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FLOATING HOMES
ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Newsletter

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CITY COUNCIL GRANTS ASSOCIATION'S GARBAGE FEE REQUEST. A request that houseboat moorages be granted the same rate and services as other multiple (more than four units) housing facilities was granted by the Seattle City Council June 14 following a public hearing on an Ordinance increasing garbage collection rates. The request was first made in March, 1963, and had been approved by both the Garbage Utility and the Council's Public Safety Committee.

Although the new rate schedule, which may go into effect August 1, increases the collection fees in all classifications, the Association's amendment means that moorages of more than four units will be eligible for better service at no increase in the \$1.25 monthly rate each unit is now paying. Only houseboats at moorages of fewer than five units will be subjected to the new \$2.00 monthly rate for single family dwellings. Houseboat moorages of more than four units will now have their choice of two collection services. They are:

1. Continue the use of garbage cans with three times a week pickup at \$1.25 monthly for each unit. This service is available only if the moorage owner or manager has a single billing for all the houseboats. On individual billing the rate will go to \$2.00 per month per unit for once a week service. The Association recommends this service to the smaller moorages of between five and eight units where the garbage cans are not unsightly and do not create a problem.
2. Eliminate all garbage cans by going off the Garbage Utility rolls and contracting directly with the NATIONAL DISPOSAL COMPANY for its container service. These attractive containers (one cubic yard capacity) are the equivalent of between eight and ten cans. The charge will be \$8.60 per month (yearly average) per container for once a week service and double that amount, or \$17.20, for twice a week pickup. Experience with these containers indicates that a moorage of from 10 to 15 units can have excellent service with one container and twice a week pickup. It should be noted that nothing more than four feet in length should be placed in the containers. Otherwise anything goes. The Association recommends the container service for the larger moorages where the cluster of cans is unsightly, unsanitary, and inefficient.

The Association has copies of the forms which must be filled out for either of these services and will furnish them on request. Adoption by the City Council of the Association's proposal means that some 99% of our members will save 75 cents a month on garbage collection fees and get better service. This comes to \$9.00 a year which is just about what members pay in individual household dues. ~~The small minority of houseboat owners who have not yet joined the Association are taking a free ride.~~ We urge them to join.

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NOW LET'S DO OUR PART IN A "DON'T LITTER THE LAKE" CAMPAIGN: With more adequate garbage and refuse service just around the corner, the Executive Committee is asking the cooperation of all members in making effective a "Don't Litter the Lake" campaign. We know floating homes contribute only a small amount of the debris dumped into these waters. Nevertheless we live on the lake, it is our neighborhood and we have a special responsibility for treating it with respect. We will seek the assistance of other residents and visitors through the Lake Union Association and the various yacht and boat clubs. A lot could be done here. There are, of course, federal, state and city laws prohibiting the throwing of anything into these waters. However we believe that education and persuasion, rather than jail sentences and fines, will be more effective in achieving the needed results. The Executive Committee believes that a start can be made when each and every one of us sets a good example. We make this plea to one and all - don't throw anything into the lake, and we mean anything.

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COLOR PRINTS OF "WAWONA" UNDER SAIL ARE NOW AVAILABLE. "Save Our Ships" announces that color prints of Robert Vandesforde's watercolor of the WAWONA under sail are now available. Copies suitable for framing (18x24 inch) will be sent to those making a \$2.00 contribution towards the restoration of this historic ship. Send contributions to "S.O.S.", 1335 North Northlake Way, Seattle 98103. Robert Vandesforde is the brother of James Vandesforde (also an artist) who with his wife Norma owns and operates a houseboat moorage at 2035-37 Fairview Avenue East. The WAWONA will remain at its Lake Union berth during the summer. If sufficient funds are raised, it is hoped that the WAWONA will be open to the public as a marine museum sometime next year.

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MAIL-BOX LETTERING CONTINUES TO BUG OUR POSTAL CARRIERS. We regret to report that the lettering (or rather the lack of it) on many of our mail-boxes leaves much to be desired. By daily diligence the regular carrier eventually deciphers some of the scrawls and hieroglyphics and can often deal with an unmarked box by remembering who lives where. This wastes a lot of time. But when a substitute carrier takes over he usually "flips" and back to the office goes great gobs of "undeliverable" mail. This makes everybody unhappy. There is a simple and pleasing solution. All that is needed is to letter the names and moorage number or letter on the inside and outside of the mail-box lid. Large lettering along the sides of boxes is for rural routes and is unnecessary where the carrier is afoot. The Improvement and Beautification Committee suggests that with this lettering you can paint the box and this will improve the looks of our moorages. So we suggest you take a look at the lettering on your mail-box. The mail you will get promptly will be your own.

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NEWS NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE. An enlarged meeting of our Board of Directors at the Montlake Field House June 9th was attended by 20 moorage owners. It was unanimously voted to support a pilot project for a sewage collection system... The Executive Committee voted a \$25 contribution to continue the air search for Councilman Wing Luke and his companions missing since May 16... We have members living (temporarily they hope) in Florida, New York, California, Alabama, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and in France and Israel. All report they are anxious to return to Seattle and the good life aboard a floating home... Shorn of her towering masts in 1960, the LA MERCED has been moved from her St. Vincent de Paul berth where she had become a landmark. Her fate is uncertain... The Lake Union Association's beautification campaign will pay a lot of attention to Westlake Avenue North... The Washington Natural Gas Company's house organ "The Pilot Light" has a lively feature on the historic 1854 July Fourth picnic at which Lake Union received its name. The site was at 8th Avenue and Mercer Street, which gives you an idea how much the lake has "shrunk" since pioneer days... Since the first of the year the Association has had more than 200 rental requests which it has not been able to fill. Also there are the requests from tourists for short-term rentals. Our community could use a floating motel... Returns are coming in from our "Insurance Survey." Every member should have received a letter and the questionnaire. If you have not, contact the office. We badly need the requested information if we are to get the kind of coverage we need at fair rates... An article on Seattle's houseboat colony is now scheduled for the July issue of Seattle Magazine. Will be on the news-stands late this month... The Association has some very attractive "For Sale" listings in a price range from \$800 (a miniature floating home) to \$7,500. A phone call will get you full details.

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