

# Americans Spent Huge Sum For Recreation Boating in '59

By ELMER C. WALZER  
UPI Financial Editor  
New York — (UPI) — The United States of America has the biggest civilian "navy" in the world.



Elmer Walzer

If anyone wants to argue about the foregoing superlative, let him look at the record.  
A total of 39 million persons, 22 per cent of our entire population, is estimated to have taken part in recreation boating during 1959.

These 39 million boating enthusiasts spent \$2,477,000,000 at the retail level during 1959 for new and used boats, engines, accessories, safety equipment, fuel, insurance, docking, maintenance, launching, storage, repair, and boat club memberships.

Our civilian "navy" owns 7,800,000 boats of all descriptions, inboards, outboards, sailboats, row boats, dinghies, prams, and just about any other craft you can mention.

This is big business when you consider the boats used 490 million gallons of gasoline; 24.5 million gallons of diesel fuel; and 25.5 million gallons of lubricating oils.

More than \$200 million went for each of the following during 1959: Purchase of new inboard boats; purchase of new sailboats; purchase of new outboard motors; outboard maintenance; inboard and sail launching and docking; and inboard maintenance and storage.

It took 165 million square feet of sheet plywood to make the boats as well as 75 million pounds of reinforced plastics and 50 million pounds of aluminum. And the painting operations involved used 12

million gallons of marine paints and varnishes.  
All these statistics come naturally from the research made by those who will run the 50th National Motor Boat Show to be held in New York City's Coliseum from Jan. 15 to 24. The show is staged by the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers.

**Big Show**  
This year, as always, it's going to be the biggest ever. There will be 510 craft on display with a 46-foot motor yacht the largest. There'll be just about every type of craft, including the unmotored variety, particularly sail boats.

Americans with their good incomes and lots of leisure are making the boating industry one of the nation's biggest. The boating enthusiasts run their craft on our bays, lakes, rivers, and oceans. They are going to do more on the St. Lawrence Waterway in 1960.

The boating industry is a major part of America's leisure market which is estimated to involve annual spending of between 30 and 40 billion dollars.

**Autos Still Lead**  
Automobiles still dominate but the boat trend keeps growing, and it helps keep down highway congestion on weekends and holidays.  
The show will devote its first three days exclusively to the 20,000 members of the boating industry.

And just to demonstrate how the motor boat of today has made life easy for the owner, the show will include some of the old-timer craft, steam craft, naphtha launch, and early gasoline motor boat.  
It didn't take much naphtha to run the early one-lungers because the owner spent most of his leisure time, and he didn't have too much, in trying to fix the blamed thing, and keep the weeds off the propeller.

**New Things Ahead**  
There'll be many new things in boating on exhibit such as a turbocraft with a water jet propulsion unit that shoots water into the air through a special device in the transom for thrust; a fiber glass sloop; a 12-foot Tiki catamaran that converts from sailboat to sailing ice-boat to outboard in less than five minutes; and a 16-foot Hawaiian fiber glass canoe, among many others.

H. B. Atwater, president of the Marine Products Division of McCulloch Corp., makers of Scott Outboard Motors, looks for big things ahead in the boat industry.

"Temporary sales plateaus are a possibility," he said, "but with a rapidly increasing population, more and more leisure time, and steadily rising standards of living and income available for discretionary spending, the outlook for the marine business is for a continually expanding market."

# Alaska Prepares To Observe First Year of Statehood

By United Press International  
The 49th state of Alaska — its vast area still faced with the complexities and problems of a new government — prepared this week for a calm commemoration of one year of statehood.

Alaskans, from the Arctic Circle settlement of Atanick to the quiet yet bustling capital of Juneau, 1,250 miles to the south, will commemorate Statehood Day Sunday in a noiseless fashion compared to the "we're in" type of celebrations that were held throughout the territory a year ago.

Even as the preparations for the brief ceremonies marking the birthday near completion, most Alaskans realize that a crucial period is coming up this month in the form of their second state legislature.

The days of the glittering gold dust are almost gone and Alaskans know that with one year of statehood under their belts there are many problems to face and solve.

**Budget Balancing**  
One of these problems, and it is a major one, is how to balance the budget. This is a problem that not only the legislature has to face but one that challenges each housewife, businessman, employee and employer alike. The costs of labor, production, transportation and general living are still putting a damper on plans for expansion.

Alaskans truly pay for what they receive, whether it be a 45 cent loaf of bread or the \$8 an hour for the services of a skilled laborer. The state still is and will be for some time to come dependent on imports of food and manufactured goods.

But high costs alone are not the only problem that Alaska faces for a first birthday present.

The coming Legislature, which convenes Jan. 25, is going to have to wrangle with appropriations without imposing additional taxation.

One year as a state still leaves Alaska with the dubious responsibility of latching on to enough money to take care of courts, prisoners, fisheries, highways and so on down the line.

Gov. William Egan, a 45-year-old Democrat, said recently that a review of the budget indicates that it is going to come out balanced. But he added, "if it doesn't I will have to propose tax increases."

Oil — the black gold that rocketed other states into the economically sound positions they now enjoy — is one industry that Alaskans are placing a great deal of faith in. Oil legislation is expected to flood the desks of the 40 representatives and 20 senators.

A recent purchase of state owned oil off-shore lands next to the Kenai Peninsula amounted to \$4 million, an indication of the faith the industry has in Alaska.  
The sagging fishing indus-

try is still first in the state. A number of bills are expected to try and give this \$40-\$50 million business a boost.  
All in all Alaskans are convinced they can settle the problems facing the year old state. The gold dust glitter may have faded, but enough of it has stuck to make the 49th state a "bonanza" of potential.

# More Stormy Weather Seen In New England

Suitland, Md., (Science Service) — More stormy weather of the kind that lashed the Midwest and New England in the past few days is foreseen for the coming month.

The temperature and precipitation patterns expected during January suggest a "succession of vigorous winter storms attended by considerable wind snow and sleet, especially over central and northern regions" of the nation, the U.S. Weather Bureau's extended forecast section said in its 30-day outlook.

Temperatures are expected to average below seasonal normals over the western two-thirds of the nation, with greatest departures from normal over the Mountain and Great Plains states. Above normal temperatures are forecast from the Appalachians to the East Coast, with near normal averages in unperfected areas.

**Subnormal in Northwest**  
Precipitation is expected to exceed normal over most of the country except for subnormal amounts of the Northwest and also the extreme Southwest.

Cause of the predicted vigorous winter weather during January is the expected development of a strong ridge, off the West Coast of North America, in the great wavy band of air that circles the Northern Hemisphere and is known as the planetary wave. Development of this ridge will result in cold polar air masses being tossed down into the western part of the country, where a so-called trough will form.

Warm, moisture-laden Gulf air will be drawn northward by this trough. Strong storm systems are expected to develop where these two air masses clash, and these storms, with their savage winds and snows, are predicted to move northeastward.

Washington — Buttons became a feature of naval coat sleeves when Admiral Horatio Nelson ordered them sewed on uniforms to discourage men from wiping their noses on their sleeves.

A recent survey showed that two-thirds of all prescriptions filled in the United States were priced at three dollars and under.

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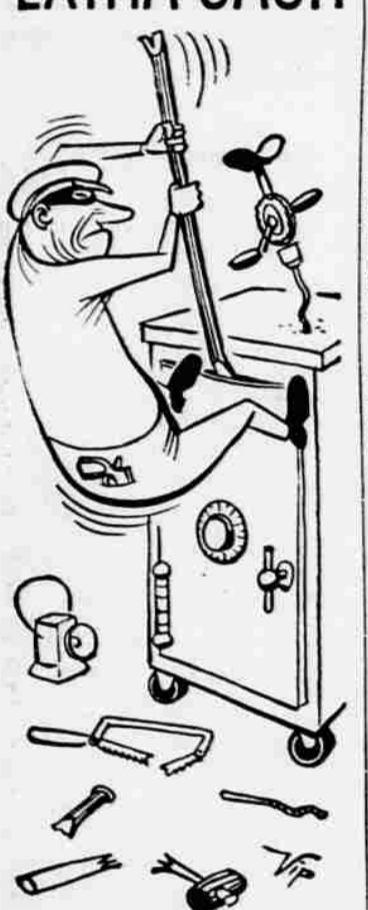
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