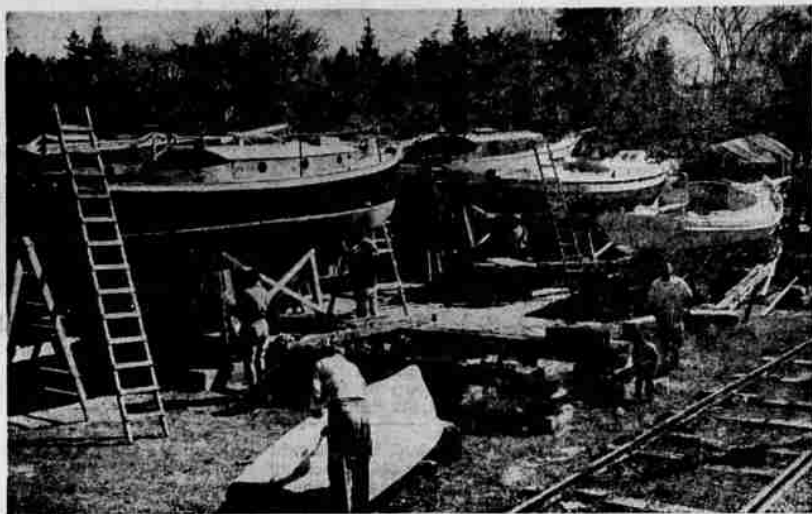




ACTIVE SEASON—The most active of the trial seasons for the boat owner is near at hand along most waterfronts, and especially those that have been winter-bound since last season. The first breath of spring

will bring out entire families to prepare their boats for the months ahead. Even the small fry can be kept amused, or busy, at fitting-out time.

Boating Accidents Claimed on Decline As Program Gains

Recreational boating mishaps were reported on the decline in 1961 as a spontaneous safety education program gained momentum from coast-to-coast. Statistics revealed there were 43 per cent less boats involved in accidents on Federally controlled waters during the first eight months of the year compared with the same period of calendar 1960, and other state and industry agencies reported declines in casualties despite a continued increase in boating activity.

The impact of the current safe boating drive is being delivered through numerous outlets as national and local organizations combine their efforts in working toward the common goal. This fact was brought out forcefully last year when Capt. Richard Baxter, chief, Auxiliary Division, United States Coast Guard, announced that more than 1,000 local safe boating communities had been established throughout the country on a permanent basis.

School Boating Courses

The National Safe Boating Week committee, headed by Captain Baxter and comprised of representatives of 12 other national organizations interested in safety afloat, has been chiefly responsible for the widespread formation of the safe boating committees in waterfront communities. While the observance, by presidential proclamation, covers only a week, the event has focused attention on the need for safe boating education and resulted in the creation of the local groups cooperating on a seasonal or annual basis.

National Safe Boating Week will be observed for 1962 during the period of July 1 to July 7.

In addition to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, American Boat and Yacht Council, American National Red Cross, Girl Scouts of the United States of America, National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers, National Council Boy Scouts of America, National Safe Boating Association, National Safety Council, Outboard Boating Club of America, United States Power Squadrons, Yacht Safety Bureau and American Power Boat Association are represented on the National Safe Boating Week committee.

The Committee's emphasis on the need for boating safety education has spread through member organizations into school systems, the Adult Education Program, the Outdoor Education Project of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and other state and educational agencies.

The United States Power Squadron, with 312 units throughout the country and one of the first organizations to schedule free classes in boating instruction, conducted 1,816 courses last year before a total of 332,616 students. The Coast Guard Auxiliary, which has education as only one of its official facets, handed out 114,000 certificates to students completing its boating courses. Red Cross permanent and volunteer instructors issued 20,000 Small Craft Certificates while exposing additional hundreds of thousands to safe boating practices in 158,308 water safety classes. All of these classes were free but the Red Cross does require boating course students to know how to swim.

Despite their internal educational programs, instructors from these organizations were able to assist in presenting public school boat safety courses in Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Virginia and Washington in the Adult Education Program, where instructors must be highly qualified, in Massachusetts, the Chicago Metropolitan area, and Southern California.

In addition, these organizations and instructors from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y.M.C.A., 4-H Clubs and Sea Explorers helped New York State's Division of Motor Boats get its Young Boatmen's Safety Course started for boys and girls aged 10 to 14. Alabama's Department of Conservation prepared a series of eight water safety instruction programs for youngsters under the age of 12 and these were televised from the University of Alabama Educational TV studios.

Additional boating educational outlets will be added this year as the National Safe Boating Week committee's work continues to spread. New boating safety courses are being prepared, for both oldsters and youngsters, many to be reached through schools, colleges, and universities.

Dr. Julian W. Smith, director, Outdoor Education Project, Michigan State University, states: "We have conducted boating and water safety demonstrations in many of our state and regional workshops and are now hoping to do a more intensive job in the boating phase of outdoor education."

Numerous Refinements Added To New Runabouts

Builders of outboard runabouts have added numerous refinements to their 1962 lines, with many new models coming complete with all necessary equipment.

Appointments among the highlights of this year's outboard runabout fleet include complete steering systems, built-in gasoline tanks, convertible upholstered seats, rakish hardware, synthetic woodgrained deck surface coverings, and transoms that can handle high horsepower motors. Use of aluminum, wood and fiberglass as construction materials continues at about the same pace as in recent years.

"Sunbather Seats"

Aluma Craft's aluminum 18-foot Queen Merrie Deluxe runabout has a carpeted floor, convertible top and built-in tanks as standard equipment. Glastron has sleeper seats on some models and built-in ice-chest on the Sportsman 161.

Traveler, building both aluminum and fiberglass boats, includes a three-piece windshield, sliding side windows, folding top and Siesta seats (convertible to lounge), on its new 17-foot Saturn.

Brunswick leads its Owens line of fiberglass runabouts with the 16-foot Bedford priced at \$1,195, including complete hardware and foam upholstered "sunbather" seats, and can take motors up to 85 horsepower.

Fisher-Pierce's 18½-foot glass and foam Boston Whalers are available in various models, from the bare hull to the Easport model that has a top and equipment for \$1,195. A smaller Whaler's bare 13-foot hull sells for \$645.

Dorsett has convertible seats in the 14½-foot Belmont and the 17-foot Lexington. The company's 17-foot Catalina Day Cruiser has two bunks, stowage space, built-in fold-out table.

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