



Nancie isn't only a ski champ; she's also among Cypress Gardens' best boat jockeys.

WATER-SKIS

(Continued)

set a woman's jumping record in water-skiing that experts say may stand for many years.

What kind of a jump was it? Well, pace off 89 feet (Nancie's record-breaking leap), visualize a young, lithe girl soaring off a five-foot ski jump behind a speeding boat and covering the 89 feet with ballet-like grace. It's a breathtaking sight for spectators and an unforgettable thrill for a skier.

Nancie didn't just go out and start setting records, of course. "I took my share of spills that first day," she says. "But corny as it sounds, water-skiing got into my blood from the start. Daddy sadly gave up his fishing weekends after Shirley and I badgered him enough. Even he finally caught the bug. Before we knew it, the whole family was skiing, even my 14-year-old brother Billy, who was only five at the time. I'll bet Billy is going to be a champion, too, some day."

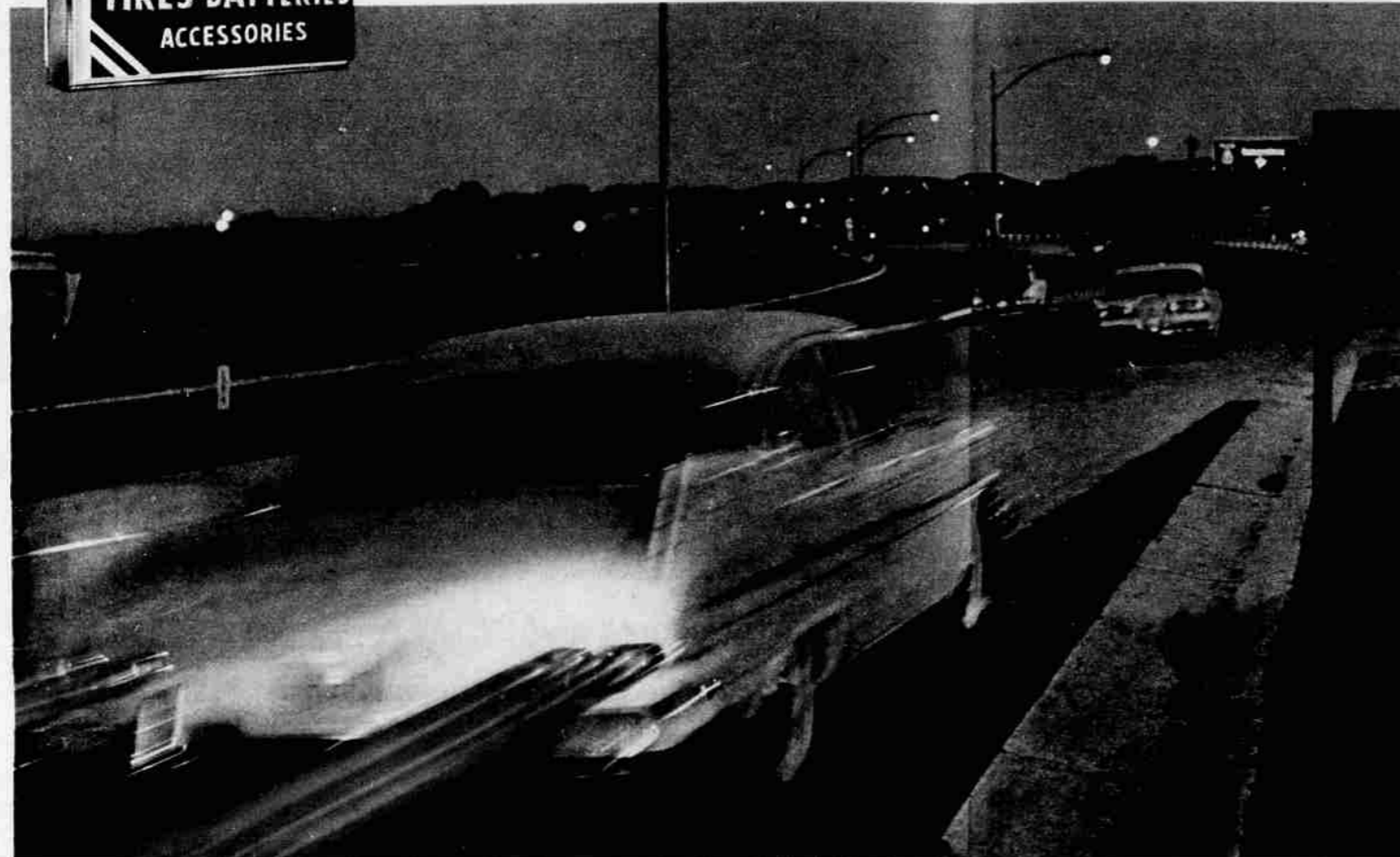
BESIDES DETERMINATION, Nancie had another advantage—she lives near one of the water-skiing capitals of the world. "It's only 20 miles to Cypress Gardens," she explains. "That may not mean much to people who haven't been there, but it's one of the most beautiful spots in Florida and—here's the point—they have a professional water-skiing show there every day. I took one look at those boys and girls skimming over the water and said to myself: 'Nancie, you practice and you can do that, too.'"

"To make a long story short, I did practice—my whole family helped me—and I finally made the show after some experience traveling with a professional show in 1955-1956. I won the national title in 1958, of course, and the rest of my tournament record is history. History, by the way, which won't be added to," she adds with a freckle-flecked smile.

The explanation for that is elementary if you're a young bachelor and meet Nancie. Besides skiing for Cypress Gardens, Nancie's native charm and



Built to even higher standards than tires on new cars!



YOU CAN DRIVE AT MODERN HIGHWAY SPEEDS in greater safety than ever before with famous Atlas Plycron Cushionaire® Tires, because...



ON THE TRACK Atlas Automotive Specialists insist Atlas Tires pass exhaustive tests like this "high-speed marathon."

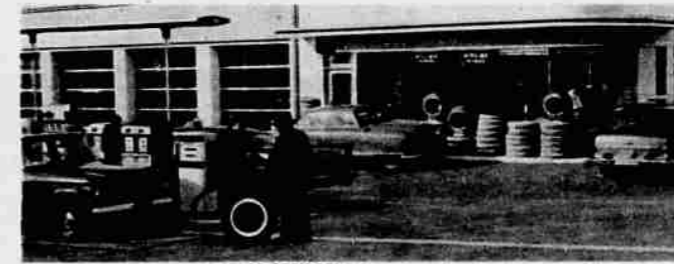
87 grueling tests—that's what an Atlas Tire must undergo before it reaches you! Atlas Automotive Specialists insist that Atlas Tires, Batteries, and Accessories give you extra value, extra stamina before they pass them. Called the "world's toughest critics," these experts develop and test Atlas Products to standards even higher than those for brand new cars! When replacing your tires, batteries or accessories—make them Atlas!



THERE'S EXTRA STAMINA IN EVERY ATLAS BATTERY! Constant research and comparison testing with other leading brands keep Atlas out front...insure long life, sure starts!



"TORTURE ROOM" FOR SPARK PLUGS! Above, Atlas Spark Plugs are put through their paces in the lab... tests tougher than any car will give them!



YOU'RE NEVER FAR FROM ATLAS SERVICE! Ask to see written guarantee on Atlas Tires and Batteries. It's honored on the spot at 38,000 service stations. Adjustments pro-rated from date of purchase over life of guarantee and based on retail price at time and place of adjustment.

RECOMMENDED AND SOLD AT 38,000 SERVICE STATIONS THROUGHOUT U. S. A. AND CANADA... **ATLAS**

*Trade-marks "Atlas", "Plycron" and "Cushionaire" Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. Copyright 1960, Atlas Supply Co., Newark 2, N. J.

fresh good looks made her a natural to represent one of the major outboard motor companies at their shows throughout the country—a job she did so well that it led to scores of radio and TV appearances from the Ed Sulli-

van Show to Dave Garroway's. One of these trips carried her to Kansas City. "I met the right guy there and we fell in love," she said. "Pretty dull, huh? But honestly, he's a wonderful guy and probably the only person

on earth who could have made me forget about water-skiing. I'm retiring when we get married this September. That doesn't mean that I won't be on skis every chance I get, but from then on it will be strictly for fun."

When I declined her offer to teach me to ski, Nancie admonished me: "It is fun, you know. There are at least 10 million water-skiers in America. I've taught a three-year-old girl to ski (this said slightly tauntingly). And I've seen

senior citizens in their 80s out for a spin (this suggesting the author's decrepitude). Anyone (hinting that the author could be the exception) can learn in 15 minutes." Needless to say, I gave in and before

a knot of professional skiers allowed myself to be taught. In all honesty, I must admit that when Nancie said 15 minutes, it was a conservative estimate. By a stop watch, I was skiing over the swells of Lake Louise at Cypress Gar-

dens in slightly more than 12 minutes.

Learning to ski is a simple matter of three minutes' instruction on dry land, then right into the water. As Nancie explained them, these are the fundamentals that were enough to make an aquaman out of me:

"Sit back on the skis in shallow water. Your knees should be nearly touching your chest. Your arms extending back from the tow bar should be as parallel as possible to your uptilted skis. Remember, when the boat starts, it pulls you erect; if you try to pull yourself up, you're going to tumble."

I tried to pull myself erect the first time and did tumble. The second time, Nancie helped me up and gave me the feel of it. On the third attempt, I made it and (in my own modest estimation) skimmed over the lake with the grace of a professional, despite clenched teeth and the sluggish response of some muscles I never knew I had.

Now I'm a convert and can understand why Nancie says water-skiing on a "fun" basis is one of our fastest-growing family sports. "As you know now," Nancie told me, "practically anyone any age can learn to water-ski in a few minutes. There are beautiful lakes and rivers all over the country wonderfully adapted to water-skiing. And you can buy the whole rig—boat, skis, the works—for as little as \$1,200.

"Water-skiing has been good to me. It has kept me outdoors and healthy. When I practice for tournaments, I'm on the lake from 7:30 a.m. till dark. And it's going to be just as good for my children. If they want to be water-ski champions, I'll say: 'Go right ahead.' Professionals don't ordinarily compete after their early 20s, so they'll have plenty of time to find vocations or husbands."

NANCIE's biggest thrill in a thrilling sport occurred while she was going through the same paces she had done hundreds of times in the four-times-a-day shows at Cypress Gardens. "The difference was, though, that it was at Jones Beach in New York, and we were being televised on the Ed Sullivan Show. I nearly fell before all those people on shore and the millions watching on TV. I caught myself just before I ignominiously slid along on my nose. My hesitation wasn't noticeable to anyone watching, but I sure knew it when my knees buckled momentarily. I was still shaking a bit when I told Mr. Sullivan that I had nearly wrecked his beautiful show."

As she retires to become a housewife, Nancie won't admit that her aquatic thrills are behind her. "As long as I can still do it, it will be a thrill for me. Maybe you won't believe it, but even on my day off, I water-ski! The titles, the trophies, the wonderful people I've met—they're memories to last a lifetime. But most important, once you've water-skied, you know you'll never want for outdoor fun, thrills, and excitement."