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NUMBER 6

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 21, 1964

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN, BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE SAYS: Improving the appearance of our roofs is the number one item on the comprehensive 1964 "Clean-Up, Paint-Up, Fix-Up" program drafted by the Beautification Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. It will go before the Board of Directors for further discussion and implementation April 22. Mrs. Muriel Eklund (EA 2-4596) is serving as provisional chairman and says the Committee is seeking additional members from those interested in any part of the program.

"The placing of emphasis on the appearance of our roof tops is an attempt to see ourselves as others see us," Mrs. Eklund says. She points out that most people see houseboats from above and that much of the criticism stems from the dreary, drab and shop-worn appearance of many roofs. To improve the appearance without re-roofing the Committee suggests two relatively inexpensive roof "paints," "Brello Plex" and "P.V.A." Both are water-base products (don't apply in the rain), easy to apply and long-lasting by actual tests. Another word of caution: Don't apply any oil-base paint on asphalt roofing.

It should also be remembered that the number of square feet a gallon will cover varies greatly depending on the nature and condition of the roof. "Brello Plex" is sold by Cowman-Campbell, comes in nine colors including white and wholesales at \$5.65 a gallon. "P.V.A." is a product of the Daniel Boone Paint Co., 1401 Dexter North, who will mix any color on order and sells (wholesale) from \$4.25 a gallon and up depending on the color selection. These wholesale prices will be given to Association members on showing of their membership card. This price reduction on the Cowman-Campbell product applies only at its Ballard store, 5209 Ballard Avenue.

If a new roof job is in order the Association has a member who specializes in that work. He is Ronald Denisen (EA 5-2318). Mr. Denisen has a special offer on staggered roofing which can be applied in a variety of colors and patterns. Free estimates. For other services by members who specialize in houseboat work the following are suggested: Bob Murphy, diver (drums), carpentry, general repairs, construction (EM 2-2645); installation polystyrene flotation, George Johnston (EA 4-9148 evenings); John Skupen, painting, electrical work, general repairs (EA 5-3130); Richard Wright, diver (logs and drums), general repairs (AT 3-3364). For towing: Mark Freeman (ME 2-0151); Irv and Lloyd Frank (EA 3-9339), and Jim Vallentyne (MA 2-4906). Other points on the Beautification Program are:

Exterior Painting: A good start was made last year but more needs to be done. When is the time to paint? The Committee suggests we follow the professionals who say that in this climate "the time to paint is when it isn't raining." Decks need more attention. Too often they are neglected which is unsightly and leads to costly repairs. Some have found that inexpensive, quick-drying "shake stain" does very well on old or new wood and is long lasting.

Flowers & Planting: The Committee has come up with a wealth of information on plants, vines, shrubs and trees that do well in our watery environment. Too many to list here so Sunset Magazine's "Gardening in Containers" (\$1.75) is recommended to all houseboat gardeners. The weight problem can be solved and your "crop" improved through the use of the light-weight, artificial soil sold under the "Blue Whale" label. The L. N. Roberson Co., 1539 N.E. 103rd Street (LA 3-1189) has water hyacinths, water iris and water lilies. As to planters or boxes the Committee says "anything put together and/or painted (even coffee cans) look fine when filled with flowers."

Litter & Rubbish: It is recommended that the Association spearhead a "Don't Litter the Lake" drive and invite the participation of all other "residents" including commercial and governmental installations as well as commercial and pleasure boat operators. All of us contribute to the floating debris which is always unsightly and often dangerous. In this we will have the cooperation of the Harbor Police and the City Engineering Department, which operates "Pelican Pete," the drift and debris boat. We need the cooperation of the various moorages in booming or tying up logs, old floats, etc. We will then arrange for a pick-up or tow,

(more)

The Association is also ready to start the operation of a small float for litter and other rubbish too large for the garbage collection service. This service (no charge) will be available week ends only. Those interested should call George Johnston (EA 4-9148 evenings) or the Association. We want to again remind everyone that throwing anything into the water (whether it sinks or not) is a violation of both a City Ordinance and a State Law.

Moorage Co-Operation: The Committee also believes there could be more co-operation between tenants and moorage owners in beautifying their surroundings. At one moorage (on leased property) the houseboats were assessed \$5.00 each for badly needed improvements. Tenants did the work and the money was spent for materials. Suggestions and/or information on co-operative efforts will be welcome.

OFFICERS WERE ELECTED AND A PROGRAM FOR 1964 ADOPTED. The second annual business meeting February 28 saw new officers elected and a Four-Point "Program for 1964" unanimously adopted. Esther Carhart was elected president to succeed George Neale (Mr. Houseboat) who was named President Emeritus, given a standing ovation and a parchment certificate in recognition of his long and valuable services. James Bain was re-elected vice-president; Clara Kennedy, secretary, and Jo Windus, treasurer.

Miss Carhart is a Seattle Public School teacher and has had an unusual career as an educator. At the outbreak of World War II she was on the faculty of a Girls' High School in Bulgaria. When U.S. citizens were evacuated she felt she should remain. She did and was in that war-torn country (keeping the school functioning) during both the Nazi and Red Army occupations. Later she taught in Turkey. She has been active in founding the Association. Her beautiful floating home was among those evicted from the Stabbert moorage two years ago. During the severe April, 1962, storm it was blown away from temporary moorings and completely destroyed. She promptly bought another one. Mr. Bain is with Dun & Bradstreet Inc.; Mrs. Kennedy is a Public Health Nurse with the Seattle-King County Health Department; and Mrs. Windus is on the staff of People's National Bank. In brief the "Program for 1964" follows:

1. AMEND THE GARBAGE ORDINANCE: It now appears our proposal to give houseboat moorages the same fees and services as apartments, motels, etc. will be taken up by the City Council early in June.
2. SUPPORT THE LAKE UNION RE-ZONING PLAN: The Planning Commission's "Lake Union Study" which will open up large areas where houseboat moorages will be "legal" will have a public hearing before the City Council at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 22.
3. A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO THE POLLUTION PROBLEM: We believe that the elimination of toilet sewage from all sources is the main health problem and have proposals to accomplish this.
4. A COMPREHENSIVE HOUSEBOAT ORDINANCE IS NEEDED. We believe houseboats should have a "legal status" as a particular kind of dwelling.

NOTE: This Four-Point Program has been published in far greater detail and has been distributed to all members. Extra copies are available at no cost.

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AN ECONOMY TIP: You can save your Association money for postage and a lot of work by checking the expiration date on your membership card and sending in your dues before we have to bill you.

FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION INC.
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