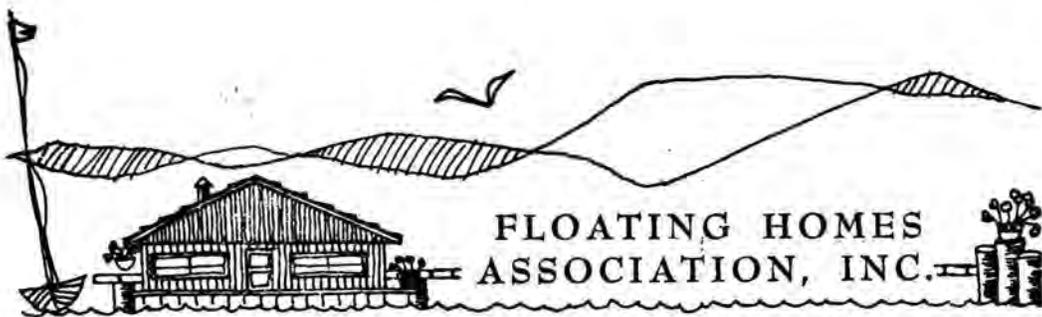


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Number 29

# Newsletter

FEBRUARY 1968

**OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED AT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MARCH 28:** The Sixth Annual Business Meeting of our Association will be held in the attractive Blue Flame Room of the Seattle Gas Co. Bldg., 815 Mercer St., at 7:45 p.m. Thursday, March 28, 1968. A preliminary report of the Nominating Committee was given by Chairman George Johnston at the combined meeting of the Executive Committee and Moorage Representatives held in the Montlake Recreational Center Feb. 8. Those nominated to date are: President, Robert Brown, 3206 Portage Bay Pl. E.; Vice President, Mark Freeman, 2764 Westlake N.; Secretary, Clara Kennedy, 2822 Boyer E.; Trustee (unfinished term) Richard Wagner, 2770 Westlake N.; Trustee (5-year term) Kenneth Kennedy, retiring President, 2822 Boyer E.; Executive Committee At Large: Mrs. Merla Jones, 2207 Fairview E.; George Johnston, 2637 Boylston E.; and John Southern, 2207 Fairview E. Nominations will also be open at the meeting. In mid-March all members will receive by mail the official notice along with copies of the Financial, By-Laws and Nominating Committee reports. Mark the date March 28 and plan to attend.

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**FLOATING HOME FIRE LOSSES HIT NEW LOW IN 1967:** There were only five floating home fires in 1967 according to the annual report issued by Gordon F. Vickery, Chief of the Seattle Fire Department. This is the third annual report since the Fire Department, at the request of our Association, began segregating houseboat fires from those of other residences. There were eight fire calls in 1965 and seven in 1966 for a total of 20 in the three year period. Only four of the five 1967 fires originated on moorages. One was minor damage to a houseboat at 2460 Westlake N. due to embers from the big Grandy Boat Co. fire last August 25. Following is a detailed breakdown for the three year period.

Cause	1965	1966	1967	Total
Smoking	3	3	None	6
Food on stove	1	1	None	2
Illegal burning (outside)	1	None	None	1
Defective electric heater	1	None	1	2
Defective wiring	None	1	None	1
Overheated oil heater	1	None	None	1
Sparks on roof	1	1	None	2
Improper smoke stack	None	1	2	3
Embers from another fire*	None	None	1	1
Sparks from outside barbecue	None	None	1	1

\*Grandy Boat Co. fire

During the three year period two of the 20 fires resulted in appreciable damage, one estimated at \$850.00 and the other estimated at \$1,175.00. Twelve of the fires ranged from no damage to less than \$100 and six with damages of more than \$100 but less than \$500. Fires by areas are: West Ewing (Ship Canal), 7; Westlake Ave. N., 6; Fairview E., 5; Northlake Way, 1; and the Portage Bay area, 1.

The Fire Department's official record over the three year period explodes many myths about houseboats being particularly susceptible to fire losses and reveals that there are no distinctive hazards due to the water environment or the concentration of floating homes at the various moorages. As with other dwellings, the principle fire hazard is human carelessness. Last year fire insurance rates on floating homes was reduced for the first time. Rate reductions ranged up to 26%.

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**VERA CAMERON SUCCEEDS JO WINDUS AS ASSOCIATION TREASURER:** The Executive Committee announces the election of Vera Cameron, 2822 Boyer E., as Treasurer of the Association to succeed Jo Windus, who has held that position for four years. Last fall Mrs. Windus notified the committee that she would be unable to continue after the first of the year. The Committee adopted a resolution thanking Mrs. Windus for the contribution she has made to the work of the Association.

ASSOCIATION WELCOMES HEARING ON PROPOSED SANITATION ORDINANCE: The Floating Homes Association is looking forward to participating in a public hearing before the City Council's Public Safety Committee on a proposed ordinance covering houseboat sanitation requirements. Such an ordinance has been requested by the Health Dept. but no hearing date has been set. In outlining the position of the Executive Committee at the Montlake Center meeting Feb. 8, President Kenneth Kennedy pointed out that the Association favors such legislation provided it is carefully worked out to establish lines of responsibility.

Mr. Kennedy said that present city regulations places responsibility for the plumbing on the individual houseboat owner and this work can only be done under a permit issued by the Health Dept. The sewerage collection systems and the connection to the city sewer at the moorages is the responsibility of the property owner and can be done only under a permit issued by the Engineering Dept.

He said the Executive Committee is concerned over persistent rumors that compliance with sanitary regulations is not urgent and can be dragged out indefinitely. He stressed the fact that this is NOT the case -- that most technical problems have been overcome and it is now a matter of finding contractors to get the installations in. The installation of collection systems at the moorages and the plumbing of floating homes must be a first order of business. The Association now has four plumbing contractors who will do houseboat work. For those who plan to do their own plumbing, the Association will sponsor a second round of moorage meetings to explain the requirements and to assist owners in taking out the required permit. If you are interested in such a meeting at your moorage (or in your immediate area), contact the Association.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOND ISSUE WILL REDUCE BUT NOT ELIMINATE LAKE UNION SEWER POLLUTION: The Forward Thrust sponsored \$70 million bond issue to separate storm and sanitary sewers will reduce but by no means eliminate this source of raw sewage pollution in the waters of Lake Union. The city has 12 such outfalls into Lake Union, Portage Bay and the Ship Canal ranging in size up to 42 inches in diameter.

While Forward Thrust sponsored the bond issue, the City Engineering Dept., under a \$20,000 emergency appropriation, selected the projects on which the money will be allocated. Because of the magnitude of this pollution problem, a system of priorities was necessary and our area was not high on the list. This allocation was done in Ordinance No. 96327, adopted by the City Council on Dec. 18th, 1967. The \$70 million was distributed among 16 projects with emphasis on Lake Union and salt water shorelands. Only three of the 12 outfalls in the Lake Union area will be eliminated: one on the Ship Canal, one on Portage Bay and one on the south end of the lake.

Our Association has joined with the Lake Union Association in expressing disappointment that all of the sewer outfalls will not be eliminated under this new program and that the city has yet to adopt a comprehensive plan to end all avoidable pollution in Lake Union. Both Associations have pointed out that there is \$1,828,000 in unallocated funds in the \$70 million package and is asking the city to assign this to Lake Union.

\* \* \* \* \*

WRITER SEES LAKE UNION AS "VITAL PART OF SEATTLE'S LIFE": Writing in the Seattle Times, Laurie Fish came up with a description of Lake Union we feel important enough to pass on just in case you missed it. Writing that the lake is a "vital part of Seattle's life", made this observation: "Endlessly changing, endlessly fascinating, this city lake has a shoreline that would take days to explore. For it is no tidy residential lake, barbered, manicured and landscaped, but a dynamic composite entity made up of thousands of persons who work, live and play on its shores and waters." There is every reason to believe that 1968 will (or should) see some discussion in depth as to the proper zoning for this unusual civic asset. Our Association believes that Mrs. Fish's description should be the starting point.

\* \* \* \* \*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE ASSOCIATION OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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