



FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NEWS LETTER

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CAN THE RAW SEWAGE PROBLEM BE SOLVED WITHOUT CONNECTING HOUSEBOATS TO SEWERS?

This most important question will be the theme of a public meeting, under the auspices of our Association, to be held in the MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY AUDITORIUM (Fifth Ave. entrance) at 7:45 p.m. THURSDAY, JANUARY 30th. The meeting is open to all interested persons.

In attendance will be Mr. Eugene W. Simon, vice-president of LaMere Industries of Walworth, Wisconsin, whose research laboratories have developed the "Destroilet" which is said to provide "automatic, completely sanitary toilet facilities where toilets had been impractical or impossible." Mr Simon will relate what is being done in other states to meet this problem and will answer questions. Brochures will be available giving full information about the advanced technological principles used in developing what the company says is "the complete automatic toilet. No water, no chemicals, no plumbing, no sewage, no bag. The modern human waste disposal unit...self contained, compact, odorless."

We are arranging for Mr. Simon to meet with City and County Public Health and Pollution authorities and representatives of other governmental units concerned with this problem. The Association has also arranged for the installation of a residential model "Destroilet" in its new offices for demonstration purposes. We urge all owners and occupants of floating homes, all owners and operators of houseboat moorages (whether they are members or not) to attend this important meeting. Special invitations have been sent to representatives of the boating and mobile home and trailer industries.

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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS FEBRUARY 28: Official notice of this meeting, including proposed amendments to the by-laws, will come in the February NEWS LETTER but please mark this date. The meeting will be held in the Queen Anne Field House, First West, and West Howe Sts. This will be the first of a series of three membership meetings to consider matters (sewage, zoning, garbage collection, etc.) which make 1964 truly a "Year of Decision" for floating homes. Other meetings are scheduled for April and June. Dates to be announced.

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POST-INTELLIGENCER TO PUBLISH ILLUSTRATED HOUSEBOAT FEATURE: What promises to be the most definitive and sympathetic story of the past, present and possible future of Seattle's old and colorful houseboat colony will be published in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer's Sunday Pictorial Magazine either late in February or early in March. As this issue of the NEWS LETTER goes to press, Editor Bruce Penny says the exact date has not been scheduled but it might be as early as Sunday, Feb. 16th. Written by P-I Reporter Jim Halpin the article is four pages in length and is illustrated with a dozen photographs.

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OUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DREW FAVORABLE COMMENT: The Association has received many a kind word about the beauty of our Christmas decorations of houseboats and moorages. Stories appeared in the Seattle Times and Post-Intelligencer and KING-TV showed a film clip on its Dec. 19th night news program. Mark Freeman provided the boat for the TV cameraman. We have obtained a print of the KING-TV film and it will be shown at the Feb. 28th meeting along with some slides of still photos of some of the decorated houseboats and piers. Our Association wants to express its thanks to all who co-operated and especially to the Christmas Ship Committee of the Seattle Park Board, the officers and men of the Naval Reserve Training Station and the Coast & Geodetic Survey Base. Many members are so enthusiastic that they are already making plans for next Christmas. These

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include cruises for families of members (and guests, we hope) so that others can see how beautiful Lake Union and Portage Bay can be when dressed up in holiday garb. Among the offers is the use of one of the area's largest charter yachts (capacity 50 persons).

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NEW FLOATING HOME MOORAGE COMING ON PORTAGE BAY: The newest and what promises to be one of the finest floating home moorages is being constructed by Mrs. Jean Kennell of 2828 Boyer Ave. East. Because of a technicality in respect to access, Mrs. Kennell had to seek a variance before the Board of Adjustment. Some property owners in the neighborhood protested. After a rather lively hearing the Board by a 3-2 vote granted Mrs. Kennell permission for eight houseboats rather than the ten she had requested. Both the protesting property owners and Mrs. Kennell appealed to the Public Safety Committee of the City Council. Following a hearing Jan. 15, the Committee made a field trip to inspect the property and then granted Mrs. Kennell a variance for the 10 units. The Association assisted Mrs. Kennell at the hearings.

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INSURANCE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP: Because we have not yet resolved the problem of fire insurance, on an equitable basis, for floating homes, Chairman Kenneth Kennedy of our Insurance Committee, is asking the cooperation of all members. The Committee needs this information from all who have fire insurance: (1) the name of the company (2) name of the agent handling the policy. Bring the information to the Jan. 30th meeting or give it to Mr. Kennedy, ME 3-4883 or to the Association.

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THE "OPEN HOUSE" FOR OUR NEW OFFICE WAS BIG SUCCESS: Some 150 members and well wishers attended the opening of our new office at 2329 Fairview E. on Dec. 7th. Guests included two members of the City Council, Mrs. Harlan Edwards and Wing Luke. Other Council members sent regrets including Charles Carroll, Clarence Massart and J. D. Braman. We will be listed in the new Telephone Directory, EA 5-1132, "If no answer", EA 9-1517.

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PROMPT RETURN OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX FORMS REQUESTED: The Association has cooperated with the Assessor's office in the preparation of the forms which have been mailed to all owners of floating homes. The information will be used in the determination of assessed values on a uniform and equitable basis. Starting this year, we will also have a permanent numbering system which has long been needed. These forms should be returned promptly. If you have any questions contact Mr. Thomas Walker, personal property division, MA 2-5900, or the Association.

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MOORAGES CAN ELIMINATE GARBAGE CANS NOW: The Association has prepared a special Memo giving full details of how moorages can rent attractive and convenient containers and thus eliminate the unsightly garbage cans which clutter up so many of our "front yards". Copies of this Memo are to be had for the asking.

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