



2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phones: EA 5-1132 or EA 9-1517

Number 11

Newsletter

JANUARY 15, 1965

THIRD ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
and
ELECTION OF OFFICERS FEBRUARY 16TH

DATE & TIME: 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, February 16th, 1965
 PLACE: Elks Club Auditorium, 2040 Westlake North
 AGENDA: Executive Committee's "Review and Report."
 Other committee reports and election of officers.
 Plans being made to show (after the business meeting)
 the half-hour documentary film on Seattle's houseboats,
 aired by KIRO-TV December 9th.

This official meeting is open to members only. Please bring your membership card for identification. Non-members may turn in applications at the meeting and participate. Prior to the meeting all members in good standing will receive an official notification by mail which will include: (1) a copy of the 1964 financial report, (2) the report of the Nominations Committee (nominations will also be open at the meeting), (3) proposed changes in the By-Laws.

The Executive Committee hopes that the convenient location of the Elks Club will result in a good attendance. ~~Until the Elks Club made its facilities available it was difficult to find a suitable auditorium in our "neighborhood".~~ In previous years we have used the Queen Anne Fieldhouse, which is very much off the beaten path. You will note that this is our third annual business meeting and election of officers. What was to become the present Association began to take form as the result of organizational efforts in March and April of 1962. In November of that year we incorporated as a mutual benefit, non-profit society. Pursuant to the terms of our charter the first annual business meeting and election of permanent officers was held in February, 1963.

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HARDY SOULS PIONEERED FIRST CHRISTMAS CRUISE: Along with everybody and everything our first Christmas Cruise took a beating from the miserable weather that splattered all over the holidays. Impossible driving conditions forced a postponement from December 19th to the 26th. This change, plus the weather, made it impossible for many to participate, and we regret that they were disappointed. But the view from the water of our lovely city and our decorated moorages is something everyone should have an opportunity to enjoy, so the cruise will become an annual event. The Christmas Committee has two recommendations as the result of the experience: (1) the cruise should be shorter, two or three hours instead of four, and (2) we should have an embarkation point closer to home. Other suggestions will be welcomed.

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INSURANCE AVAILABLE ON HOUSEHOLD GOODS, PERSONAL EFFECTS: As the result of inquiries by our Insurance Committee, the Association has been advised that houseboat occupants are eligible for a policy that covers personal effects but not the houseboat. The agency describes the policy as follows: "This package insurance policy covers household goods and personal effects only, such as furniture, appliances, clothing, etc., against the hazards of loss from fire and lightning, explosion, smoke damage, vandalism and malicious mischief, earthquakes, landslides, wind and hail, riot and civil commotion, burglary, robbery, holdup, water leakage, collapse of buildings and falling objects. All locations are covered - at home or away. Annual rates are \$15 per \$1,000 of coverage and two-year term policies will be written for \$30 per \$1,000. No policy will be written for a premium less than \$30. Coverage is available in even \$1,000 amounts to a maximum of \$3,000 for any one policy. The unusual feature of the policy, which I am sure will be welcome to members of your Association, is that the rates for houseboats are no different than those for other occupancies." The name of the agency will be furnished to those interested. Contact the Association or Kenneth Kennedy (ME 3-4883), Chairman of the Insurance Committee.

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LAKE IS GOING UP AGAIN - BUT NOT VERY FAST: We continue to get queries from those who do not know that the water level of Lake Washington, Portage Bay, Lake Union, and the Ship Canal is controlled by the Corps of Army Engineers who operate the Ballard Locks (with apologies to Gen. Chittenden) and who keep the situation well in hand except during long dry spells. The cycle runs something like this. Through December the controlled low level is 20.1 feet above low mean tide. During January the level will be increased by 1/10th of a foot (yep, one-tenth). In February there will be a further increase of 2/10ths. The water level is kept purposely low through March to protect bulkheads and installations from the buffeting of winter storms. In April the increase is stepped up and along towards May 15th the level should be at the controlled upper elevation of 21.8 feet. This high water level is maintained (except for drops caused by evaporation in event of a long hot summer) until September, when the descent begins. About a year ago even old-timers were saying they had never seen the lake so low. They were wrong. The Army Engineers say the all-time low was recorded in 1958 when the level dropped to 18.3 feet and nothing could be done about it. There just wasn't enough water.

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GARBAGE CANS WILL BE WITH US FOR A LITTLE LONGER: A year ago we optimistically predicted that before the summer was out the Garbage Ordinance would be amended to give houseboat moorages the same rates and services available to other multiple units. Like many others we were unaware of the magnitude of the problem facing the city in seeking new methods of refuse and garbage disposal. It now appears this will be resolved in the next few months and the City Council will take up the Garbage Ordinance in respect to rates and services. As there appears to be no opposition, we can expect that our amendment will prevail. In brief, we want to be made eligible for the container service without a financial penalty so that we can eliminate garbage cans which are not only unsightly but inadequate.

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MEMBERS NEEDED ON THREE STANDING COMMITTEES: The Executive Committee has created three standing committees and members interested are invited to volunteer. They are: SPECIAL EVENTS (Maida Jean Young, chairman, EA 5-8134); IMPROVEMENTS AND BEAUTIFICATION (R. J. Dike, chairman, EA 3-9082); and ORGANIZATION (James Bain, chairman, EA 3-6869). The Special Events Committee grew out of the Holiday Decorating and Christmas Cruise activities. The Improvement & Beautification Committee will devise specific programs not only for the individual houseboat but for moorages and our neighborhoods, including streets, etc. It hopes through subcommittees to work out "bite-sized" projects for specified areas on Portage Bay, Westlake North, and Fairview East. A major objective this year will be to bring in the small but important number of "hold-outs". You can help by sending in the names of non-members.

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NEWS NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE: In case any member is interested we have several "For Sale" listings in price ranges from \$1,000 to \$4,250...Also there is a Portage Bay moorage available for good-quality, owner-occupied floating home; no rental boat acceptable...Harbor Police (JU 3-2179) asks to be notified when houseboat is to be moved. Saves them the trouble of checking for relocation permit...Mayor J. D. Braman has asked his Business Task Forces to explore building new Floating Homes as a possible new industry...Health Department recently reported number of water pipes submerged in lake. This is a health hazard and against the law. Good idea to periodically check your water connection to see that it is secured well above water line and that your electrical ground is secure...We had 99 new members in 1964 but with the turnover among houseboat residents we must never let up on organizational activities...A California corporation is building new and elaborate floating homes but their prices start (one bedroom) at \$17,500...The Bay Area (California) organization is known as the BOAT DWELLERS' ASSOCIATION...Councilman Wing Luke was among the guests on the Christmas Cruise...Nominations Committee (Muriel Eklund, chairman, EA 2-4956) would like suggestions for members to serve on the Board of Directors.

FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION
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