

Boating Shows Gain In Basin Area



A GOOD INDICATION of the ever-growing interest in boating can be gained by taking a look at the crowded slips of any of the commercial docks around the Upper Lake. This picture, taken two weeks ago, shows some of the berthed boats at a popular Upper Lake docking facility.

If anyone thinks there hasn't been a great boom in the boating business all he has to do is go out on any weekend and take a look at the Upper Lake around the Moore Park area.

And if anyone is inclined to think that our algae has proven a deterrent to water sports I can only say that indications would tend to prove him wrong.

The national publications have been full of late of facts and figures to prove this boating boom. Almost anywhere you turn one can find comparative percentages of the number of boats now as opposed to the number of boats 10 years ago and so on. Dealers are full of enthusiasm and optimism over continuing rising sales of boats and motors.

There has probably been a surfeit of this material published already.

But there are many interesting and non-technical facts which can be stated about boating in the Klamath Basin. Because there is a long history.

Until recent years there were several old dugout canoe remains scattered around the lake at various points. Even today there are a few of these early day craft in a fairly good state of preservation. And before them, I suppose, there were rafts in use, perhaps made of logs tied together with bark withes.

But one thing is certain and that is that as long as there has been a Klamath Lake, which is quite a spell, there have been boats in use on its surface.

Back in the days of the cruise boats water travel was an accepted way of life and the steamers plied their trade up and down the river and the lake alike.

The names of the Winema, the Klamath (on the river run) and the Eagle, Modoc and Wasp are still familiar around these parts. The boats played a big part in the development of the country.

In the line of recreation perhaps the Winema is the best known for the weekend cruises to Rocky Point and Harriman Lodge. These were joyous affairs with a band aboard and everyone having a wonderful time.

Then there came a time of comparative quiet on the water when boating was in the hands of the fishermen and hunters, the trappers and the dedicated few who

were willing to buck the expense and trouble of maintaining their own boats.

But since World War II there has been a steady gain in the number of boats on the lake and in the number of types. Sailing has shown a steady gain. But the wind-power buffs are far outstripped by their mechanized counterparts who are unwilling to rely on anything so unreliable as the wind.

The number of cruisers on the lake today is many times that of 10 years ago. Likewise, the number of runabouts and speedboats has shown steady gains.

I suppose that water skiing has brought on part of the wild boom. But a general interest in boating as well as better, more reliable and cheaper boats and motors has had a good deal to do with it. Not to mention the vast strides in the boat transport business. Today a man can haul his boat easily from place to place on a trailer which allows maximum hauling with minimum effort and equipment.

Any way you look at it, the boating is good in the Klamath Basin. And anywhere you go, on the many lakes, rivers and streams, you will find the boating fraternity there before you.

You can find everything in the boating line from power cruisers to amphibious houseboats. From speedboats to sailing craft of all kind. And, in season, you'll find every kind of fishing rig from rubber rafts to canoes. The same thing holds true during the duck and goose season.

It looks like boating is here to stay. As the pictures with this piece point out.

RELIGIOUS TV SERIES

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — A religious series sponsored by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has completed films for its seventh year on TV starting in October. Called "This Is the Life," the series is shown as a public service by more than 250 stations in the U.S.

BROADWAY COMEBACK

NEW YORK (UPI) — Joseph Cotton, who gained stardom as Katharine Hepburn's leading man in "The Philadelphia Story," returns to the Broadway stage in October as co-star with Arlene Francis in a comedy, "Once More, With Feeling."

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ON LOCATION HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — "The Beast of Budapest" was filmed in Bronson Canyon, Hollywood, and at a studio.


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