



2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phones: EA 5-1132 or EA 9-1517

NUMBER 12

## Newsletter

MARCH 18, 1965

**OFFICERS ELECTED, PROGRESS NOTED AT ANNUAL MEETING:** Members at the third annual business meeting in the Elks Club February 16th, unanimously elected a slate of officers, approved the Executive Committee's report and authorized a special emergency assessment (not to exceed six months dues) should events make it necessary. Approval was given to the three reports mailed to each member in advance: (1) Finance (2) By-Laws and (3) Nominations. Esther Carhart was re-elected president; Kenneth Kennedy, vice-president succeeding James Bain (named Trustee) and Clara Kennedy, re-elected secretary.

The Executive Committee now consists of: Esther Carhart, president; Mr. Kennedy, vice-president; Mrs. Jo Windus, treasurer; Mrs. Kennedy, secretary; Terry Pettus, administrative secretary; James Bain, Warren Batterson, Mark Freeman, George Johnston, and Howard Larson, trustees; Robert Brown and M. Bruce Johnson, members at-large. The Executive Committee meets the second and fourth Wednesdays in the office. The amended By-Laws are being published in brochure form and will soon be ready for distribution. The Executive Committee report reviewed the past "eventful year" and dealt in the main with developments around the four-point program adopted a year ago. Following in capsule form are highlights of the report:

1. **A Comprehensive Houseboat Ordinance:** Last August, at the request of the Association, the City Council established a Committee to advise it on the contents of such an Ordinance. The Committee consists of two members of the Council, representatives of the various City Departments and two representatives of our Association. Mr. Kaun Onodera, code director, is secretary and Mr. Pettus is chairman. All of the particular needs and problems of floating dwellings are now under discussion.

2. **Sanitary Requirements:** For more than a year we have unsuccessfully sought an acceptable and workable alternative (such as incineration) to the conventional sewer installation. The Lake Union sewer will no doubt be completed and in service during the next few months and we must plan now to use it. The Engineering Department is working out guide-lines for such facilities. This means pioneering a new field and all responsible city officials recognize that floating homes face a transition period during which a reasonable time will be required for existing moorages and individual houseboats to comply with the standards yet to be worked out.

3. **Rezoning Lake Union:** Almost a year ago the City Council adopted the Planning Commission's "Lake Union Study" proposing drastic changes in the zoning of Lake Union shorelands. Our Association, of course, supports those recommendations enlarging the areas where houseboats are a conforming usage of property. Since the study was approved, the Lake Union Association, made up of all property owners, has been organized. This organization must obviously play an important role in decisions affecting Lake Union. We are members of this Association. Esther Carhart and Mark Freeman serve on its Board of Trustees.

4. **Garbage Ordinance:** Our amendment seeking the same rates and services given other multiple-dwelling units has no opposition but must await the final decision on the key and controversial question of what the city is going to do about disposal on a long and short-range basis. Our first request for this needed amendment was made just two years ago this month. Hopefully we will not have to wait much longer.

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**PIER END & STREET NUMBER SIGNS STILL AVAILABLE:** Our first major improvement project was to furnish (without cost) large pier end and street number signs for moorages. This was inspired by a request from the Harbor Police. We still have a supply, some are probably duplicates. Numbers available on request are: 1212, 1213, 2233, 2207, 2227, 3150, 2770, 2760, 2814, 2029, 2764, 2768, 2772.

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**KING RADIO TO AIR LAKE UNION DISCUSSION MARCH 25:** "What Can Be Done About Lake Union" will be the subject of the Irving Clark Show Thursday, March 25, between 9:05 p.m. and midnight. Houseboat dwellers should not only tune in but phone in and have their say in this free-wheeling discussion. It seems Lake Union now has the status of a "community problem" and we will hear more and more about it in the months to come. Among other things Seattle Magazine is preparing an article on houseboats. Watch for it.

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HERE'S A LIST OF MEMBERS OFFERING HOUSEBOAT SERVICES: Our NEWS LETTER does not carry paid advertising. Nor does the Association permit the use of its mailing list. From time to time we do list those who have necessary services to offer. If any question arises from the use of this list, please notify the Association. Save this "directory" for future reference: Marvin Brost, diving services and drum installation (EA 3-0644); Charles Everett, stringers, logs, towing and general repairs (AT 4-0207); Mark Freeman, towing (ME 2-0151); Mrs. Paula Harp, house cleaning, interior painting (EA 2-3965); George Johnston, styrofoam floatation, debris barge (EA 4-9148); John Skupen, general repairs (EA 5-3130); Robert Steele, stringers, general repairs, towing (EA 3-3563) or (AT 2-9798) and Dick Wright, diving services and drum installation (AT 2-9798).

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IMPORTANT! HOUSEBOATS SHOULD BE PROPERLY GROUNDED: Lou Livingston, Building Department electrical inspector, has again called attention to the danger to life and property if houseboats do not have adequate electrical grounding installations. Many houseboat residents are apparently unaware of this hazard. Interior electrical wiring is grounded to the water pipes. This is adequate for shoreside structures but with houseboats the ground is broken by our rubber-hose, water connection. It is important that this connection be maintained by a wire conductor from the pipes aboard the houseboat to the water pipe on the float or pier. Ground clamps (not hose clamps) are available at most hardware stores at a nominal cost. It is recommended that you use No. 6 copper wire (not aluminum or steel) covered or uncovered. Failure to ground is a fire hazard, can result in severe electrical shocks, blow out TV tubes and burn out other appliances. If you have any question, contact the office. If you have a ground wire in place, its a good idea to check it on occasion.

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111TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAKE UNION'S "NAME DAY" COMING UP: The Fourth of July will mark the 111th anniversary of the present names of Lake Union and Lake Washington. On July 4th, 1854, the pioneer citizens of Seattle followed the primitive road (now West-lake Avenue) to the south end of the lake for a picnic and celebration. Tom Mercer used the occasion to suggest that the Indian place designations of Tenas Chuck (Little Water) and Hyas Chuck (Big Water) be replaced by Lake Union and Lake Washington. In his speech Mercer also predicted that in due time a canal and lock would connect the two lakes to Puget Sound. Sure enough, some 73 years later it happened. There is no marker on the site of this historic picnic. Maybe something should be done about it. Any suggestions?

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SOME NEWS NOTES FROM HERE & THERE: Member suggests "Dilapidation is no longer quaint" as slogan for this year's Improvement & Beautification campaign...R.J. Dike (Chairman), William McKivor, Laurie Clearbrook, Mrs. Gladys Sullivan and Kaye Eyre are on Improvement & Beautification Committee. Volunteers welcome...Assessor's office requests that we take care not to deface or paint over our permanent registration number plates. They can be easily removed and replaced in painting...Association getting requests from responsible people for rental of houseboats during the summer months. Periods range from one month to June through September. If interested, contact the office...Fire Department urges the quick reporting of fires by immediately phone MA 3-3344. Failure to promptly report fires is major cause of unnecessary loss of life and property. Keep this number at your phone and use it when necessary and leave fire-fighting to those who know how. Thanks to our central location the department can reach any houseboat moorage in from three to four minutes....Department also reports interesting fact that most residential fires occur between 3 and 7 p.m. when members of family are at home.

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