The ANTIQUE OUTBOARDER

The Pioneering Authority



April

1975

The Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. Is incorporated in the State of Texas as an Educational Institution.

The Club is devoted to people all over the world who are interested in the search for, restoration and preservation of old time outboard motors. Regular membership dues are \$9.00 per year. Other membership information is available on request from Jim Nixon, 4781 Fifth Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44505, U.S.A.

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THE ANTIQUE OUTBOARDER CONTENTS

July-1927



"Mention the Geographic-It identifies you."

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WHERE nature is undisturbed... where the ever-changing vista of the great Our-of-doors leads through mileafter mileof unsettled country and winding waterways.

Letters to the Editor Cover Photo Credits Yankee Chapter News Racers of the '50's 5th Connecticut Meet 1910 Ferro

Notes from the Curator

A Quiet Sunday Afternoon Johnson: 1925 Aquaflyer Motor

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Mini Outboard

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41



The Antique Outboarder

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A NOTE FROM MIKE KOLAT IN FLORIDA . . .

At this time I don't have any old motors here in Florida, although I have some 40 at my place in Wisconsin. I don't haul any down here; I am kept pretty busy here repairing outboards for the fishermen. I also do a lot of auto repair, so the old antiques have to wait until spring when I get back to Wisconsin.

Bob, did you fellows have a meet out your way this past summer? I didn't get to any this past year. I was quite busy at home, and I also help with the Kwahamot water ski shows. We had the State and Midwest Regional Championship skiers at Tomahawk. This coming August 20-24 we will host the National Championship of the American Water Ski Association, so looks like another busy summer. Hope we get some nice weather. Anyone is welcome to come and see some really fine water skiing. - So long, Mike Kolat

THOUGHTS ON ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP . . .

May a new member -- fresh as wet paint -- stick his neck out?

My October issue of AO came today. Jim Nixon's letter drives at a crucial point in any organization that is based upon family participation, as does AOMCI, in my opinion.

Naturally, I'm not familiar with the constitutional setup, but most likely it is subject to change by proper parliamentary procedure.

May I offer that the regular member fee (\$9.00 currently, as I recall) apply to an individual adult at a single address, and that only one copy of AO be mailed to such address for such single basic fee; and that any additional adult at that address be entitled to full membership in the organization for the additional fee of \$1.00 per person. Such additional adult would have full membership privileges (voting, eligibility to hold office, etc.) Beyond that, I would offer a junior, or associate, membership, or whatever term might be applied, at 50 cents each, applying to each non-adult requesting same at such same address. All such non-adults would have voice and full competitive privileges at meetings, meets, rallys, etc.

An example might be a family consisting of mother, father, and three children. At the \$9.00 base rate, the total family tariff would be \$11.50.

Whether the Association, in its wisdom, would set the cutoff point between child and adult at 18 or 21 or somewhere in between is always a debatable issue. My personal feelings are that an 18-year-old person doesn't feel "with it" if considered other than an adult. To those that might argue that the Association might be taken over by "kids," I offer, from experience with other organizations, that although there is the legal possibility of such occurring, there is scarcely the practical possibility thereof, for the simple reason that at 18, most of that generation are placing their emphasis in other directions for a few years, and aren't generally heard from in organizational quantity until they reach 30 years or more.

For whatever it's worth . . . - Sincerely, Herb Clopper

A WORD FROM BILL LOVELACE . . .

Dear Bob: Your form letter of December 15 about my Evinrude Handitwin was much appreciated. Your helpful note was too.

I am writing to each of the three parts sources you listed. Meanwhile, I shall have the magneto checked for strength. I think the magnets have lost some of their zip.

I hope I can stop and chat with you if I am again in Minneapolis. We (my wife and I) were through there several years ago to see Mr. Virgil Dahlstrom of the Viking Camper Supply. I buy a lot of stuff from him in my camper building activity.

You won't believe this, but when we drove into Minneapolis we wandered around some (never been there before) and stopped to ask directions to Dahlstrom's store. While talking to a man about this, I looked up and there was his sign. In all of Minneapolis, we had parked across the street from his place!

Come by Gibsland next time you get down this way. I will cook you up a mess of catfish and turnip greens. There is nothing better, despite claims for 'possum and sweet yams. - Sincerely, William Lovelace

A REFERENCE LIBRARY SUGGESTION . . .

Dear Bob: Along with all the back issues of the "Outboarder," I have been trying to find a copy of Jim Webb's book. Through the use of the letter below, I received two from Evinrude.

I just thought that some of the other new members might not even be aware that the book exists, and a note in the "Outboarder" might help them get one (or two) also. I personally consider the book (and the "Outboarder") priceless. - Sincerely, Walt Verner

Dear Mr. Verner:

If you want one copy of my book "The Pictorial History of Outboard Motors," just make out a check for \$5.00 and mail it to Jim Jost, Public Relations Manager, Evinrude Motors, 4143 North 27 Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216 with the request for one book. If you want two books, make it \$10.00 and send along to Jim. The Evinrude PR department has all of the books that are left. The book is now out of print.

Thanks for the kind words about my literary efforts. I have a lot of fun digging up material and writing the stuff.

Back in the '20's, '30's, and until 1950 I used to call in New Orleans at least once a year. I used to see John Donovan of the Alker-Donovan Company, and after John ceased to be our distributor, I called on Andy and Frank Higgins. Great people, all of them. Arnaud's used to be my favorite place to eat. I think that I was last in New Orleans in 1962, the year before I retired. It has always been a favorite city.

Cordially yours,

MORE PUBLICITY FOR ANTIQUE LOVERS . . .

Dear Bob, Before, during, and for some time after the AOMCI Meet at Collingswood, I was not in the best of health, and my wife Mary took over the job of advising you and Ron Ellis of the success of the Meet.

We had a good spread in the September APBA "Propeller" as per the enclosed quote:

"Late 'waker-uppers' Sunday morning were aroused by the funniest exhaust noises ever heard. Mort Daller and his wife, Mary, had coordinated an antique outboard motor and boat show with 'perculators' like 1913 Racine and Caille motors, 1914 Ferro, and big 4-60s, that covered four decades of outboard motors. They putted and popped in grand style for an hour or two while the spectators and racers alike ogled and scratched their heads.

"Just before noon the old-time racing machines took to the water and the Johnson PRs and the roaring 4-60s brought the kids tumbling over the banks to see what could be going on. Later Time-Life Books, Inc. had a photographer come in to shoot pictures of this almost forgotten part of marine history now preserved by the Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. based in Texas. This exhibit was a real treat and represented lots of time and effort by the Dallers."

Our regular Delaware Valley Outboard Racing Association Meeting is coming up on October 8 and I will try to get a tentative schedule for an AOMCI Meet next year. Interest in the antiques far exceeded our anticipations — our TV coverage on Channels 10 and 3 of the Philadelphia stations was double that of the National Championship Marathon Stockers.

I was approached by the Eastern Marine Drivers Club (APBA) who put on the three-day stock races at Lock Haven, Pennsylvania on the Labor Day weekend and who wanted the antiquers to put on a display. However, no provision was made or any time available for running the antiques. The several AOMCI members whom I contacted were not interested unless they could run their motors, so this hastily dreamed up Meet never got off the ground.

However, I journeyed up to Lock Haven and ran my 1929 "BULLET" boat and my restored 1929 SR-45 on a demonstration circuit of the course just before the Saturday races. The local Jaycees, who sponsored the race, were very interested and intend to include an Antique Meet next year. I am supposed to receive word of details following their next Jaycee meeting. Lock Haven goes all out on Labor Day: street carnival, baby parade, big street parade, band concerts, and three days of boat racing with all classes each day. They put my outfit on a low bed trailer in the parade and I received a \$15 check as an award.

Lock Haven is easily reached from East and West as it is only 10 miles from Interstate 80. There are plenty of motels and an area was reserved for campers at the National Guard reservation. The only hitch is that the river bank is steep, but one of the requirements I gave the Jaycees is that they get permission for the AOMCI members to use the YMCA launching ramp, which is only a few hundred feet above the small public park (which I also staked out for the antiquers).

At the Collingswood Meet I signed up a new member, Byron Shannon, who is an old-time alky racer in class "C" and "F." Bytie brought his 4-60 out of retirement and added greatly to the noise. - Mort Daller

GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU, MIKE . . .

Dear, Mr. Brautigam.

I would like to know if you have Some Johnson PO-15 spark plag covers.

And I would like to know where I could find a 1939 Evinrude Ranger,

I am eleven years old and I belong to your clob. I love old outboard motors, Say, do you know

Gary Smith? Nice Gyy isn't He?

He said He might give ime an old

Elto Ruddertwin.

I have about ten motors,

But No Eltos or Cailles etc... Etc..

But I do have a 1946 Evinrude Speeditwin,

a Johnson At-34 and PO-15 '41 zeohyr

A Lausen Chave no Idea what year it is)

and others
I would like to collect a whole bunch.

Nice writing to you!

Sincerely

Mike Hanson

Mike Hanson

AOMCI member

P.S. I'll write to you again.

A NICE LETTER FROM LARRY . . .

My father as a young man had a knack of coaxing the then 1-cylinder, 25-cubic inch engines into functioning (year 1906). He stayed in the motor boat sales area until he became interested with his friend P. A. Tanner, who joined with the Johnson Bros. in South Bend, Indiana. Anyway, it was P. A. Tanner who persuaded W. L. Masters of Chicago, Illinois to sell those new light-weight 38-pound 2-cylinder water-cooled outboards called at that time the Water Bug. Among my collection of aged iron I have the first one of those units sold via dealer sale, Serial No. 507. I also have in my collection 1,000,507, a 9.7 HP my father was awarded in the year 1951, when Johnson produced its one millionth motor.

I have some 35 various makes and models. One day I hope to inventory all and offer them for sale.

The enclosed photo shows what was probably my first boat. (Editor's note: see photo on back cover of this issue). A 16-foot Evinrude cedar planked, oak ribbed, brass fastened round-bottom, it was very easy rowing. Remember in 1920 all boats usually had flat bottoms, and were pretty stiff to row.

Re your article on Caille motors in 1930, I used to race all the models, mainly Class B, 20 cubic inch, and C, 30 cubic inch, in the days when 7000 RPM was tops.

If I could help by corresponding or if someone needed any data on old Johnsons or Cailles, I would be glad to help out. I don't have any parts, but I have an Elto coil. New high-tension leads out the ends, and the dual wires come out and go up to the timer box. I also have a few gas tanks - PO, P-40, K-40, and some other old ones - at \$8.00 each. I'll dig up some old pictures if I can find them intact. I also have a boat shop for sale: phone me at 616, 882-5596. Had a stroke in '71 so that's like both rods letting go at once. - Regards, Larry Masters, Beulah, Michigan 49617 - a string jerker for 35 years

COVER PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover: The photo was taken during the 1972 Eastern Championships. The class is FRR runabout, requiring two men in the boat. I ran my Big Four as a joke and also to needle the others who were running in this class. My deck rider then was Dave Owen, who is now in college. Of all the races I have competed in, this one gave me the most fun, as we ended up taking third place after watching Mercurys, and even a Konig, die out trying to finish the race. Of course they were a lot faster than we were, but we did have the last laugh. This motor now belongs to Sam Vance and is known as the 462 he mentioned in the January, 1974 issue, page 5.

- John Enright (photo by Donald P. Bindrim)

Back Cover: Larry Masters' first boat (see above letter from Larry.)

Ad, page 1: Submitted by Hank Techentin, from 1927 National Geographic, Vol. LII, No. 1.

THE Yankee Chapter NEWS

The oldest continuous event in the Club is the Connecticut Indoor Meet, and 1974 marked the seventh annual get-together. The turnout was the best ever, with 20 members and prospective members attending.

As this Club is an Educational Organization, the Meet featured a seminar on the materials and procedures of buffing by Bill Andrulitus. Bill is one of the top restorers in the Club, and he shared his secrets. In addition, I gave a seminar on removing stuck pistons from cylinders using grease pressure. I showed how this is done and how the parts are not damaged using the method. Finally, a film was shown, "A Report To Ole," which everyone enjoyed and found most interesting.

There was plenty of time for horse trading of parts and motors, and quite a bit of time was spent going from trunk to trunk. Lots of members picked up some really good motors and parts.

We had an auction and raised some money for the Yankee Chapter. The articles sold at the auction were donated by AOMCI members. The donations are as follows: Dick Fuchs donated a Model LS-38 Johnson and 3 safety chains; Phil Kranz donated an Evinrude poster, two new exhaust tubes for small Evinrude singles, and seven pieces of new miscellaneous literature; Dick Shaber and Bill Andrulitus donated a 1946 Evinrude Lightfour; Brad Snow donated a 1947 Evinrude Sportwin; Perry Stanley donated four props; Bob Zipps donated a new Mark 20 starter housing. We have Tom Luce to thank for being the auctioneer; at this job he's the greatest, there is no question about it.

Those who attended the Indoor Meet are:

Bill Andrulitus, West Hartford, Connecticut
Roger Breunig, Meriden, Connecticut
R. A. Chipley, Simsbury, Connecticut
Carl Earn, West Hartford, Connecticut
Dick Fuchs, Simsbury, Connecticut
Hal Hague, Worcester, Massachusetts
Bill Hodges, Cohoes, New York
Phil Kranz, Slingerlands, New York
Charles Loshe, Essington, Pennsylvania
Ray Lucas, Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
Charles O. Loshe, Essington, Pennsylvania

Tom Luce, Westfield, New Jersey
Norman Mullings, Granby, Connecticut
Len Norman, Auburn, Massachusetts
Bill Pohlman, Bristol, Connecticut
Dick Shaver, Newington, Connecticut
Brad Snow, Middletown, Connecticut
Perry Stanley, Wallingford, Connecticut
Mark Wright, Little Silver, New Jersey
Bob Zipps, East Hartford, Connecticut
Russel Zurinsky, Essington, Pennsylvania



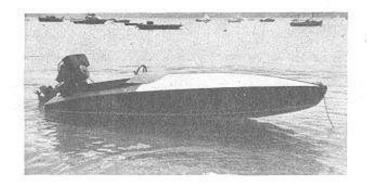
Racers of the '50's

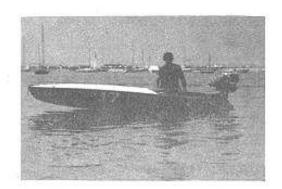
by John J. Enright, Jr.

The "BYE NOW," shown above, was a very famous Class F and E Modified runabout on the Eastern Coast during the 40's and 50's. It is presently powered by my modified Big Four and does close to 53 mph. The boat ran in the 1951 Albany to New York race and was just about unbeatable. The above photo shows "BYE NOW" running in a race off Long Island in the late 1940's in Class F runabout, powered by a hot "E" modified motor, better known to us as a Speedifour. Note the missing helmet on the deck rider; he probably lost it overboard, as Long Island is noted for its rough waters -- which, by the way, have produced some of the best drivers of all time.

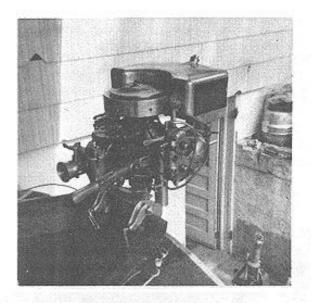
The boat with number 17 on it is a 13 1/2-foot C Class runabout built in the late 1940's and raced until the early 60's. I push it with one of my V-65's; the motor is stock except for the racing exhaust system and lower unit.

Both boats were built by Herb Voss of Long Island,

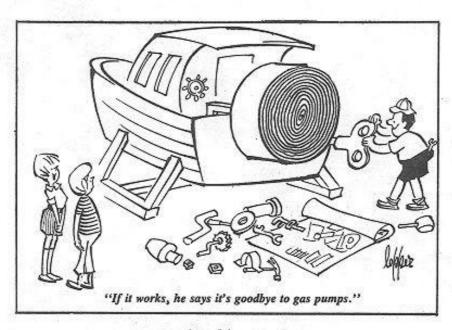








The lady in the above left photo is my loyal and devoted wife, who has been putting up with my nonsense for a long time (secretly she loves it).



contributed by Jim Nixon

5 TH CONNECTICUT MEET BY BOB ZIPPS

The Fifth Annual Connecticut Regatta was held September 7, 1974, on the Connecticut River at East Hartford.

When I showed up at the launching ramp that morning, it was raining cats and dogs. My wife Trish and I stood under a tree for over three hours without any let-up in the weather. Many members joined us under that tree sipping coffee and cocoa trying to keep warm. I had given up on the weather and decided to change to an indoor meet at my home, which was a few miles away. I made a big sign to tell late arrivals of the change to my home. I dragged a trash barrel and put it in the center on the ramp so no one would miss it, and it still poured -- and I mean poured. By that time there were quite a few members there.

Someone Upstairs must have been watching over me, because at 11:30 the rain suddenly stopped, although it looked like it was going to start at any second. I called a drivers meeting and called for a vote as to whether to stay for the outdoor meet or go over to my home for the indoor meet. Since this was going to be the last meet of the year, the vote was unanimous to stay and hold the outdoor meet. Well, I still can't believe it, but by 1:00 the sun was out. If someone had told me at 11:00 that the sun would be out by 1:00, I would have told them they were crazy.



L to R: Len Norman, John Buonocore, Tom O'Rourke's son, and Tom O'Rourke. Motor is a P-50 Johnson.





L to R: Head Judge Peter Hunn, Sam "Elto" Vance, Roger Breunig. Motor is a 1953 Mercury Mark 20.

We had a decent turnout, but nothing compared to what it would have been if the weather had been good. Sam Vance came with some beautiful motors, a 1933 Elto 460 Racer, a 1923 Elto Quad "Experimental," and what Sam is famous for, two 1928 Elto Quads on one boat -- and what a sight that is!



Here's one of the greatest groups of people in the world antique outboarders

Bob Grubb brought an absolutely beautiful 1920 Amphion twin. One of the rarest motors at the meet was Phil Kranz's 3-cylinder Thor Pyramid "3".

The meet in Connecticut gives awards based strictly on restoration. This year the number of classes has been expanded to six. The results of the competition are: Big Iron Class: 1st) Sam Vance with a 1933 Elto 460, 2nd) Bill Andrulitus with a 1929 Caille; Little Kicker Class: 1st) Phil Kranz with a 1939 Thor Pyramid 3, 2nd) Chip Morris with a 1938 Evinrude Pal; Semi-Shrouded Class: 1st) John Buonocore with a 1936 Waterwitch, 2nd) Bob Grubb with a 1940 Sea King; Brass Motor Class: 1st) Bob Grubb with a 1920 Amphion twin, 2nd) Bill Andrulitus with a 1921 Lockwood Row Boat Motor; Antique Shrouded Motor: 1st) Bob Grubb with a 1950 Ten Horse Mercury, 2nd) Dick Shaber with a 1946 Champion 4.2 HP; Special Interest Motor Class: 1st) Roger Breunig with a 1954 Mercury Mark 20, 2nd) Brad Snow with a 1955 Mercury Mark 25.

Organization and Credits:

Meet Chairman: Bob Zipps Registrar: Trish Zipps

Photographer: Steve Patterson

Those attending the meet were:

Bill Andrulitus, West Hartford, Connecticut Roger Breunig, Meriden, Connecticut John Buonocore, Westbury, New York Bob Grubb, Pottstown, Pennsylvania Peter Hunn, Simsbury, Connecticut Phil Kranz, Slingerlands, New York Chip Morris, Lakeside, Connecticut Galloway Morris, Pennsylvania Ray Nelson, Cleverdale, New York Judges: Peter Hunn, Head Judge

Dick Shaber Carlton Richards

Len Norman, Auburn, Massachusetts
Tom O'Rourke, Glastonbury, Connecticut
Carlton Richards, Worcester, Massachusetts
Dick Shaber, Newington, Connecticut
Brad Snow, Middletown, Connecticut
Perry Stanley, Wallingford, Connecticut
Sam Vance, Unadilla, New York
Bob Zipps, East Hartford, Connecticut



Judge Dick Shaber examines 1949 Evinrude Speeditwin. John Buonocore and Doug Kissam look on.



L to R: Background, Galloway Morris, Ray Nelson; Foreground, Perry Stanley, Doug Kissam.



L to R: Award winners are: Chip Morris; Sam Vance, Dick Shaber, Roger Breunig, Bill Andrulitus, Bob Grubb, Brad Snow, Phil Kranz, and John Buonocore.



L to R: Phil Kranz and Bill Andrulitus with a rare Thor Pyramid 3, Alky start required.



Bob Grubb and Gallaway Morris. Motor is an Amphion Twin.

1910 Ferro

by George Harness

This little story had its beginnings about 1909. When my father came to Winnipeg, he attended business college, and met there a boy who would become his lifelong friend. When my father's friend went back home to help his father in their general store, he purchased a new 1910 model Mullins 16-foot galvanized steel boat, equipped with a 3 HP Ferro, single-cylinder, 2-cycle inboard engine.

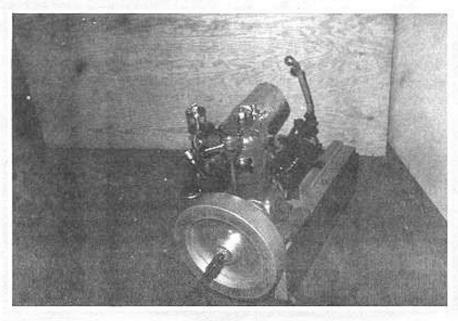
By 1956 the little engine was getting old and not too reliable, so my father sold his friend a new 5 HP Elto outboard to replace the Ferro.

At this time, I was promised the old Ferro, but, as happens with most good intentions, the owner never got around to sending it to me. This summer the Elto needed work, so I received the Elto for repairs, along with my long-promised Ferro.

It had been in a shed near the lake now for 18 years, so was very rusty. Since it was also covered in dirt and oil, I had no real problems dismantling it, except for the frozen piston. All the soaking, heating, etc. failed to loosen the stuck piston. I finally was able to press it down in a large press. Once it was broken loose, we held the crankshaft in a vise, and with a chain around the cylinder, and a car drive shaft for a lever, we could turn the cylinder around the shaft.

The piston, 3 3/8 inch diameter, is the same size as the 75 HP Evinrude outboard. By using a spacer and two Evinrude rings to a groove, I solved that problem. Some Chrysler product cars of the early '30's used this idea of two narrow rings per groove. The reverse gear is by Snow and Petrelli, "made in America," instead of using the words "made in U.S.A." as manufacturers do now.

I do not intend to use the Ferro, but will start it up next summer. I have displayed my outboards at several antique displays and car shows, and the little Ferro, with all its bronze carburetor, water pump, drip oiler, etc. will make another attractive display.





Spark plugs are one of the auxiliary collections that one can start in conjunction with an interest in antique outboard motors. They have the advantage of being small, clean, and quiet, which would appeal to apartment dwellers or those with small space to devote to a motor collection.

If you plan on running a restored motor, it's a good idea to get a new set of plugs and relegate the plugs that were in the motor to a display board. The 1970 Champion spark plug chart lists modern plugs for almost any motor that you can hope to find. Nothing is more heart-breaking than cranking over an old monster with a spark plug that's acting like a lightning rod in reverse.



We have a small display board that my son made. It's pegboard about two feet square, with a frame around it.

Richy made the frame in school wood shop, but you can buy ready-made frames and small pieces of pegboard at the home building supply stores which are springing up to cater to the do-it-yourselfer.

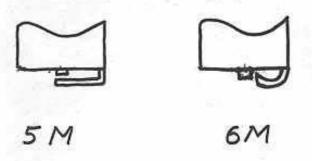
We painted the metal part of the plugs a flat black, and wired them onto the board with florist's wire. Originally the plugs have a gun bluing type finish which is usually very rusty after 30 years. Not wanting to fool around rebluing the metal, we used flat black. It makes an interesting display. We don't have too many unusual plugs, but do have many of the plugs you will find used originally in old motors.

The Mosler Vesuvius "775" is the oldest one we have. It came in our "Walnut" motor. Mosler is the same company that makes safes now. The tube above the plug is of fibre and covers the porcelain insulator when in use. It's wired above for display purposes. I bet that on a wet day that tube caused more trouble than it was worth.

It's been six years since I did my last article on spark plugs, and I have a camera now, so I can picture some of the features that defy description -- and some of them do. There is not much new under the sun even in spark plugs, or in articles for that matter, because some of the following was in my effort of April, 1968, but without "pitchurs." Many of these weird plugs were not used in outboard motors, but they are either unusual or are being sold today as new ideas.

Superficially, spark plugs look pretty much the same; but if you study them a little, there are a lot of interesting differences in them. The Champion 5M and 6M are only one heat range apart, yet the plugs are entirely different. The 5M has a conventional electrode set-up, while the 6M has a side electrode which curves toward the center electrode. These two plugs were used on many of our oldtimers. (See figure on following page).

Below: Champion 5M and 6M plugs.



Today the manufacturers try to code the heat range of their plugs so that a higher number means a hotter plug. The letters indicate thread diameter, electrode type, and special characteristics. It's quite confusing at times trying to follow the plug numbering changes through the years. Champion, for instance, made a cold racing plug numbered J-10 which became J-3, then K-3, now J62-R. If you are able to get spark plug lists some years apart, you can spend a lot of time tracing the changes in plug designations.

It's hard to judge which of the old plugs was the weirdest, but the Anderson was a candidate. The insulation was glass, and it was claimed that you could see into the combustion chamber. The ground electrode was a loop.

The Reflex primer plug made by the Reflex Ignition Co., Cleveland, Ohio was one of many types of priming plugs which allowed you to prime a hard-starting engine. It had a cup on top of the plug and a hole drilled through the center electrode which allowed the fuel to drip down the electrode to the point of ignition. The ground electrode was a drawn cup with five holes in it. It formed a pre-combustion chamber which, it was claimed, kept soot and dirt from fouling the explosion.

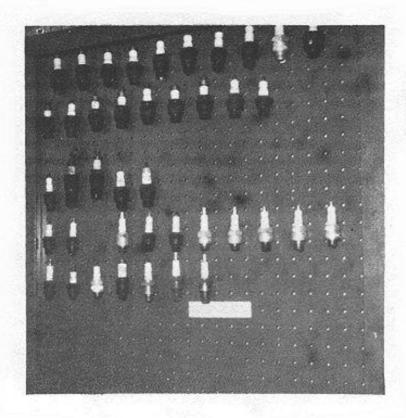
Champion made a priming plug with valve attached above the thread, and a passage drilled through the body of the thread which allowed fuel to drip into the combustion chamber. Spark plug sizes were much larger then than they are today, so there was a lot more metal to drill through and fasten onto.

The Star priming plug made by the Star Specialty Co. of York, Pennsylvania had a brass cup on top of the porcelain and a spring-loaded center electrode which acted as a valve. You put gasoline in the cup and then pushed the center electrode down so the gasoline would enter the combustion chamber. This must have been a one man job; for imagine the "thrill of victory" if someone started the engine as you were pushing the center electrode down!

Many of the modern outboards using the new "super" ignitions mount the coils on the cylinder head just far enough from the spark plug so that the ignition wire can be flexible enough to be removed. The voltage in these systems is so high, 30 to 40 thousand volts, that the ignition wire is made as short as possible to reduce chance of electrical leakage.

Again there is nothing new. The Connecticut Telephone and Electric Co. of Meridan, Connecticut made a plug-coil which was an ignition coil mounted around the sparkplug. There was no secondary wire, so no leakage through the secondary wire. Whatever patents they may have had must have long since expired. I wonder why the plug-coil idea wouldn't work today, especially if the coil were molded to snap over the spark plug and terminal.

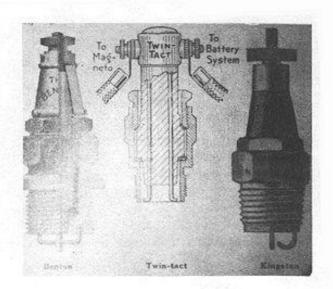
Fuel and oil in the old days were not as good as they are today, and carbon build-up and soot were problems in both 2- and 4-cycle engines. The Fan Flame Sparkplug Co. of Yonkers, New York had a weird remedy. They put a fan on the center electrode -- the theory being that the compression and expansion of the fuel charge would cause the fan to rotate and whirl away the carbon to other parts! The reported stated he was having the plug tried out in actual service, but I have not found a report of its success in later issues.



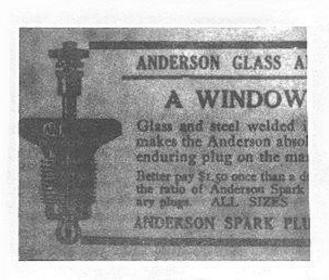
Left: Our display board. Below left: Reflex Primer Plug. Below right: Two Spot Sparkplug.



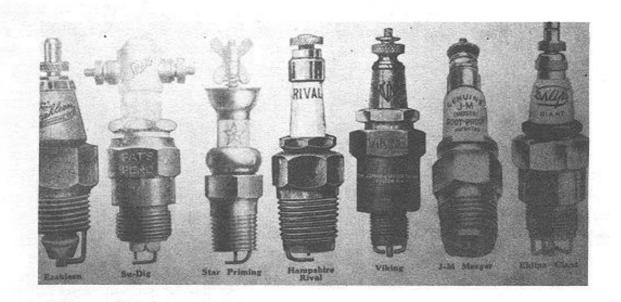




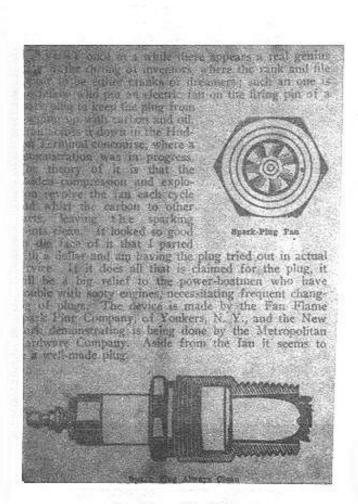




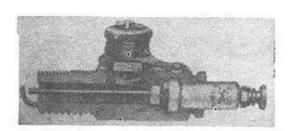
Anderson Window Plug.



Several 1917 plugs, including Su-Dig and Star Priming.



Fan Flame Sparkplug.



Blue Ribbon Sparkplug.



Champion Priming Plug.

The Spoon Point Sparkplug Co. of La Porte, Indiana attacked the carbon problem with spoon-shaped electrodes made of a white alloy claimed to be as effective and lasting as platinum. The manufacturer claimed also that the spoon points would not foul, carbonize, or corrode; and that they would shed oil, grease, and soot, and under all conditions deliver a hot fat spark. Some folks use a shovel; others a spoon.

The Hartford Machine Screw Co. of Hartford, Connecticut made the Master Calorite spark plug, a conventional-appearing plug which the manufacturer claimed was tested by heating it red hot and plunging it in cold water 26 times, then heating it white hot and plunging it 10 times into cold water with no ill effects. If your boat were to founder, these would be the plugs to use, as the cold sea water wouldn't damage them.

The "Blue Ribbon" spark plug, not further identified, had an adjustable auxiliary air valve built into the side of the steel shell. The air not only reduced gasoline consumption and cooled the electrode and shell, but also prevented carbon deposits or fouling by oil, it was claimed.

The Two Spot Manufacturing Co. of Canastota, New York used an insulated conductor between the ground electrode and center electrode. There were two gaps in the circuit and the spark had to jump both or neither. This was a 1908 spark plug, and even then it was known that a gap in the ignition circuit intensified the spark at the plug; so today's auxiliary gap and resistor type plugs are not new ideas.

In 1917 the Superior Motor Power Co. of 30 Irving Place, New York, City, made two interesting plugs. The Twin-Tact was actually two spark plugs in one body: there were two center electrodes, two ground electrodes, and two terminals. Each system was insulated from the other. These plugs were for engines with dual ignition systems. A battery system was fastened to one terminal and a magneto to the other. The Su-Dig (Lord knows where the name came from) is slightly different from the Twin-Tact. It has a second terminal which connects to the ground electrode. The ground electrode is insulated from the rest of the plug, not welded on the shell. The Su-Dig plug was designed to be used in series with a conventional plug for use in L-head and T-head engines, producing two simultaneous sparks in the cylinder. Many of the inboard engines of 1917 had cylinders of 14 inch bore! Flame front problems were not uncommon.

Spark plugs with multi-ground electrodes, though advertised as new power-producing innovations today, were common in 1917. The Stewart V-Ray made by Stewart-Warner Speedometer Co. of Chicago had four ground electrodes. Four was the most I've found so far; three ground electrodes were not uncommon, and nearly all manufacturers made one model spark plug with two ground electrodes.

Much of my data for this article came from the January, 1917 issue of "Motorboating," which has an article entitled "Sparkplugs for American Marine Motors." If you wanted one magazine to research, this would be a good one to use. Obviously not everyone has a collection of magazines; but if you do get to a large city library, this is the issue to ask for with regard to spark plug data.

A Quiet Sunday Afternoon



In cleaning out my desk at the office the other day, I came across what I think is a good action shot taken in 1948 of a "Sunday Afternoon Rig and Ride" in north Biscayne Bay. The engine is an old VR-45 with a Vacturi carburetor conversion, and the boat is the great old 1940 model conventional Jacoby C Class hydroplane. I am still looking for one for my collection but have had no luck to date. As you see, the rig is complete with the stock muffler and all for Sunday afternoon riding. That old boat was the most stable and best rough water boat that I have driven and, as a matter of fact, that hull is what I did the great majority of my racing in. I never really learned the proper handling of a 3 point and, as a matter of fact, turned one over the first time I - tried - to drive it. I found out you just can't horse them around the way you could the old conventional. I had to learn the hard way, and did finally make the transition, but I never really liked them as well as the old conventional. Something about old dogs and new tricks, or something in that order.

John C. Harrison

Johnson:

1925 AQUAFLYER MOTOR

by Bob Zipps photos by Dick Hawie



Motor in the down position. Look at that rudder! Tiny skeg and three blade prop.

The largest displacement 2-cylinder outboard motor ever made was the Johnson Giant Twin, right? The first big power outboard motor was the Johnson Model P-30, right? The fastest Man could travel by outboard in 1925 was with a Johnson Model P-30 going 16+ miles per hour, right?

If you agreed with any or all of the above questions, then you are in for as much of a surprise as I was, because all the above statements are false!

The 1925 Johnson Aquaflyer Motor had 49.7 cubic inch displacement versus 49.48 for the Giant Twin. The 1925 Aquaflyer had 15 HP versus 6 HP for the P-30. The 1925 Aquaflyer Motor had an advertised speed of 22 miles per hour.

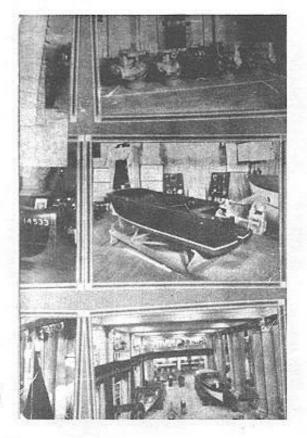
The motor came to light while I was doing some Johnson research. I couldn't believe it when I first came across the motor. It was on display at the New York Boat Show in January, 1925, and there are photos of an actual motor, so there is no question that one existed.

The following is taken from the January 25, 1925 issue of "Motor Boat."

"Mr. Johnson of the Johnson Motor Co. was highly enthusiastic over the new 15 HP 2-cylinder 2-cycle outboard motor. The unit has a 3 3/4 inch bore, 2 1/4 inch stroke, and operates at 2,300 rpm maximum, the weight being slightly under 100 pounds. Like the small units, it is declared to be balanced and free from vibration. It uses roller bearings throughout with the exception of the journals, and is equipped with the Johnson flywheel magneto and carburetor. A unique feature is further provided in an automatic priming device which throws a fixed amount of gasoline into the combustion chamber when the motor is starting, thereby affording quick results. The motor is of the tilting type, having a tension nut adjustment. Ease in starting is further provided by an auxiliary exhaust used to reduce the initial pressure. The motor has been developed in conjunction with a boat which is known as the Johnson

"Aquaflyer, and it is stated that with the above installation the boat can be driven 10 miles to the gallon of gas and can maintain a speed in excess of 20 miles per hour."

There it is -- now let's find one!



Motor in tilted up position. Motor was made to match that one boat. What a motor!!!!



contributed by Jim Nixon

Small Inboards Revisited

By P. S. Brooke, Jr.

The Eleventh Annual Motor Boat Show opened in Madison Square Garden on January 30, 1915 despite the war in Europe. The editor of "Yachting" stated, "The fact that Europe will be closed to the thousands of Americans who annually spend their summers and their money abroad will undoubtedly see many Americans become boat owners and turn to the water for pleasure, and, barring the fact that there will probably be no international races, this season will probably see more boats afloat and more local activities than in many years."

Prominent among the exhibitors was Gray with both 2- and 4-cycle engines. In addition to the inboards, Gray displayed its "Gearless" outboard. The propeller on this engine was driven through a flexible shaft encased in a curved brass tube. The engine was rated at 2 1/2 horse power and had a 3-inch bore and 2 1/2-inch stroke. By this method all bevel gears were eliminated from the drive train. Apparently this novel idea did not work out too well in actual practice, for the engine was dropped and Gray concentrated on inboard marine engine production.

The Mianus Motor Works of Stamford, Connecticut had an exhibit of their 2-cycle engines rated at from 3 to 20 horse power developed at speeds of from 375 to 550 revolutions per minute. These heavy-duty engines utilized the make and break ignition system. After 17 years' experience in building 2-cycle engines, this firm placed on the market for the 1915 season a line of 4-cycle engines, but were careful to explain that they still believed in the 2-cycle principle.

The Watertown marine engine plant at Watertown, New York had been taken over by James P. Gillespie of New York, and the factory was to be moved to Paterson, New Jersey. With this change the company would be known as the Gillespie-Boynton Company, Inc. Five engines were shown, ranging from 1- to a new 4-cylinder en bloc type. These engines were designed for hard and rough usage in fishing boats, according to the new company owner.

The Frisbie Motor Company of Middletown, Connecticut was also an exhibitor with their line of valve-in-head 4-cycle engines rated at 3 to 75 horse power and ranging in size from 1 to 6 cylinders. Frisbie was making much of the fact that the New York Police Department had chosen one of their engines for use in its launch.

Among the heavy duty 2-cycle engines developing maximum horse power at 500 revolutions per minute or less were the Hubbard, rated at 1 1/2 horse power; the Palmer, rated at 2 horse power; the Bridgeport, with a rating of 2 1/2 horse power; and the Acadia, rated at 3 horse power. The acadia offered in 1915 is still available on the present market and appears to be in much the same configuration.

Other makes of heavy-duty 2-cycles offered in 1915 ranging in horse power from 3 to 6 were the Automatic, Imperial, Stanley, Ithaca, Smalley, Eagle, Mystic, Pequet, Vim, and Wood and Chute. Waterman, a pioneer in the outboard field, also offered a 2-cycle heavy-duty engine of 1 cylinder rated at 6 horse power.

Engines rated as medium-duty, i.e., those developing their power at speeds from 500 to 800 revolutions per minute, included Barker, Alexander & Cox, Brown-Collins, Eclipse, Gilmore, Lockwood Ash (LA), American Boy, American Detroit, Caille, Northwestern, Schneider, Strelinger, Toppan, Guarantee, Motorgo, Valveless, Cady, DeLong, Ferro, Greene, Kahlenberg, Knox, Mianus, Pilot, Red Wing, Rice, Sagamore, Erd, Fay & Bowen, and even one called Stork.

In 1915 any engine turning over 800 revolutions per minute was considered "high speed," and among these we find the following makes offered: Ontario, Belle Isle, Leary, Roberts, St. Lawrence, Watkins, Capital, Mohawk, Penrose, De Mooy, Rochester, Elbridge, and Pierce-Budd, all single-cylinder and 2-cycle.

One of the more interesting engines offered for boat propulsion was the Aerothrust, which developed 3 horse power at 2,000 revolutions per minute. As the trade name indicates, this engine was designed to be mounted on the rear deck and by means of a 2-blade airplane-type propeller would push the hull forward. It was a 2-cylinder opposed design with finned cooling jackets of the motorcycle type.

Some makes offered 2-cylinder 2-cycle "high speed" engines developing from 1 1/2 horse power, such as the Sieverkropp with a square bore and stroke of 2 x 2 inches, to a 6 horse power model offered by Watkins with a bore and stroke of 3 x 3 inches and attaining its advertised power at 900 revolutions per minute. One make, the Morristown, had 3 cylinders and put out 6 horse power at 900 revolutions per minute.

The heavy-duty 4-cycle engines for 1915 included such single-cylinder makes as Nieland, Atlas, Clay, Evansville, Frisco Standard, Grizzly Bear, Hettinger, Samson, Emery, Campbell, Carl, Holliday, Regal, Wolverine, and Yale.

Medium-duty 4-cycle engines in the single-cylinder design with power ratings up to and including 6 were offered by Anderson, Honest Injun, Missouri, Buffalo, Kuhner, Miller, Portage, Schaefer, Hall, Harris, Scripps, Westman, and Loew-Victor. Murray & Tregurtha offered a 2-cylinder engine developing 4 horse power at 550 revolutions per minute. It weighed 400 pounds and had a 3 1/2-inch bore and a 4-inch stroke.

In the high-speed bracket Strang offered three models of 2, 3, and 4 horse power respectively. Mercury also made a single-cylinder, 4-cycle model developing 6 horse power at 850 revolutions per minute and weighing 698 pounds -- the cast must have been pretty thick.

The Original Gas Engine Company of Lansing, Michigan put on the market for the 1915 season a device calculated to eliminate a bothersome task for the yachtsman with a craft of sufficient size to sport a tender. It was a "gasolene tender hoist" and was developed by Ransom E. Olds, founder of the Oldsmobile Division of General Motors but at this time president of the Reo Motor Car Company of Lansing, Michigan. The hoist consisted of a 1-cylinder, 3 horse power engine to be mounted on the deck and equipped with double drums so that both ends of the tender could be hoisted simultaneously.

It is interesting to note that a directory of American Marine Engine Manufacturers published in 1915 lists scores of inboard producers, most of whom have long ago disappeared from the scene, and only 23 different makes of outboards. In this list of outboards, all but two, Koban and No-Ro, boast only one cylinder with horse power ranging from 1 1/4 to 4. In the ensuing 60 years the roster of producers has dwindled in both inboards and outboards to only a handful of each. Perhaps there is a lesson in all of this -- like "many are called, but few are chosen" or "the survival of the fittest."

Delivered Right to the Door

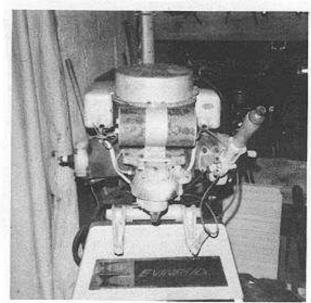
by John J. Enright, Jr.

The time was about 8:30 p.m. as I answered the phone. The voice on the other end asked me if I was interested in old junky outboard motors. I laughed and told him only if they were running, trying not to get excited. He had been given my number by a marina and said he had an old Johnson with a funny looking top, and was told by the marina that the motor was worth \$150. He told me he would drop by the following Saturday.

As you can figure, I spent the rest of the week trying to figure out what the devil it was. Saturday came and at 10:00 a.m. he arrived. We talked for about a half hour and he said, after talking about everything under the sun, "I guess you want to see the thing." I said, "Yeah, I guess so," the trunk of the car was opened and there it was.

He asked me what I would pay him for it as we lifted it out of the trunk onto the front lawn for a better look. I told him it wasn't worth more than \$35. He got in his car and drove off. There I was when the front door opened and my wife's face appeared with a look that could stop 100 running VR's. I turned and looked down at my new treasure and said to myself, boy, what a steal, that guy was a nut, not realizing my neighbor was standing on his front lawn and laughing at me. (I have often wondered who really is the nut.)



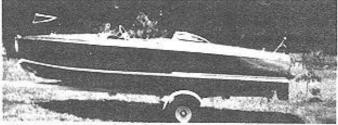


The motor turned out to be a 1930 Johnson PE-50, completely original and equipped with the Owen's DYNETO and Johnson starting coil from the factory. I am presently restoring the motor and all is in good shape. How's that for having one delivered to your door?



Buddy Dillinger with John's latest treasure.

CLASSIC RUNABOUT AVAILABLE



We started selling Chris Craft runabouts in 1938, so I read with great delight your article on runabouts in the August issue. We stocked \$3500 runabouts when our friends said we would never sell them at such a high price. But when the prospect sat behind the wheel and opened the throttle, he always found some way to buy it.

I have enclosed a picture of a 16 ft 1940 Chris Craft racing step hydroplane with a 131 hp, six cylinder Chris engine. The boat is still like new and is all original except for a new engine installed in 1959. It turns a two blade racing prop, 3800 rpm, 12x16. Although the boat will not outrun today's inboards with 300 hp motors, it will pass all the rest.

I have owned it for many years, having bought it years ago from a Chris foreman at the Algonac plant. I have now decided to sell it. If any fellow readers would like to buy it, please write to me. I have written all over the U.S. and couldn't find another one like it anywhere.

□FRANK TRACY WILLIAMS, Williams Boat Service, Rte. 1, Landrum, S.C. 29356.

We're pleased that you enjoyed the runabout report, Mr. Williams, and wish you the best of luck in your search.

Northwest Chapter News

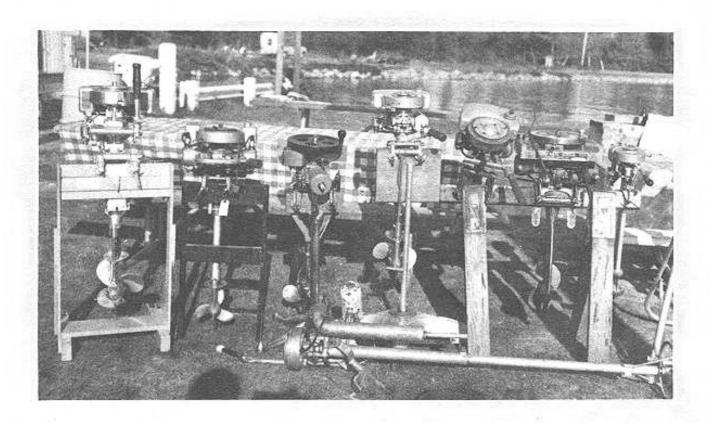
Ron Duckworth

September 29, 1974 was the date, and Lake Tapps, near Sumner, Washington was the site of the Northwest Chapter Antique Outboard Meet. Again the Sperrings, Bob and Marv and their wives, were the prime movers and hosts.

About 10:00 a.m. members began to arrive and unload at a county marine park. The facilities were ideal, with picnic tables and a couple of fine docks protected by a log boom. The day was sunny and warm with only a hint of a breeze.

As I sat down to put all the events of the day on paper, my wife Carmen and I began to remember what a fine day we had. Here we go . . .

Food, food, and more food! The event was billed as potluck. It's always amazing how a potluck always seems to work -- all that food and always in nearly perfect mix of salads, desserts and main dishes. No planned assignment of what to bring -- everyone just brought food.



Just some of the old iron at Lake Tapps. Twenty-six motors in all were brought by the thirteen members attending, as well as thirteen boats.

Then there was Phil Brooke, a very avid antique outboarder. Phil and son David drove over from Spokane with a house guest of David's, Fabio Schifani-Corfini from Trieste, Italy. David ran their 1928 Lockwood Ace and a Bendix SMD -- both performed superbly, and the Lockwood is one beautifully restored antique.

Everett Reynolds displayed a Johnson J-7.5, and along with Larry Linder helped all present with launchings, etc. Larry just completed a household move and was unable to bring any iron.

Bob Sperring put his Elto Speeditwin on his 13-foot D Stock Hydro, pulled it a few times and headed out through the log boom, only to have it quit. After being towed back to the dock he spent about a half hour cranking and trouble shooting, to no avail. To add insult to injury, brother Marv cruised by with his Model 210 Johnson to tell Bob that he just wanted him to hear what a motor sounds like when it's running,

Gary Elendheim brought his home-built 12-foot Punt, the most "used" boat of the day. It's a perfect hull to run the smaller service motors on, as it's very stable and safe for excessive rope pulling on a balky antique. Gary ran his beautiful 1927 Rüddertwin and a Johnson A-45, when he could get his boat! A good estimate is that Bill Kelly must have run about 3 gallons of fuel through his Evinrude Model 442 Sportwin on Gary's boat. That doesn't include the fuel used in his 1924 Elto "C" Rüddertwin. Bill's Sportwin just runs and runs.

My wife reminded me that I missed a few minutes of the activities when I ran out in the lake with my old 13-foot restored cedar hull and 15 HP Oliver to tow in new member Dave Manly. Dave brought an A-45 and a K-40 Johnson to run on his 10-foot Livingston hull. He had no more problems than others, but, being younger, he ventured further out than some of the older heads. If my memory serves me correctly, a good example would be Bill Seibel. Bill ran and ran his Atco Boat Impeller and twisted and twisted his Ropeller, and I don't remember ever seeing him outside of the log boom. Bill also displayed a beautiful 1914 Lockwood Ash that created a lot of comments from the few spectators that were in the area from time to time.



Phil Brooke's beautiful Lockwood Ace that really impressed everyone with its dependability.



Bill Seibel and his 1931 vintage "Ropeller."



Back row, L. to R.: Ada Sperring, Sid Westrum, Everett Reynolds, Mrs. Westrum, Phil Brooke, Doug Brooke, Fabio Schifani-Corfini, Dave and Larry Linder, Bill Kelly, Pat and Gary Blendheim, Dave Manly. Front row, L. to R.: Bill Smith, Mahlon Lamoureux, Ron and Carmen Duckworth, Marv Sperring, Bill and Cora Seibel, Mary Sperring. Not pictured: Bob Sperring, Mrs. Bill Smith, Kevin Sperring, Jeff, Sherry, and Terri Sperring.

Sid westrom got his share of comments with his mirror-like restoration of an A-70 Johnson. If I had known it looked that good under all the white paint I might not have sold it to him! It had been painted white to match a sailboat owned by its original and one owner.

My knees have a distinct memory of a fast, rough ride with Marv Sperring and his 1941 Evinrude Sportfour on an 11-foot runabout. Marv spent a fair amount of the day giving rides to any and all takers. That Sportfour really moved the boat. Marv calls it his "Freebie," as the motor was given to him, and it's super clean and dent free.

Then Bill Smith headed out in Lake Tapps in his 12-foot Mirrocraft runabout powered by his 1949 Elto Speedster. The boat got pretty wild at full throttle, so Bill headed in to get a helmet and life jacket. This didn't help the problem, so Bill enlisted his wife to ride up front to hold the nose down. Talk about faith and devotion! (He did, however, give her the helmet and life jacket to wear.)

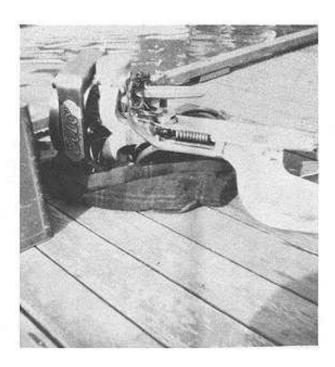
No one who attended at Lake Tapps will forget Shaw Island's ingenious Mahlon Lamoureaux. When Mahlon pulled up early in the day in his VW pickup there was a J-70 Johnson and a 1/2 HP Elto Cub just visible in what appeared to be a pile of plywood and something that could have been a cooker to produce urethane gas to propel the VW. As the day progressed, the pile of plywood turned out to be Mahlon's idea for a collapsible or folding boat. It's 11 feet long with a good wide beam and, believe it or not, it is not a flat bottom. Everywhere you look there's

a long piano hinge, even down the keel and where the sides join the bottom sections. The deck is hinged in the middle and the transom is hinged to fold flat. The amazing thing is that the boat has a normal pointed bow, and after being in the water most of the day only had about a quart of water in it, even with all the hinges under the water line! Mahlon says it was just an idea that will never make the market, as the labor costs would be too much.

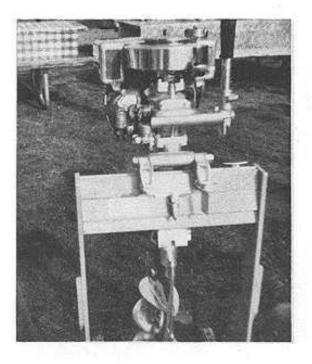
The Johnson and the Elto Cub ran fine and then Mahlon set up the "cooker," which turned out to be, of all things, a steam powered outboard, built on a Johnson Lower unit. (A KS series, I think.) Heat is furnished by a propane burner. Mahlon mounted it on his folding boat and began to build up steam. He really got it cooking, but was unable to build up pressure enough to run it. Inspection turned up a break in one of the lines, possibly caused by a jar during transportation. No one doubted that it would run, but Mahlon was accused of finding a new and novel way of disguising a moonshine still!

A memory most vivid in my wife's mind is a long cruise around Lake Tapps. Mary Sperring piloted their 19-foot Bayliner I/O, which was spacious enough to provide seating for all the wives and kids. They really enjoyed seeing all the beautiful homes on the many arms of the lake.

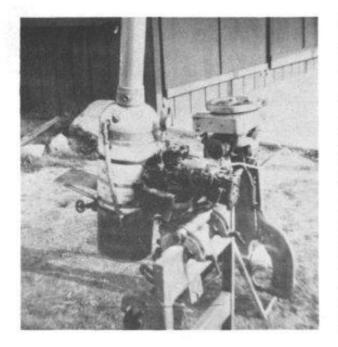
This hopefully covers all the highlights of a wonderful day. Each member went away with anticipation of the next meet. Next time we hope to see members from British Columbia, Oregon, and Idaho -- drop me a note with your address and I'll make sure you get advance notice. - Ron Duckworth, 315 Orange Street, Burlington, Washington 98233



Gary Blendheim's Ruddertwin. It was beautifully restored and ran just as good as it looked.



Sid Westrum's Johnson A-70. The most beautifully restored motor at the meet, the picture just doesn't do it justice.



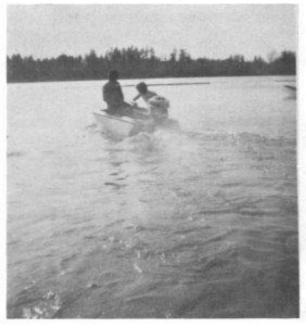
Mahlon Lamoureux's Shaw Island "Moonshine Still." You should see this to believe it! Mahlon used a Johnson lower unit to build a steam powered outboard. Propane is used to heat the boiler.



Close-up of the steam outboard. The tank on the left is the water tank. The view is from the left rear.

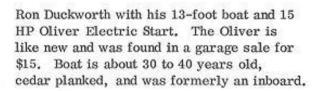


Firing up the steam powered outboard; that's Mahlon in the fireman's pit. The boat is also one to see -- it folds flat!



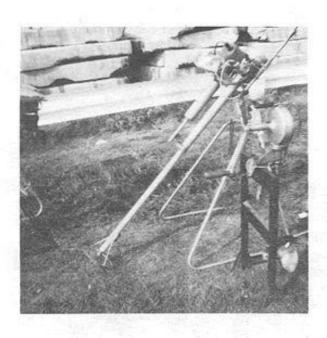
Marv Sperring's 1941 Sport Four with Brother Bob and Marv's son, Jeff. This outfit could really get out and move!







In background are Bob Sperring and Marv Sperring's son, Jeff, with 1941 Sport Four, which is in excellent condition and was given to Marv. Boat in foreground is Mahlon Lamoureaux's home-built, 11-foot boat that folds completely flat.



On left is ATCO Boat Impeller (English.) On right is 1931 Ropeller. Both are owned by Bill Seibel. Vintage of Boat Impeller is not known for sure, but Bill says it's about 1 1/2 HP. Bill made some laps inside the log boom and it ran very well, with no apparent increase in RPM when the prop was lifted out of the water, which enabled the pram to turn on a dime! The engine is air cooled.

HARTFORD

STURDY TWIN

by Bill Andrulitis with Bob Zipps



Home of the Hartford Outboard Motor, the Gray & Prior Machine Co. This building, originally built in 1880, was used as a brass foundry until 1904, when Gray & Prior moved in. The Hartford Outboard Motor was made by the Gray and Prior Machine Company, Hartford, Connecticut. The one basic 20 cubic inch model was made from the winter of 1926 until the winter of 1929, when it was sold to the Indian Motorcycle Company.

The Gray and Prior Machine Company was organized in 1898. This partnership was formed by George Prior, who had worked for the Electric Vehicle Company and who was granted a patent for a universal joint; Robert Gray, who worked at the Hartford Rubber Works and put in \$5,000; and Mr. Reed, who supplied machinery to the new firm. Mr. Reed's association with the firm lasted only a few years.

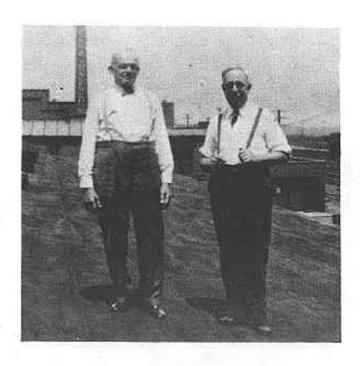
The company first made their universal joints on High Street in Hartford. With expanding production, the firm relocated to Asylum Street, where they stayed for an equally short time. When marine engine production really blossomed, they again outgrew their

facilities and made the move to 614 Windsor Street at the corner of Suffield in 1904, where they were to be headquartered for 70 years. In September of 1974 they were forced to move because of redevelopment to Granby Street in Bloomfield, Connecticut, a suburb of Hartford.

George Prior was an inventive genius. He designed and built his own motorcycle about the year 1900. In 1904 he built his own automobile using one of Gray & Prior's own 2-cylinder marine engines for power. Bill Jewell, a 70 year employee at Gray & Prior, vividly recalls going for rides with George on Sunday afternoons. He said they attracted quite a bit of attention because of the thundering exhaust of the lumbering engine. With the experience gained from this first car, he was to build two others. The first of these two had a 4-cylinder, 4-cycle engine which was a more conventional type auto powerplant of the period. The second of the two cars was built around 1910 and had a 6-cylinder, 4-cycle engine. George later invented a gage to indicate the amount of pitch of a variable pitch aircraft propeller. His vast experience in the machine shop enabled him to design and build the tooling and machinery to produce these inventions.

The marine engines were first advertised in 1904. The first model was single-cylinder with a 4-inch bore and 4 1/2-inch stroke, 2-cycle, with make and break ignition. The Hartford Engines were of very high quality and commanded respect in the field. Over the years the line of engines increased to include a twincylinder and a 4-cylinder engine. The motors were of the 2-cycle type with the exception of the 4-cylinder engine, which was a 4-cycle.

In 1910 there were five models of marine inboard engines and two models of stationary engines. The single-cylinder models had 3 HP, 5 HP, and 7 HP. The 2-cylinder models had 6 HP and 10 HP. The stationary engines were single-cylinder only and had 3 HP and 5 HP. These stationary engines were attractively modified marine engines with two heavy, large-diameter flywheels, large iron base, and a flyball governor to maintain a steady



Mr. Robert Gray (left) and Mr. George Prior standing on top of building shown on preceding page. Photo was taken approximately 1935.

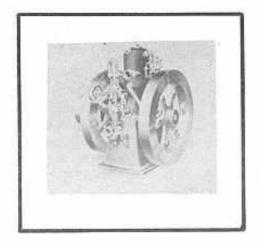
speed. All of the Hartford Marine and Stationary engines used make and break ignition. The knowledge and experience gained in producing marine inboard engines gave the Gray & Prior Company a good foundation for building their outboard motors.

The Hartford Outboard Motor was designed by George Prior. He made all the patterns for the motor. The first motors were built in the winter of 1926 and marketed in early 1927. They were first advertised, to my knowledge, in the November, 1927 issue of "Motorboating." The serial number system used by Gray & Prior on their outboards allows their motors to be dated very easily. For instance, a motor with the serial number 02628 D was the 26th motor made in 1928. The last two digits of the serial number, 28, indicate the year 1928, and the 026 (the first three digits) indicate that it was the 26th motor made in 1928. Another example is the serial number 06429 E: this is the 64th motor made in 1929. It is not certain what the letter following the serial number indicates. Detailed records of the Hartford Outboard's production are still in existence. According to them, the number of motors produced was 311. There was one motor made in 1926. This was an experimental model that was called back. Twenty-three motors were made in 1927. One hundred ninety motors were made in 1928. Ninety-seven motors were made in 1929, which was the last year of production.

The motor specifications are as follows: bore 2 1/2 inches, stroke 2 inches, 2-cylinder horizontally opposed, displacement 19.63 cubic inches. All the motors were 3-port, 2-cycle. The early motors used cast iron cylinders with cast iron pistons. To increase motor speed to be more competitive in racing, the piston material was later changed to aluminum. The motor used two 3/16-inch wide rings per piston. In 1929, the Hartford Outboard introduced aluminum cylinders with steel sleeves, which was a first for the outboard industry. Bill Jewell said the first aluminum cylinders had the steel sleeves pressed into place, and this



A Hartford ad from January, 1928 issue of "Yachting," page 118. Note the influence on racing.



Hartford Stationary engine, taken from a 1910 Hartford brochure.

proved to be unsatisfactory because after a relatively short time the sleeves would work loose. To remedy the situation, a tapped hole using pipe thread went through both the aluminum cylinder water jacket and the steel sleeve. A brass plug was torqued into place and this plug extended beyond the steel sleeve into the cylinder. After the cylinder was bored out the brass plug was flush with the cylinder wall. After that loose sleeves were not a problem.

The Hartford Sturdy Twin featured substantially strong bronze connecting rods, forged and hardened steel crankshaft, and long bronze bushings pressed into the crankcase.

The first Hartford Sturdy Twins had a barrel valve carburetor of their own, Gray & Prior design and manufacture. To increase overall performance, a Tillotson Carburetor was used shortly after production began. The carb used is a Model MS-8A. The Sturdy Twins used two different gas tanks. Up to the middle of 1928, the motors had a heavy cast tank with the name "Hartford" cast right into the metal, using large 1 1/2inch high letters. The letters were 1/16 inch deep into the metal. So if you find a Hartford with the name cast into the tank you know right off the bat you have an older Sturdy Twin. From the middle of 1928 on, the motors had essentially the same tank except the name "Hartford" was not east into the tank, and a decal as shown in the photo of the Hartford Outboard was used instead. One development problem with the cast tank was that since it was a cast tank it had a plug on each side of the tank to seal the hole where the core supports were located. Leaks started around the plugs and in other areas because of the porosity of the casting. To solve this problem, a liquid was poured into the tanks that would find its way into the smallest pore. After the liquid hardened, leakage was not a problem.

The Sturdy Twins used two different magnetos. However, with the magneto change there was also a major powerhead change that was required because of a big difference in the size of the magnetos. The earliest Sturdy Twins had Eisemann Magnetos, but this was

only for a very short time, as Gray & Prior changed to Bosch magnetos. With the Eisemann mags, the motor had a much larger diameter flywheel, a larger diameter neck on the crankcase for supporting the mag plate, and a larger diameter crankshaft taper.

There were two different size rope sheaves. The early sheaves are six inches in diameter, and later they were increased to eight inches in diameter, the same diameter as the flywheel. This was done, no doubt, to increase starting ease.

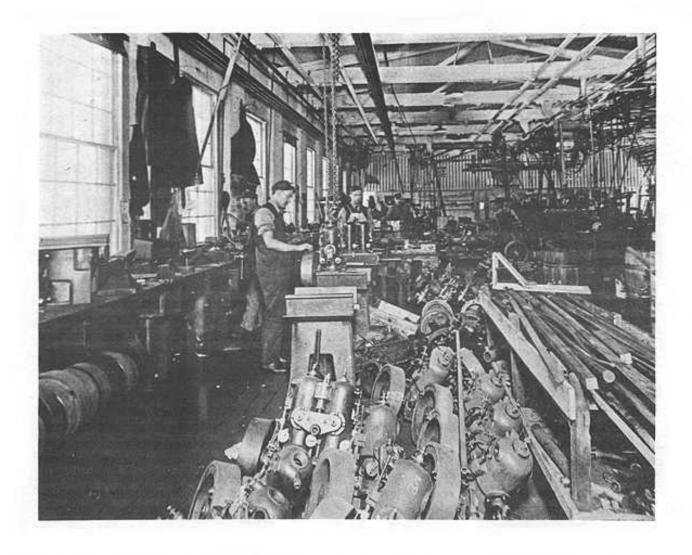
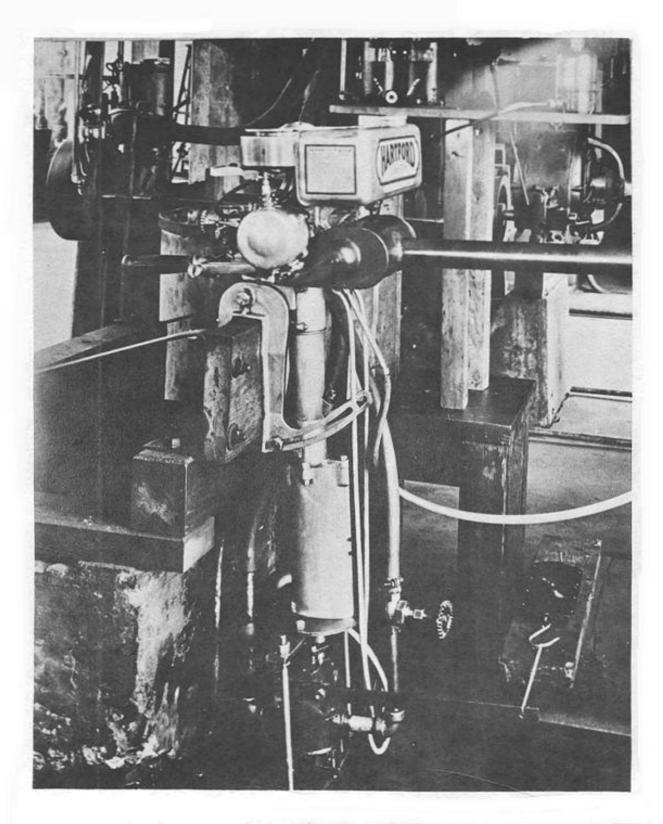


Photo above, taken in March of 1916, shows assembly area and small portion of machine shop area. At this time Gray & Prior was manufacturing inboard marine engines and stationary engines. In the foreground awaiting final assembly are single- and twin-cylinder "Hartfords."

Mid-1928 and prior Sturdy Twins used a small cylindrical brass muffler can, with corresponding exhaust manifolds. The later motors used a larger oval shaped brass muffler with different exhaust manifolds to adapt to the different shape. Starting in 1929, the Sturdy Twins were equipped with underwater exhaust. The underwater exhaust merely consisted of a tube brazed onto the muffler can and extending down to the water. It was supported on the bottom of the motor by a brace bolted to the anti-cavitation plate.

Originally, Gray & Prior intended the motors to be equipped with a centrifugal water pump mounted on the front of the gearcase and driven directly off of the prop shaft. The motors were made that way into 1928, but they were unsatisfactory. I have not been able to verify this completely, but all the motors that were equipped with the centrifugal pump were recalled and modified. The modifications consisted of welding a water pickup to the rear of the gearcase just above the propeller. The motor would then pick up water in the same manner as a Model A-35 Johnson. A lead plug was put on the front of the gearcase to take the place of the pump, which was removed. The lead plug also provided stream lining to reduce underwater drag.



Only photo of a Hartford Outboard in the company files. It was taken at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology laboratory in 1929. Robert Gray, Jr. (son of the co-founder) was attending MIT and was using a Hartford Outboard in a dynamometer test. The above motor has aluminum cylinders with steel liners that Hartford pioneered.

The motors that were equipped with water pumps had a clamp-on anti-cavitation plate. In 1929 when the switch was made away from using a water pump, the anti-cavitation plate was made integral with the lower unit.

Late in 1929, Gray & Prior sold all the tooling and patterns for the Hartford Sturdy Twin to the Indian Motor Cycle Company of Springfield, Massachusetts for \$15,000. Gray & Prior is still very much in business today, making high-quality universal joints for industry, a highly-developed product of an invention that started them in business almost 80 years ago.

As of this writing there are five Hartford Sturdy Twins known to be still in existence. George Prior, Jr. has the oldest motor, and it has no serial number. Bob Zipps has serial number 02628 D, Bill Andrulitis has serial number 010428 G, Bill Lyman has serial number 06429 E, and Dick Shaber has serial number 08929 C.

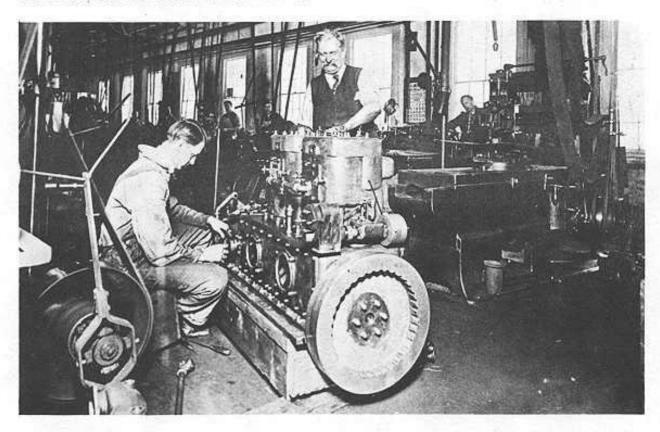


Photo above shows mechanics assembling the largest engine model made by Gray & Prior. The engine is a 4-cyclinder Model D-4. It is a 4-cycle engine with a 4 1/2-inch bore and 8-inch stroke resulting in 508.94 cubic inches and pounding out 36 HP at 700 RPM. The engine weighs 1800 pounds. Note glass inspection ports on side of crankcase. The mechanic on the left is Bill Jewell, who joined Gray & Prior in 1904 and after 70 years is still a member of the Gray & Prior team. Mr. Jewell's detailed knowledge of early Gray & Prior history was indispensable in the writing of this article.

This article could not have been written without the information provided by: Robert Gray, Jr., son of the founder of the company; Robert Gray III, grandson of the founder; George Prior, Jr., son of the founder; and Bill Jewell, an employee of Gray & Prior since 1904. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Mini Outboard

by Phil Kranz

It may be of interest to those of you who are new at the resurection, restoration, and running of old, odd, and unusual outboard motors to know of one motor in particular, a mini outboard built by the Clarke Engineering Co. of Detroit, Michigan, about 1938 to 1940. It is known as the Clarke Troller, stands 21 inches high, weighs 10 1/2 pounds, is a 1-cylinder, 2-cycle, puts out 1.3 HP, and sold for \$34.50 new. A long shaft model was available with a 6 inch manifold

extension. Supposedly they also built a 2-cylinder model, but I do not know of any in existence. (Sure would like to locate one.) However, I do know of at least two dozen of the singles.

The motor incorporated several unusual engineering features. The powerhead operated completely under water, and there are no bevel gears, as the crankshaft is also the propeller shaft. Some models had a propeller on which the pitch of the vanes could be changed. The rope starter sheave is also on the propeller end of the crankshaft, with the motor tilted out of the water for starting. There is no magneto, so a hot shot battery is used to provide electric current to the coil. The spark plug is a very tiny Champion V1 with 3/8 inch diameter threads.

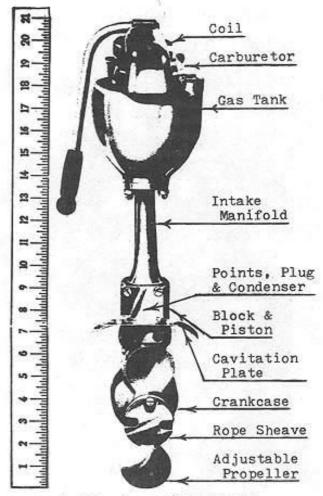
The Clarke Troller is made largely from polished aluminum castings, and is a little jewel to behold. Probably not much good as an outboard motor, but sure interesting to look at.

CLARKE TROLLER

CLARKE ENGINEERING CO.

9350 Grinnell Ave.

Detroit, Mich.



1.3 H. P. \$34.50 new

THE CLARKE TROLLER

Weight—Less than 10½ pounds Length—21 inches Compact and Easy To Handle

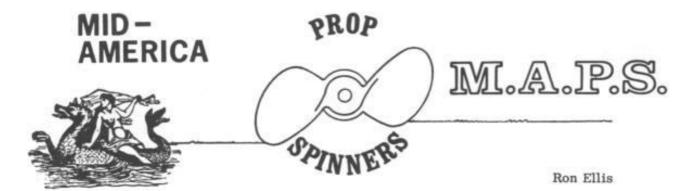


A 30 year old Clarke Troller in the hands of a 1 year old mechanic.



"Special boat for me because I don't know whether I'm coming or going"

YACHTING



The Winter MAPS Meet was held on schedule at Clarence Sitton's. Clarence had the Riley radial moved into his "engine room" and it was a major attraction. Walter Verner was up from New Orleans and believe me, the AOMC is fortunate to have Walt as a member -- he is really a prop spinning rope stretcher. Gene and Will Yonker arrived with Gene sporting a neatly embroidered MAPS Chapter/Elto shirt. Walt and Phyllis Ellis were the early birds in anticipation of hauling off the goodies before everyone else arrived. Walt had just returned from Scotland where he had been looking for old iron, supposedly while on the job. My mate and I arrived in time to hear the first can of racing fuel pop open. I met Walter Verner for the first time, and we immediately cranked up and were on the water. Ron and Diana Harrison were next on the scene, and we all had a chance to congratulate them on their latest addition to their boating family (it's a boy.) Wayburn Niemeyer and his wife arrived after lunch and everyone was brought up to date on their adventures for the past year. We had a slide show, but missed seeing Casey West do his acrobatic hotdog maneuvers. Casey and Katy had the flu bug and we certainly missed them. After being served supper by head chef Delores Sitton, we all headed for port. Thanks to Delores and Clarence for providing a happy harbor for the MAPS Chapter. By the way, we are still receiving letters of complaint about unanswered mail, even when stamped, addressed envelopes are included with the letters of request for parts, information, etc.

PO 37

There's quite a story behind the engine shown in this photo, but I'll try to make it short. My father, W. E. Ellis, found this iron (unrestored, of course) in Texas in 1971. He was in Houston for open heart surgery. Upon his insistence I flew to Texas and had the motor packed up and shipped home. Talk about an admirer of old iron -- he takes first place.

Well, the old gal sat in the shop in her saltwatercorroded condition until 1974. Clarence Sitton really promoted her restoration, by constantly showing our Speeditwin the wake and backside of his PO! So, this is the result. Yes, it needs the rear tank decal -any leads, anybody?



Yes, Eric, I'm Ready

John J. Enright, Jr.

Seeing the pictures in the July issue of John T. racing F class reminded me of my racing activities during the past three years. Most everything is the same except the motors and the way the deck rider crawls out on the deck during the race. This is not the practice any more, mostly due to the increased speeds of today's boats, which run through the turns at full throttle and do not require the weight of the deck rider up front to keep the boat from losing plane while accelerating out of the turn.



One of the straightaways during the 1974 Eastern Championship. All the boats in this shot are running with two men, though some are hidden behind the drivers. My boat is on the far left of the photo. This is still a popular class today, and by all standards the most fun, as John Toprahanian will agree.



Another scene from the 1974 Eastern Championship. Note that when coming out of a turn, the boat does not lose plane due to the increased speeds and design of today's runabouts. Note to Eric Gunderson regarding his last letter to me: "YES, Eric, I'm ready -- are you?" The motor I am running is a Volvo Penta 550 which I modified. It is the only one being raced in the U. S. as of this date.

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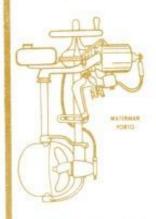
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