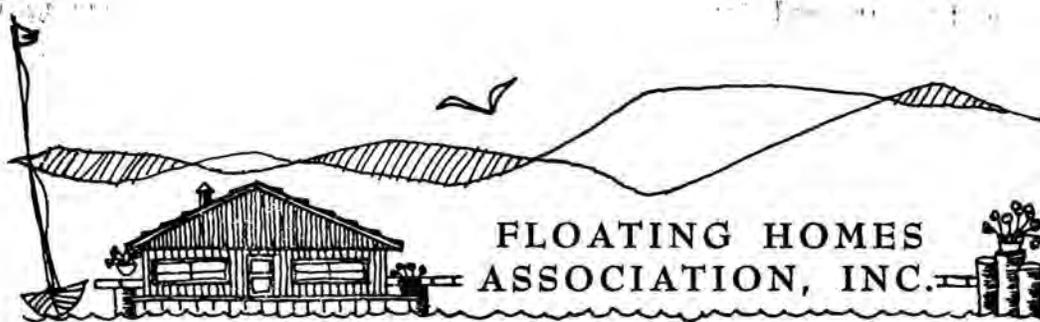


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2329 Fairview East

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Phones: EA 5-1132 or EA 9-1517

## FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION, INC.

Number 18

### Newsletter

February 8, 1966

HOUSEBOAT PLUMBING REQUIREMENTS BEING EXPLAINED AT MOORAGE MEETINGS: The first of the moorage meetings on houseboat plumbing (announced in the December NEWSLETTER) have been held and others are being scheduled. The purpose of these meetings is two-fold (1) to explain in detail the plumbing facilities the Seattle-King County Health Department will require of all floating homes for a future sewer hook-up and (2) to see that all moorages have a representative on the Board of Directors of the Association.

The Executive Committee emphasizes that these meetings are NOT for the purpose of discussing the sewage collection systems which will be required of houseboat moorages. Such systems will be "side-sewers" over which the Engineering Department will have jurisdiction. The standards and specifications for such systems have not yet been officially determined.

Association Vice President Kenneth Kennedy has been working with the Health Department since last summer on the particular problems of floating home plumbing. Recently the Health Department announced the assignment of Mr. Edward W. Dressel as the inspector who will have charge of floating homes. Mr. Dressel will attend as many of the moorage meetings as time will allow.

Initiative for the meetings should come from houseboat owners at the respective moorages. Here's how.

1. For an open date contact Administrative Secretary Terry Pettus, EA 9-1517 or EA 5-1132 (afternoons and evenings). The evening meetings can be set for Monday through Friday with the exception of the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month which are the regular meeting nights of the Executive Committee.
2. When date, time and place is confirmed, the office will furnish mimeographed meeting forms to be filled out with this information. The office will also help in notifying non-resident owners.

Moorage representatives will be playing key roles in this and other matters in the months to come. New members of the Board of Directors elected so far are: Robert Buchholtz, 2017 Fairview East; Gloria Welch, 3138 Portage Bay Place East, and Carey Young, 2339 Fairview East.

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HERE IS INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES: During the past two years there have been significant changes made in the method of arriving at the assessed valuation of houseboats upon which the personal property taxes are levied. These changes were made by the King County Assessor's office in consultation with our Association. Both are part of our program to have floating homes recognized by all governmental units as a particular kind of dwelling.

First all floating structures were assigned a permanent registration number which can end a considerable amount of the confusion which has plagued us in the past. (These plates should not be removed, painted over or otherwise defaced.) Secondly there is now a uniform formula for arriving at the assessed valuation of a floating home, which, unfortunately, is still not too well understood. More about this later.

By now most houseboat owners have received a short questionnaire from the Assessor's Office in the form of a return postal card. These should be filled out and returned promptly. Later this month tax billings will go out from the Treasurer's Office. These taxes are based on the 1965 assessed valuations. The taxes due can be paid in two installments, April and October.

The Assessor's Office is now mailing out a "Detail Sheet" (on blue paper) to all houseboat owners. This will show the assessed valuation upon which your next year's taxes will be based. These are the taxes you will be billed for in 1967. The assessed valuation will be shown at the bottom of the sheet. As these forms leave

much to be desired in explaining matters, perhaps an illustration will be helpful. Let us say the figure "800" is at the bottom of the sheet. This means that the assessed valuation of the particular houseboat is set at \$800.00. (Like dwellings ashore, assessed valuations are supposed to reflect about 20% of the market value.) To determine the amount of taxes to be assessed, multiply this by 6.5 per cent (the millage comes out to about this figure). In this instance the tax would be \$52.00.

It is important that owners check this assessed valuation to determine the amount of taxes they will be billed for next year. If there is an inequity, we have until July to adjust it. After July the assessment goes to the County Treasurer who has no alternative but to collect. Now for the formula used in arriving at the assessed valuation. This is determined by multiplying the amount of interior living space (NOT float size) by a figure arrived at by making a value judgment as to the structural condition of the floating home. For illustration purposes, let us use the houseboat with 800 square feet of interior living space. If it is listed as "poor", the 800 is multiplied by \$0.75 for an assessed valuation of \$600.00; if listed as "fair", multiply 800 by \$1.00 for an assessed valuation of \$800.00; if listed as "medium", multiply 800 by \$1.25 for an assessed valuation of \$1,000.00; and if listed as "good", multiply 800 by \$1.50 for an assessed valuation of \$1,200.00. Remember, the tax you pay is based on the assessed valuation of your houseboat.

When this "detail sheet" arrives, check your assessed valuation and if you have any question, contact either the Association or Mr. Thomas Walker, Personal Property Division, King County Assessor's Office, MA 2-5900, not later than 10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

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HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND CHRISTMAS CRUISE HIT A NEW HIGH IN 1965: The following paragraph from the Holiday Activity Committee's written report is a good thumbnail evaluation of our membership's response to what is undoubtedly our most important "public relations" effort. "The Committee in 1966 will be hard pressed to have a better cruise than we had in 1965. Enthusiasm, participation, organization and good weather all contributed to our success. The cruise inspired more decorating than in 1964 and we hope this enthusiasm continues to spread."

The Committee particularly wants to thank Captain Moss of the SIGHTSEER "who went out of his way to let us organize the cruise route" and to Roy and Virginia Meyers of the Riviera Restaurant for their "warm welcome." Including invited guests, a total of 194 persons were checked aboard for the exciting two-hour cruise. Ticket sales were \$353.00 and expenses \$277.79 for a surplus of \$75.21 which has been ear-marked for future activities.

An informal panel of judges was asked to cite exceptional decorative efforts. Moorages commended: 2035-37 Fairview (Wandesforde); 2331-39 Fairview (Dahl-Hendricksen); 2822 Boyer E. (Jean Kennell); 2818 Boyer E. (Brackett); and 933 N. Northlake Way (Lee's Moorings). Individual houseboats cited are: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, 3206 Portage Bay Place; Virginia Faulkner, 3220 Portage Bay Place; Mr. and Mrs. James Welch, 3138 Portage Bay Place; John Southern, 910 Valley; James F. Schleis and Esther C. Olson, both at 2319 Fairview East. Also to Kenneth and Clara Kennedy for the unusual floating Christmas tree at 2822 Boyer East and to Ed Kennell, 2818 Boyer East for the imaginative use of lights to form an anchor insignia. In the main these citations were made from observations on the cruise and it is possible that some well decorated houseboats are not included. The judges regret any such omissions.

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