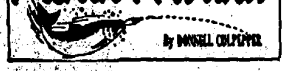
Independent Press-Telegram Long Beach 9-18-60 p.24



By DAVIDELL CULPEPPER

LAKE CHICKAMAUGA, Tenn.—Water, water everywhere, but nary a drop for dry Southern California. That's the way I feel about the Deep South after a few days of boating in this area. And the countryside: Great forests of impenetrable green!

Perhaps the Tennessee Valley Authority that created hundreds of miles of navigable waterways has always been a national political football, but it has impounded good pure water by the billions of gallons in enormous lakes and a smooth-flowing river.

If such a similar project could be completed in California, there would be room for its thousands of boats, it's fishermen, hunters, water - skiers, skin - divers and swimmers.

DON CULPEPPER

I have just completed a run from Chickamauga Dam downstream 32 miles to Mullins Cove and return. Both going and returning, I, along with more than a hundred other outdoor writers passed through the Chickamauga Locks that drop or lower you 50 feet from one water level to the other.

We made our run in an 18 foot boat, powered with two mighty Mercury 800s and, at times, approached speeds of 45 miles per hour. One of our drivers — we had turns—was Don Guerin, president of the American Power Boat Association. Another was Long Beach's 16-year-old darling of the water skis, Vicki Van Hook.

* * *

DIRECTLY IN FRONT of us was Chuck Stearns, skiing all the way from Mullins Cove to Chickamauga Dam. Chuck, 21, and like Vicki a world champion water-skier, was getting in a practice run that will help him when he tries the Catalina Island round-trip run later this month.

Certainly there were no two other persons who gave this crowd of outdoor writers such thrills as did Vicki and Chuck in several performances at Lakeshore Marina. They conducted themselves in such a manner that they became the darlings of more than 110 newsmen, gathered here to see th 1961 line of Mercury outboards introduced.

Here are two youngsters who have gone to the top of the skiing word—and both before they were out of their teens. Chuck just recently reached that majority which permits him to vote. Vicki has a long way to go yet. When she won her world crown she was only 15 and she topped women twice her age who were in competition.

At any rate, they made writers from all parts of the United States extremely conscious that there is a Long Beach, California, and that it produces champions.

All of us were guests of the Kickhaefer Corporation which produces Mercury outboards that range from six to 80 horsepower. One of my colleagues from California remarked in a cynical moment: "Mercury surely does brainwash you, but doesn't it feel good?"

* * *

WE HAVE TAKEN TOURS to Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, the old Civil War battlefields, in addition to our activities on the water.

In the annual editors' boat race, the Californians did a beautiful job, with Gordon Baxter of Los Angeles walking off with the overall prize Mel Zikes and Charles Wells, Los Angeles boating writers, also won honts.

This columnist, placed by mistake in a heavyweight boat, won that even with 50 pounds of rocks loaded as handicap. Then I went to the middleweight semifinals, which I won. In the finals I couldn't make that 6-foot flying flivver work right, so I had to be happy with a third place.

The races were run in front of Lakeshore Marina, an example of what can be done for boating. A group of Chattanooga citizens formed a syndicate, bought the land, built a harbor, the marina building and the lodge which eventually will house 300 or 400 visitors at a time.

But it is the marina building that catches the eye of those who have boats and don't know where to park them. Constructed on three levels so that automobiles can drive directly into each, the structure provides dry storage for 300 boats, wet storage for half that number in canopied slips, 24-hour fueling service for eight boats at a time, overhead hoists for all levels, a complete Mercury sales and service, plus major lines of boats.

* * *

IF YOU ARE BOAT-TRAILING in this country, you simply stop at Lakeshore, register your party, car and boat. From that point, touring and boating are almost automatic. Your boat is taken to the marina, launched and prepared for whatever trip you wish.

You can travel down the Tennessee River for hundreds of miles to where it eventually enters the Ohio. Also, you can travel the 830 miles of Chickamauga's shoreline and go upriver to the other lakes in the TVA system.

For the fishermen there are bass and good ol' catfish, you all! Plus other species, of course! For the hunter there are many areas for waterfowl shooting. For the skiers—acres and acres of water with no one in your way.

It's a paradise, but the entire region lacks population and the development that could come with a heavier saturation of people. Perhaps Tennessee and the other states may see that in time. At least Chattanooga is trying hard to convince the rest of the nation —that is is a natural spot for industrial development.

There are other topics of interest that occurred here, but most will have to wait for future columns. I'm thinking of one: the controversial white gasoline subject. I'll tell you plenty about that in a later boating column.

No Admission Charge at Caliente Sunday

CALIENTE—There will be no admission charge at Caliente Race Track today as a present from the track management which celebrates the 13th anniversary.

Feature race is the six-furlong Birthday Combination which has 10 sophomores in the lineup.

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completed an unprecedented performance Saturday as he won the first division of the Governor's Cup after winning the $8,000 inaugural Handicap Friday.

And to top off this fine performance, Rob Bob's time in the Cup division was 1:19 2/5, a full second faster than the mark Allwar posted in winning the second division.

★ ★ ★

POMONA

HANDICAP

FIRST RACE—6 furlongs: Bear Pick, Landry ... $2.40 1.10 4.60; Tiger Tiger, Pierce ... 2.20 4.20; Mistress, Grant ... 3.20. Time—:21sec. No scratches. Alsymar.

THIRD RACE—6 furlongs: Sunny Feel, Grant ... 2.40 2.40 2.40; Sunny Sabor, Pierce ... 2.40 2.40; Clancy Girl, Grant ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. No scratches.

GRAYSON HANDICAP

SECOND RACE—6 furlongs: Bar Dollar, Arthur ... 12.20 7.40 3.20; Bar Jack, Pierce ... 2.40 2.40; Bar Sun, Grant ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. Scratched—Tickolite, Cut Lad and Auto's Czech. Baker's Cold Cut ran.

THIRD RACE—6½ furlongs: Miss Lady, Pierce ... 11.20 5.20 3.20; Ruth Ann, Grant ... 3.20; Lil Arthur ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. No scratches.

FOURTH RACE—Pomona Central: Gaming Boy ... 22.20 8.20 4.20; Lucky Lil, Pierce ... 3.20; Lil Ruth, Grant ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. Scratched—Dark Ace.

FIFTH RACE—Pomona Central: Gaming Boy ... 2.40 2.40 2.40; Lucky Lil, Pierce ... 2.40 2.40; Lil Ruth, Grant ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. Scratched—Our Cover Up.

SIXTH RACE—Pomona Central: Valiant Prince ... 7.20 3.20 2.40; Mike Mike, Pierce ... 2.40 2.40; Lil Ruth, Grant ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. Scratched—Sunny Sabor.

SEVENTH RACE—6 furlongs: Ali Ben Tashmal ... 3.40 2.40 2.40; Fire Cow, Landry ... 2.40 2.40; Lucrative Gem, Arthur ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. No scratches. Record.

EIGHTH RACE—6 furlongs: Kit Cat, Hess ... 2.40 2.40 2.40; Lil Ruth, Grant ... 2.40 2.40; Bar Sun, Pierce ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. Scratched—Bar Dollar.

NINTH RACE—6 furlongs: Tomas Fish, Valiant ... 3.40 2.40 2.40; Tomas Fish, Valiant ... 2.40 2.40; Tomas Fish, Valiant ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. Scratched—Lucky Lil.

TWELFTH RACE—6 furlongs: Alma Glory, Pierce ... 2.40 2.40 2.40; Alma Glory, Pierce ... 2.40 2.40; Alma Glory, Pierce ... 2.40. Time—:21sec. Scratched—Lucky Lil.

AQUEDUCT

Fair and Fast

FIRST RACE—6 furlongs: Sound Money, Baker ... 106.80 15.60 6.40; Kalonia, Gardner ... 12.40 4.40; Regent Lagoon, Gomez ... 4.40. Time—:11sec. Also ran—Ruler, Ambassador, Bar-Hollow, Prancing, Gallant Boy, Master Gun, Bar Dancer, Jet Sun, Sidney Lanier.

SECOND RACE—6 furlongs: Lucky Lawrence ... 5.10 3.10 2.40; Bar Tan, Jerome ... 3.10 2.40; Invincible, Jerome ... 2.40. Time—:11sec. Also ran—Tiger Tiger, Ed Fitzgerald, Sky Lady, Sunny Sabor, Sunny Feel, Lil Ruth, Sidney Lanier, Mistress Grant, Bear Pick