

Boating 'In Season' All Year Around These Days

If you are one of the 37 million Americans who went boating last year, you're undoubtedly planning already for the season ahead. But if you are a member of an even larger group who are interested in the sport and would like to take part, you are in for a surprise this year.

Now you can get started boating more quickly than ever before. This coming weekend is not too soon to get out in the water. Time was when a yachtsman in the North launched his boat on the 30th of May. Today you will find millions of boatmen "go into commission" by simply back-

ing their cars down to the water's edge and floating off outboard runabouts from trailers. A sunny day any time of the year, any place in the country where the water is not frozen, will now bring out the modern boating family.

No longer can you live somewhere that is too far from the water. This summer will see father, mother, and the younger sailors pack up every weekend for a drive of sometimes 100 or 200 miles to reach a cruising area, and then live aboard full time for a week or so during vacation.

Today's experienced boatman will recommend that you study the improved craft now available if you plan to buy your first boat. Applications of wood, plastics, and metal have been markedly improved over the past few years and you will find your choice will be stronger in rough seas, faster over smooth water, and much easier to maintain.

Boatmen in the South who haul out their larger craft this time of year for a spring coat of paint, and Northerners who are doing the same before launching, will both be using new colorful coatings which now incorporate synthetics to lengthen resistance to weather and water. The extra strength of nylon rope, durability of plastic deck fittings, and higher horsepower of outboard and inboard motors are samples of this year's improvements.

If you want to get started with something small for fishing on protected waters, look for a 10 to 14 foot rowboat or runabout, and an outboard for it you can stow in your car trunk. The boat may be light enough to lift and carry on your car top.

Moving out to open water and longer trips offshore? Choose a 16-footer or up, and a little more power.

The pleasures of overnight cruises

are one target of this year's new designs. As with the past several years, the outboard cruiser seems to be the fastest growing class in popularity. Boating is the sport in which the whole family can participate together. The cruiser, usually 15 to 20 feet overall, is small enough to be trailered, and is still large enough for family overnight cruises and may be fast enough besides to pull water skiers.

Next step up is the inboard cruiser, and here you can install a great many of the comforts of home, with only your budget and seagoing ability as limits.

Sailing, too, is enjoying a new surge of popularity. Never before have so many boatmen pit their skills against the wind. Sailboats are being trailered long distances, and all winter in chilly Northern harbors "Frostbite" sail-

ors have been racing sailing dinghies.

No time of year is out of season any more for the ardent boat-



FAMILY AFLOAT — These sailors are ready for a day of fun on the water long before the "season" officially starts. Supplies are loaded aboard their 19-foot utility outboard at home; boat is trailered to nearby waterway.

FLAG WEVERS

WORCESTER, Mass. (UPI) — The state flags of all 49 states, including Alaska, line the 400-foot mall of the home office building of the State Mutual Life Assurance Co. of America.

UNLOCKED BARN DOORS

GENEVA, N.Y. (UPI) — In a single month, patrolmen making their regular rounds in this upstate New York community found four safes, 47 doors and two windows open.

RANGE LAND ANIMAL TALES



Nature's School on the High Desert of Oregon ILLUSTRATED

Sabina Carlin Pratt

Range Land Animal Tales Proves Good Child Book

By BILL JENKINS

Range Land Animal Tales by Sabina Carlin Pratt, Exposition Press, 1959—

One of the best, and most sensible, children's books to come to our attention in many a long moon is Sabina Carlin Pratt's Range Land Animal Tales.

Here, in 58 pages of large type, the author unfolds more nature lore than a lot of big city naturalists have managed to do in a four foot shelf.

The author knows what she is talking about, too. Got the material while teaching in a one-room school on Eastern Oregon's High Desert, not far from here as the

crow flies.

She writes in a casual, down-to-earth style that will, I am sure, fascinate the adult as much as it does the youngster. There is little of the unreal in any of the stories, either. They are tales as told by a story teller about the real, living things of the desert. The raven, the kangaroo rat, the coyote, the beaver, the antelopes and even the spiders.

I highly recommend the book to anyone who has a youngster and who wants to give them a good start in life where nature study is concerned.

I'm sure the parents will get a boot out of it, too.

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