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**BOATING**

and

**CAMPING**



In 1959 we visited people who lived on a lake in southern Michigan. There were lots of lakes in the area and there were lots of pontoon rafts on the lakes. At that time there was none on the Ohio River.

We thought that would be a great way to boat on the river. At that time I was working at Mesker Steel Co so I made some drawings and had the shop make the pontoons. Also included was a way to swing the wheels up under the deck and also telescoping tongue that went back under the deck. This way we had no trailer to fool with.

We put on a plywood deck that was painted with non slip paint, and an old 15 hp Evinrude outboard motor. We had it on the water before 1959 was over.



This is 1960 Camping on Sled Creek, Kentucky Lake, the pontoon raft on the water, our tent and a Ken Vogel's tent.

This was in a primitive area there was no road access. We had to bring everything in to camp on the pontoon. That is Paula, Karen, John and Vicki standing in the water by the pontoon.

We would usually launch at the Grand Rivers ramp and cross the lake when we went to Sled Creek.

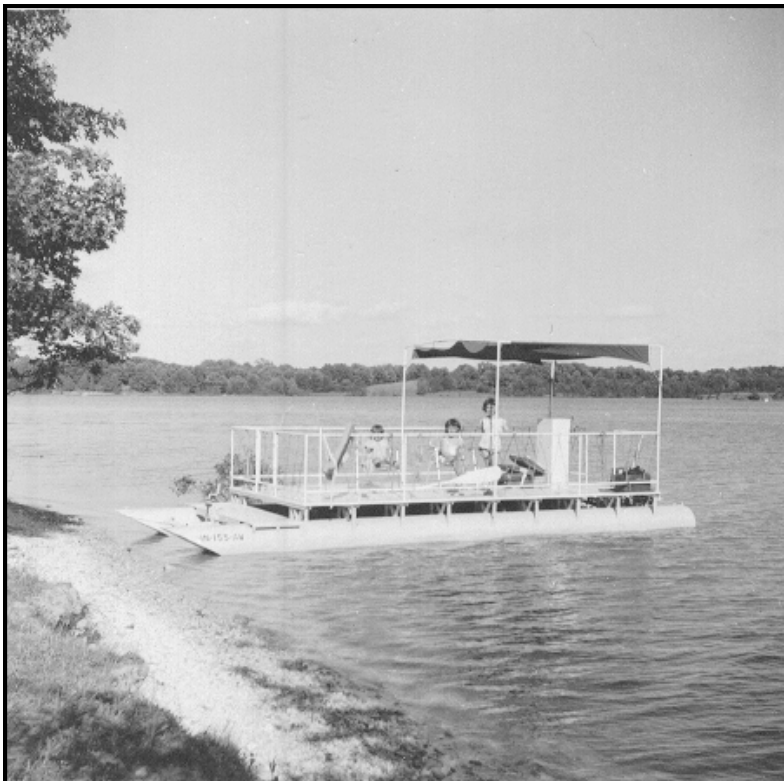


This picture you can see the telescoping tongue. Shown here it is retracted under the deck.

All the metal was painted with bright yellow RustOleum. The wood deck was white.

It was 8' wide and the pontoons were 23' long. The deck was 8' x 16'.

The rail was  $\frac{3}{4}$  pipes with  $\frac{1}{4}$  ropes between the top and bottom rails.



At this time we had a 1955 Ford 6 cylinder auto. It had no trouble pulling the pontoon at highway speed or pulling it up the ramp.

Note; there were no interstates at that time between Evansville and the lake, all state roads.

Another view of the pontoon tied up at Sled Creek.



This is the kids at Pisgah Bay in 1960.

At this time Pisgah Bay was a private camp ground. There was a store on the main road that you had to stop at and pay site rental.

Later the TVA made this area a TVA camp ground. The area was gated off and there was a gate that you stopped and paid camping fee.



This is another picture of the kids at Sled Creek.





The kids decided they wanted to learn to water ski. The 15 hp outboard on a pontoon was NOT a ski boat, so for the 1961 season we traded for a boat with a 40 hp outboard.

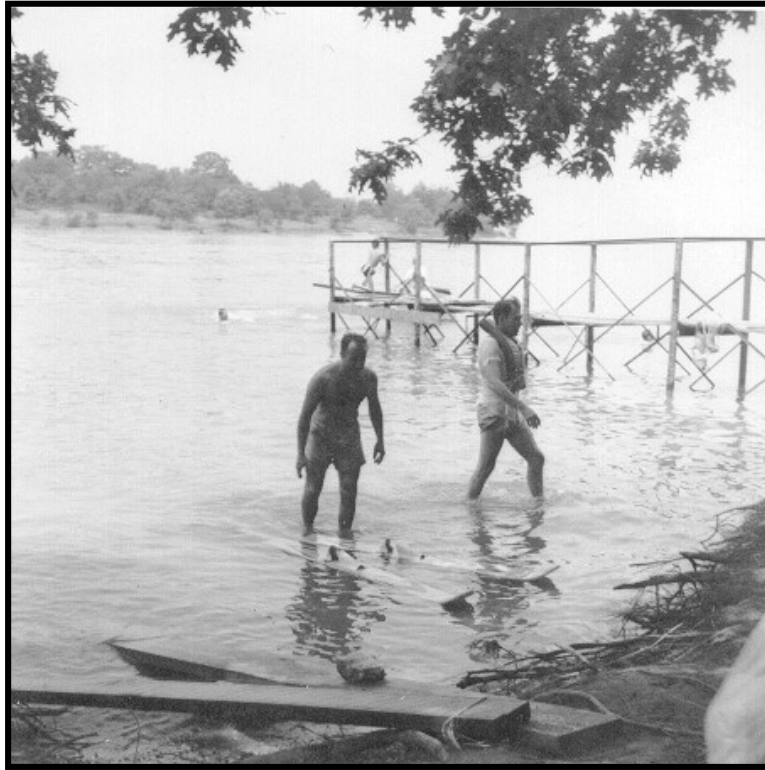
This is that boat docked in 1961 at Will-Vera camp ground Kentucky Lake.



Sue cooking a meal at Will-Vera camp ground.

Will-Vera had flush toilets and showers!

John and Dorothy Buchanan showed us this place.



There was a lot of skiing done at Will-Vera. This is John Buchanan and Paul just finishing skiing.

This is still 1961, looks like one of the kids is out swimming.



I made a canopy from a tarp and poles. I think it was first used at Will-Vera. This picture was dated 1961.



1961

A day trip on the Ohio River.

Sue and the kids getting wood for a camp fire.



Kids with the boat.



Sue relaxing while the kids are swimming.





In 1962 Sue and I took a weekend trip to Sledd Creek by station wagon. I don't remember but I don't see a tent. We must have slept in the station wagon.



The way to get down from the road was an old washed out cow path. Didn't have any trouble getting down there, just had to be careful. And hope it didn't rain.

It was private, nobody around.

Later on they fenced the area and ran cows in that area. You couldn't drive down there anymore.



Camping at Will-Vera in 1962.



You can see the beach there was rough rocks.



Vicki cold and tired had to lie on Moms lap.



At Will-Vera again in 1963.

You can see the boat in the water between the tent and the canopy.

Right outside the tent is the box I built to carry food in.

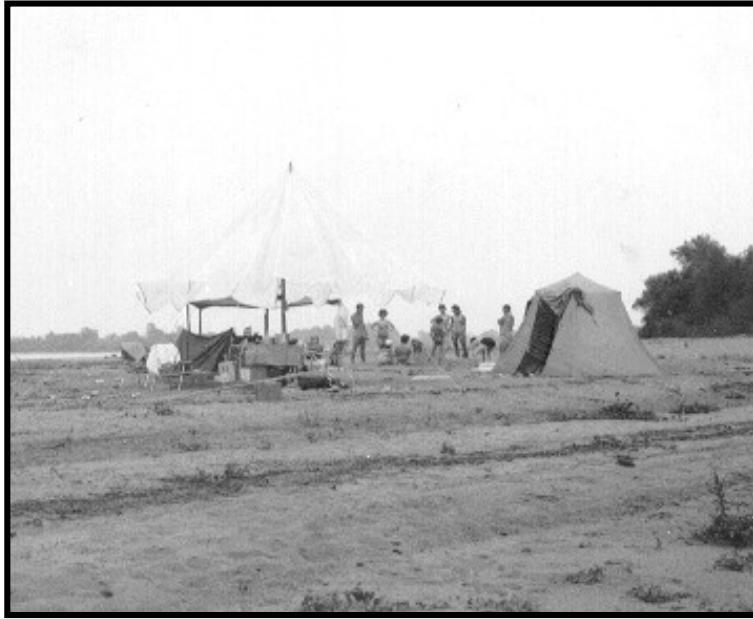
To the left the rear of the convertible is visible.



Sue and Vicki beside the shelter.

The cloths line is visible above Sue's head. We always had to have a clothes line to dry towels and bathing suits.





1963 at the Ohio River. Our tent and it looks as if we have company. The tarp and the parachute are set up.



Fun in the sand. Kenny Vogal getting buried in the sand.



This is the boat and our camp on the river.





1964

Now John gets buried in the sand. The girl on the left is the kids friend from across the street.



This is just a Sunday trip. The boat is in an inlet behind the sand bar.



Our new tent in 1964!

All set up on the sand bar on the Ohio River. This tent had dividers inside. That made it have three rooms.



Sue taking it easy in the shade of the tarp.



At Will-Vera again in 1964.  
First time at Will-Vera with  
the new tent!



All the kids enjoyed the water.



In 1965 installed a new **75 horse power motor** on the boat! A big difference from the 40 horse power.

That spring the best place we could find to try it out was Rough River in Kentucky. Here is all the kids and sue trying to see what is on the beach.



We had the picnic basket out on the bank.

Vicki still had her life jacket on.





On the Ohio again in 1965.

Looks like we had company, there is another tent down the way on the left.



Sue and Vicki on the beach.

Vicki still has her life jacket on, must not have learned to swim yet. The kids had to wear the life jackets until they learned to swim.



Shaving on the Ohio River  
1965.

Sue wouldn't let me in her  
sleeping bag unless I shaved.



Sue showing off her yellow  
poky dot bikini.

She wouldn't wear it when  
anyone was around.



John and Karen in the Ohio River in 1965.



Paula drying off after a swim.



Keith Ramsey his wife and kids camped with us a lot.



Set up on the Ohio in 1966.

That's the new tent we bought last year.



Every one joined in the camp fire in the evening.



John loved to fish and ski.





1966.

Kenny and Joyce Vogel  
camped with us a lot.



On rainy days all there was to  
do was to play cards in the tent.



Looks like the girls were hungry watching Sue prepare a meal.



We liked to camp close to the woods.

Close to the woods because the woods was our toilet.



1966

David Swope and his boat.



The kids get hungry  
swimming and skiing.



1966

This is all the camping gear we have in the boat to get across the river.



Having marshmallows in the evening around the camp fire.

Standing at left is Vicki, then Karen, then Paula. Sitting is Meg Glackman, and Ted Glackman, John beside Ted and on the right Grant Glackman.





1966.

Nancy and Laure Glackman.



Looks like the kids are ready  
to ski.



Camp on the river in 1966.



Looks like we are having hamburgers today.

I did some cooking to help Sue.



Dwight and Grace Swope  
came with us to the river one  
Sunday in 1966.



Sue Swope and Charlotte  
Ramsey.





1967 at the Ohio.

Looks like John just got back from skiing.



That's me sitting in the shade just relaxing.

That box I'm sitting on is the wooden box I built to carry food in. It also had room for



the camp cooking stove and the Colman lantern.



1967.

Keith and Charlotte Ramsey camped with us quite a bit.



Taking a ride in Tommy Kroger's boat on Kentucky Lake.



While we were riding in the Kroger's boat we towed ours behind.

That's Paula lounging in the back.



1967.

Howard and Fanny Ransdell with their boat. We did a lot of camping and boating with the Ransdells.



Paul with the Swope's boat.



Karen, Paula, and Vicki on the beach at the Coast Guard Auxiliary lot.



John and a fish he caught. John loved to fish.





1968 Auxiliary booth at Boat Show.

Paul and Sue Swope.



First outing in 1968.

Vicki playing in the sand.





At Kentucky Lake 1968.

This is the first time use of  
our new screened in canopy.



Playing on the sand at the  
mouth of Pisgah Bay.



1968

Paula showing off at Kentucky Lake.



The Silo Look Out at the Land Between The Lakes Kentucky.



1968 at Laguna Beach  
Florida.

Vicki, Paula, Karen and John.





1968 at Laguna Beach  
Florida.

Sue Swope.



1968 Trip to Shell Island  
Panama City Florida.

There was a commercial boat  
taking groups of people out to  
the Island.



Sue got so engrossed picking up shells that the waves caught her with all her clothes on.

She didn't care, just kept picking up shells.



1968.

Looks like we had company.

Lots of boats and tents!



Later at the camp fire.



1968

Paula and Vicki can't get  
enough marshmallows!



Getting ready to load all the  
camping gear in the boat.



Spring of 1969.

Bought another (used) boat and trailer. Took the 75 hp motor from the other boat and put on this boat.

We sold the other boat and trailer.

That's Vicki cleaning the windshield.



Early 1969 spring outing with the Ransdells.







1969 spring outing.





1969 camping with the Ransdells.

Fanny, Howard and Sue.

I think this was at Will-Vera, no grass on the river.



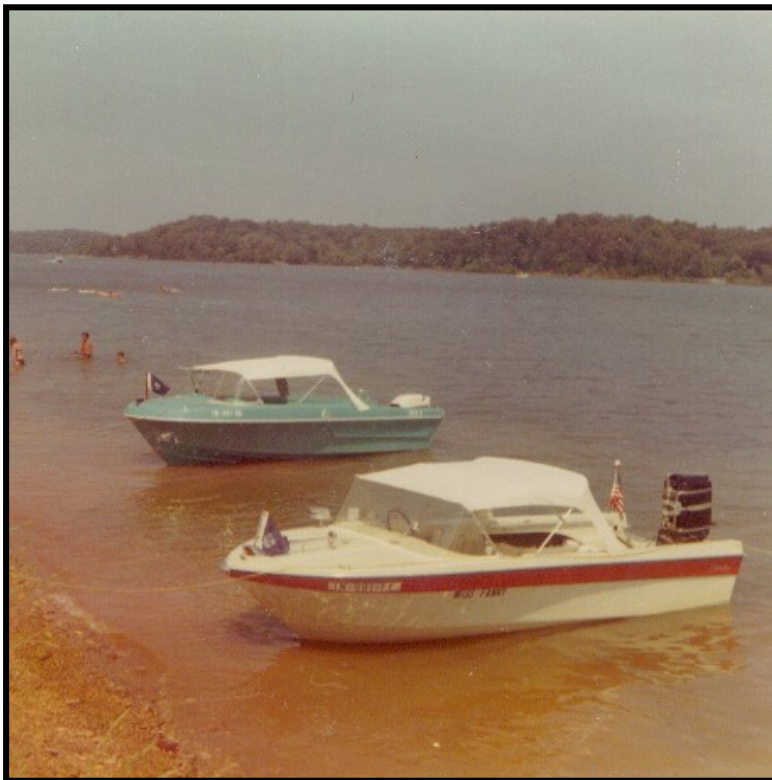
Karen and boyfriend.

The Kids were getting to the age where they seem to attract other “friends”.



1969.

Sue and Fanny at the river.



Ransdell's and the Swope's  
boats at the river.





1969

Sue getting the boat ready for the Armed Forces Day parade.



1969

Laguna Beach Florida.





1969

Laguna Beach Florida.



We always got a cabin at  
Laguna Beach.



1970

Camping at the  
Coast Guard  
Auxiliary  
grounds.

Vicki, Sue and  
Karen.



Time to eat again!

Paula, Vicki and  
sue.





1970 camping at  
Pisgah Bay TVA  
camp ground  
Kentucky Lake.



Vicki and Karen  
with some  
friendly campers.

Seems like there  
are always boys  
around these  
days.



Fanny and Sue  
at Kentucky  
Lake.



Sue Swope at  
Kentucky Lake.





1970 Camping  
and partying at  
the Coast Guard  
lot.



Keith, Fanny,  
Roy and Sue.





1971

Bought this canoe  
made at Tyler  
boats at Rockport.

John and Paul.



John, Karen and  
Lady.



Lady, Sue and  
Karen.

These were all  
taken at Ron  
Hooks Lake.

We were looking  
for a place to try  
out the canoe.





Last boat  
Bought 1979  
Sold 1987



Jim Marsh and wife  
and Sue and I in  
Florida.



At Kentucky Lake  
With Sue and Lady.