

How To Get Started On Cruise In Family Boat

If you own a boat, chances are you are already planning ahead for pleasure trips by water this summer. Long trips, too. In a recent survey of boating developments, we discovered more than half of last year's active boatmen took cruising trips of over 100 miles.

Figures show that 43 per cent made voyages of 100 to 500 miles in their boats, 15 per cent went over 500 miles at least once, 11 per cent went offshore outside the three-mile limit, and the remainder made journeys of less than 100 miles. You're certainly not alone if you are planning your first long adventure by water, or are looking forward to new harbors and cruising areas to visit.

How do you get started? Other boatmen can recommend interesting ports of call. Newspapers, magazines and books will tell where others have gone by boat. A let-

ter to your state chamber of commerce will bring you suggestions of state parks where camping facilities are available along a waterway. Many gasoline concerns now offer excellent free harbor guides; write to their home office and see if your area is covered.

Do not, however, rely on informal maps such as these for accurate navigation. This time of year boating families should be buying the official government charts which have been newly corrected to show changes in channels and marker buoys, plus any other navigation problems which may have arisen recently. Rivers and tidal waters particularly are constantly changing course, and the wise boatman will spend 75 cents to \$1.50 each for inexpensive charts of areas he will visit.

The family that has cruised before is familiar with the fun of studying charts. Here you can find

small coves you might have missed from offshore, examine depths of safe water along your route, and make careful note of any rocks, sandbars, or obstructions that might cause trouble.

This year the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, official government agency which does the tremendous research a marine chart represents, is testing several small improved charts that include aerial photographs and special cruise information. Soon you may be able to carry your trip charts in a loose-leaf notebook, rather than the large rolled sheets which sailors in the past have known so

well.

Basic minimum equipment should, of course, include life preservers, fire extinguisher, lights, horn, and other Coast Guard requirements for a boat the size of yours. In addition you will want anchor and lines, compass, binoculars, first aid kit, food, and spare engine parts.

This season you will also find small transistorized radio - telephones, depth meters, radio-direction finders, and electronic accessories suitable for the smallest craft.

Overnight cruising will be much easier and more comfortable with air mattresses, foam seat-covers, and sleeping bags which can be spread out on the cockpit floor to convert a runabout into a miniature cruiser.

But even if you do not own a boat you can make plans. Rent-a-boat services are springing up which offer rowboats for an hour, up to 30-foot cabin cruisers for a week or month, and a yacht broker can find the craft of your choice for a summer's charter.

Planning right now can assure you a season of fun on the water.

Deduction Trend Set

CHICAGO (UPI) — Individual taxpayers in the \$6,000-and-up income brackets itemized deductions averaging 13 to 18 per cent of adjusted gross income on their 1956 returns, according to a national reporting authority on tax and business law.

The Commerce Clearing House said statistics show that 18½ million taxpayers listed their non-business deductions item by item. This was an increase of 1,600,000 over the previous year.

Among those with incomes from \$6,000 to \$10,000 the largest single deduction item was interest paid, according to the CCH. In the \$10,000 to \$100,000 brackets, taxes ranked first.

Taxpayers in the \$6,000 to \$7,000 class listed deductions for contributions averaging \$233, for interest \$358, taxes \$311, medical expenses \$295 and casualty losses \$149. Other deductions averaged \$162.

In the \$10,000 to \$15,000 bracket, average deductions included: contributions \$428, interest \$544, taxes \$573, medical expenses \$516, casualty losses \$186, other deductions \$311.

Aztec Players Had A Ball

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — You're sitting in a stadium watching a football game when 22 helmeted, padded players rush into the stands and grab all the valuables in sight.

That would seem strange—not to mention frightening — to most Americans, but to the ancient Aztecs it was all part of a game called tlachtli.

According to anthropologist H. B. Nicholson of the University of California at Los Angeles, after each goal scored in tlachtli, the players would make a "collection" from any of the spectators they could catch.

In tlachtli, though, scoring was no easy task. The hard rubber ball used in the game had to be hit through rings set vertically from the wall of an I-shaped court. The rings were slightly larger than the ball which was a bit smaller than the modern volleyball ball.

To make it tougher, players could not use their hands or feet to hit the ball—only their elbows, knees and hips.

Dr. Nicholson uncovered one of the courts while excavating at a remote village of a little-known Aztec tribe in northern Mexico.

Army Gets Any Weather At All

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — The U.S. Army is now able to test its equipment in all sorts of weather merely by putting it into a small room here at Frankford Arsenal.

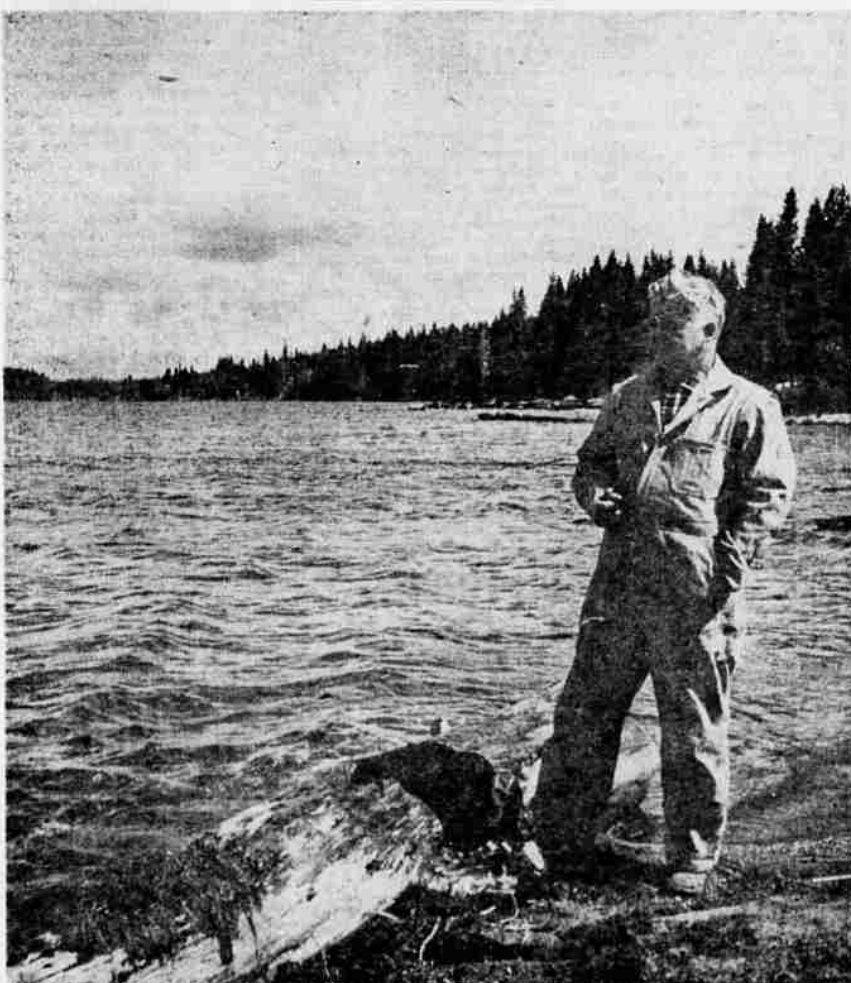
Environmental test chambers have been installed at the arsenal where engineers can simulate anything from a drizzle to a downpour, from a balmy day in the spring to a blazing hot day in the summer.

The chambers were made for the Army by Tenney Engineering, Inc., of Union, N.J. Rain, sunlight, temperature and humidity are all produced in them automatically.

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BOATING ESSENTIALS — This family assembles required equipment for safe boating so they'll be ready for a vacation afloat. Approved life preservers, fire extinguisher, navigation lights, horn, anchor and adequate lines are among the first essentials for every boat.



THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING WISTFUL in the gaze of a fisherman as he looks out over his favorite bit of water when the season hasn't yet opened. Something of that longing is captured in this picture of George Overmire giving a loving look at his favorite fishing hole — Diamond Lake. The picture was taken two weeks ago on a look-see trip to the lake. No ice. No snow to speak of on that date.

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