super Tube from England, another stickless variation of the Bullet. John Dusenberry promptly made a Super Tube out of High Density Poly bags that flew great. John was also heard to say that he might have to start sewing after seeing all of the neat designs.

About 10:30, Art Grossi, of Victoria, B.C., gave a talk about how he makes his "stained glass" masterpieces. He took us through the steps using one of his kites so that we could see how it all worked out. Art has a 6' Rokaku with a red rose on it that has as many as seven layers on the petals for shading. It looks good on the ground, but put it in the sky with the sun behind it and it's beautiful!



Art Grossi



Doug Hagaman

After lunch, Doug Hagaman discussed the trials and tribulations of building large Parafoils. He then took those that weren't working on their own projects through the steps of designing and building a J-20. It seemed to me that a lot of it is trial and error until you get a feel for what is right.

After Doug, Dan Kurahashi, of Vancouver, B.C., talked about some of the Japanese designs and their differences. He also gave a demonstration of splitting bamboo.



Dan Kurahashi

After dinner, we had the drawing for the door prizes. So that there would be no possibility of a "fix", we had Jason Rittinger, of Surrey, B.C., do the drawing. Jason is about five years old.

After the prizes, we were treated to some of Dave Checkley's slides of China. He had quite a few showing the steps to make some of the small kites and dragon heads for centipedes.



Margaret wins Doug's Kite



Margaret Greger

Sunday's activities started with Dan Kurahashi teaching a dozen people how to make miniature Edo kites. Then Margaret showed some of her quilt and applique designs and explained how she worked with them. She also showed a set of Wind Power maps that she had (see Wind Power story).

Then Angela showed her new blue and white "barber pole" kite bag that she made to carry all of her new stuff home. She says that every time she goes to a retreat she has to make another one. After her seventh retreat she must have quite a collection.

After lunch everybody was out on the field flying their creations for a while before packing up for the journey home. There were 44 people in attendance and after the weekend, I think that there are 44 ready to go to the next one. Angela Dittmar told me that this was one of the best that she has attended...That's not bad for a first attempt.

Ed. — I want to thank all the people who sent in letters with their thoughts and feelings about this marvelous retreat. Due to restricted space, I can't print them all, but some recurrent themes are; "It was terrific thanks to Doug Hagaman", "We haven't stopped talking about the people, seminars, food and kite flying. Let's do it again!", "After leaving I was so excited about what I had learned, and most of all how closely everyone was working together.", "...we ate slept, talked, made and flew kites for more than two days, and came home revved up, enthusiastic and full of new ideas.", "Most of us went dragging our feet a bit, but now there are just two perspectives...those who are delighted they went and those who wish they had!" (That is certainly true of your editor who missed it!)

Louise Crowley, Seattle kitemaker/flyer, died on March 20th.
written by Louise's friend Dotie

Louise grew up Anna Louise Gregg here in Seattle. She graduated from Broadway High School and attended the University of Washington where she majored in anthropology. In 1950 Louise met George Crowley. By all accounts, no one expected them to marry, and certainly not to have children. They did both, settling on Capitol Hill with four babies in a big, old house where they built a library, took in strays (animals and people) and spent the rest of their lives together.

Both Louise and George were interested in politics and devoted to finding ways to make life a better and fairer thing for the oppressed, depressed and discriminated against. Louise became an expert mimeographer, turning out numerous writings stating her thoughts and ideas. George kept the coffee pot going and somehow managed to thin the stew to feed anyone who showed up at dinner time. The Crowleys were very much a part of their neighborhood and their city. They participated in organizations and groups all over the city concerned about local problems and needs.

About ten years ago Louise decided to start making kites again. She had made and flown kites as a child, but not since. She went off to the library to look up kitemaking and wasn't satisfied with any of the books she found. So she wrote one, for her "grandchildren" (Tara and Tristan had lived at Crowley's so much of their childhood—that George and Louise "adopted" them). She also made them an elaborate kitemaking kit with salvaged materials and appropriate tools. By the time the book was written and the kit made, Louise was well on her way to being an expert kitemaker.

Louise's kites were made to fly. They are sturdy, easily repaired, and much prettier in the sky than on the ground. Most are made of ripstop appliqueed by hand. (Louise's sewing was more even than most sewing machines.) The designs were chosen to be bold and clear, adapted from Northwest Coast Indian designs, from books and greeting cards, especially for the kite's dimensions. She spent hours testing her kites — hours she thoroughly enjoyed by herself and with other kites. She always felt she was a novice at kiting and regaled us with the exploits of the AKA "experts". (She also thoroughly enjoyed WKA cooking!)

Last year, Louise was able to join the kiteflyer's tour to Japan and China. Many, many people pooled the money to make that trip possible — and she had a wonderful time. Who else would come back from China with "something" she picked up in a flea market?

Louise was always herself. We miss her.

CALENDER

- April 1.....Hanging kites at Pacific Science Center
6pm to ? , please bring kites.
- April 1.....Kite Fly at Tri Cities/Richland Water Plant
12 noon, call Larry Zilar (509-627-3320)
- April 7, 8....W.K.A. 11th Annual Kite Fair
10am to 6pm at the Pacific Science Center
- April 15.....Pacific Rim Kite Fly by High As A Kite
12noon, Vanier Park, Vancouver B.C.
call 604-687-8041 for information
- Party at Hugh Harrison's after kite fly
6058 Crown Street, Vancouver B.C.
Hugh's number is 604-261-5425
- April 28.....Cherry Blossom Kite Fly
1pm, Gasworks, prizes for best oriental
and best Western. Van Gilder 938-0550.
- May 1.....1st Annual Louise Crowley Memorial Kite Fly
5 pm., Gasworks Park.
- May 26, 27....Thorp WA. Kite Fly with Gerry Osborne
- May 28.....Annual Kite Stores Memorial Day Kite Fly
12 noon, Gasworks

THE PACIFIC RIM KITE FLY on April 15th at Vanier Park in Vancouver B.C. promises to be a particularly nice event. Each year this kite fly is anticiated as one of the most fun. The warm Canadian hospitality of the Harrisons always either tops off a perfect day of flying or makes the journey well worth while even on dismal or stormy days. For more information call High As A Kite at 604-687-8041 or Hugh and Margie Harrison at 604-261-5425. Locally, try Bob McCort at 743-7081.

WIND POWER

At the recent Pacific Northwest Kite Retreat, Margaret Greger showed a set of maps that show average wind power. There were three sheets in the set. One shows the average wind power around the world. One shows the average wind power in the United States, and the third shows the United States in each season. These maps are great for kite displays or just if you do a lot of travelling and want to know what kind of wind you can expect. They can be requested, free of charge from: Larry Wendel, Geosciences Research and Engineering Dept., Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories, P.O. Box 999, Richland, WA. 99352. Mention that you are a kiteflier. They would like to know who is using their research.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?



Hugh Harrison
with Sewing machine



Katie Jensen
with a "hot knife"

A special thanks to
Bob McCort for all
the pictures + great report.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

WAWAWA

Washington Kitefliers Association

an affiliate of the AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER, 200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109

LAST ISSUE please send in your \$5 before May 15, 1984 or you will not receive the next newsletter.