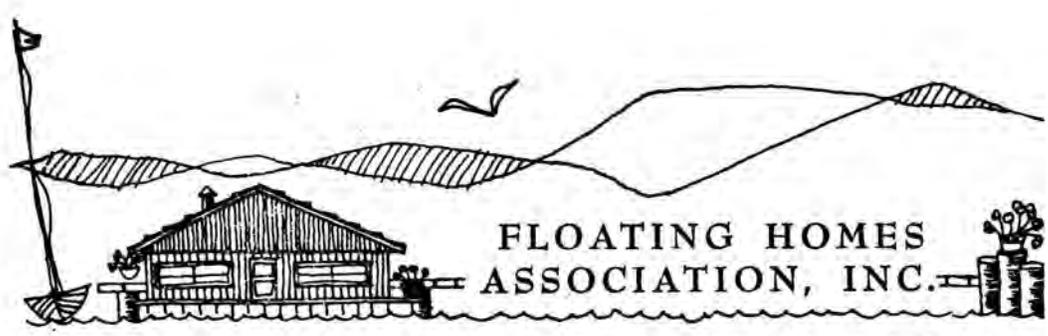


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2329 Fairview East Seattle, Washington 98102 Phones: EA 5-1132 or EA 9-1517

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Newsletter

October 12, 1965

LOW WATER IS THE PRICE WE PAY FOR A LONG, SUNNY SUMMER: Not a few members have commented on the unusually low water level which has prevailed for quite a spell and have asked how come? The Corps of Army Engineers, who operate the Ballard locks (with apologies to General Chittenden) and who can (to a degree) control the water level of Lakes Union and Washington, have a one sentence answer to that question: "It's the price we pay for a long, sunny summer." Make you feel any better?

Because more water has been going out than has been coming in, the level is now some four inches below the controlled low, but a wee bit higher than the record low of 1958. And it will stay that way until the rains get down to serious business. While Metro and agricultural irrigation (no fooling) are using more and more of the lake water, evaporation is the No. 1 culprit. During a sunny month (and we are having some of that kind of weather into October) evaporation alone will lower the lake level by some nine inches. That's a lot of water to be going up instead of coming down. One of the by-products of low water is the announcement by the Lake Union Association that it will postpone its ambitious "clean-up" campaign until a lot of grounded debris is once again afloat.

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MANY UNACQUAINTED WITH CITY LIGHT'S LOW RATES & SERVICES: Many newcomers to our city (and not a few old-timers) are not familiar with the low electric rates and the many useful services provided by our municipally owned City Light (established by a vote of the people way back in 1902). Most floating homes qualify for the "All Electric" rate. This applies to any single-family residence on a single meter where electricity is the sole means of cooking and water heating. To be eligible, the customer must have an electric kitchen range and an approved type of insulated automatic hot water tank of at least 40-gallon capacity. If you are now getting this low rate, the number "22" will appear on your bill. This gives you 525 kilowatt-hours of electricity for a monthly minimum charge of \$5.00 a month and additional hours at low rates. City Light goes to a lot of trouble to inform customers of other services. A recent brochure says: "Just a call to MU 2-3000 will bring you a variety of services, recipes and other home-making helps, advisory service on electrical needs, 'round-the-clock emergency light trouble service, and electric range and water heater service, generally at no charge except for parts." Might pay you to check up and see if you are getting all the benefits City Light has to offer. It will also be a good idea to check and see if your houseboat is properly grounded. If you have any questions about this safety precaution, contact the Association.

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COMMITTEE WILL EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF ATTRACTIVE MOORAGES: Some practical suggestions for the improvement of the appearance of houseboat moorages (particularly entrances) is high on the agenda of the Improvement & Beautification Committee, it is announced by R. J. "Rondy" Dike, chairman. Improvement of moorages was one of the points in a beautification program drawn up by Clayton Young, architect and planner, for the Lake Union Association. (See Newsletter No. 15, July 21, 1965.) Mr. Dike said that the Committee is compiling a list of those moorages which deserve commendation for various attractive features. These will be listed in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER. The Committee points out that the elimination of unsightly features requires the cooperative efforts of the individual houseboat owners and the moorage operator. Members of the Committee are: Bill McKivor, Kaye Eyre, Mrs. Gladys Mattson, Merry Stoppleman, William Domarotsky and Mrs. Gladys Reid. Anyone having suggestions or who wishes to serve should contact Mr. Dike (evenings) at EA 2-9082.

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REPORTS OF THEFTS FROM HOUSEBOATS & MOORAGES ON UPSWING: An upsurge in theft reports (most are petty and all are annoying) resulted in a discussion of the problem by the Executive Committee. The thefts follow no particular pattern and losses range from outboard motors to potted plants and trees. While one section of Portage Bay seems to have been particularly hard hit, losses have been reported from all areas. The Executive Committee has these suggestions: (1) Pay particular attention to strangers loitering about (2) secure anything that can be secured (3) increase moorage lighting where necessary (4) turn outside lights on early and leave them on all night as the cost is minimal.

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RON DENISEN REMOVED FROM ASSOCIATION'S WORK REFERRAL LIST: The Executive Committee has voted to remove Ron Denisen from its approved list of individuals and firms from which referrals are made to members needing repairs and services. The NEWSLETTER for April 21, 1964 (No. 6) listed Mr. Denisen as a roofing specialist and subsequently he did general repairs. The action was taken as the result of complaints from three members that he had been paid in advance for work never done and/or materials never delivered. The Association will assist these members in seeking to adjust the complaints.

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE HOLDING HEARINGS ON SEWER ASSESSMENT PROTESTS: The City Council's Streets & Sewers Committee is conducting a series of hearings on the protests of 193 property owners who feel there is inequity in their proposed assessments for the Lake Union sewer. As far as can be determined, none of the property owners is objecting to the sewer as a needed improvement. The protests are on the basis of inequity for reasons such as (1) the City is not paying its just share of the cost (2) a small group of property owners is being asked to pay for an improvement that has community-wide benefits (3) the use, for the first time, of a square foot formula in computing the individual assessments and (4) that property which must pump to use the sewer should not be assessed on the same basis as property which can use gravity flow. In addition, the legality of the Local Improvement District, created by a vote of the City Council in June, 1963, is being challenged in a court action brought by the Corporation of the Catholic Archbishop of Seattle on behalf of its St. Vincent de Paul Salvage Bureau, 1001 Fairview Avenue North. The charitable organization's assessment is \$24,786.

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OUR HOUSEBOAT "COLONY" IS A FAIRLY STABLE COMMUNITY: Although the turn-over is typical of the high degree of mobility of present day society, organization reports indicate that houseboat residents, as a rule, stay put. This is particularly true of owners. Our records show that on an annual average only three out of ten houseboat families move. This means, of course, that voluntary organizations such as ours must constantly "run in order to stand still." For example, in 1964 73 members left the organization. During the same period, 99 new members joined. The office conducts a day-to-day organizational campaign directed at the small number of owners who are not members. This means we must keep the "non-member" list up-to-date. To do this, we need your help. When you get a new neighbor, phone or mail this information to the office. How about it?

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NEWS NOTES FROM HERE & THERE: Since 1955, when the monthly "sewer tax" was imposed by the City, and since 1962, when Metro came into being, houseboats have paid in more than \$110,000.00....Member asks if outside trash burners are against the law. They are....The City Planning Commission is now studying a new zoning classification for Lake Union known as a "Commercial Waterfront Amenity Area." Idea is to restrict property uses to "water oriented" installations....A project of the third year design class of the College of Architecture was to design an "imagined houseboat colony" in which the U. of W. could house visiting dignitaries....Postal carriers are still unhappy about markings on many mail boxes. They plead for name or names on the inside and outside of the mail box door. If this is done, delivery service will be greatly improved....Executive Committee now setting up the 1965 Christmas Cruise Committee. Tentative date for cruise is Tuesday, December 21st. Any volunteers?..The Air Rescue Committee has thanked our Association for the contribution to the fund to carry on the unsuccessful effort to locate the plane in which Councilman Wing Luke presumably lost his life along with two companions....Since August 15th, the Association has had more than 100 requests for houseboat rentals we were unable to fill.

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