

Early Houseboating on Dale Hollow

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One quick glance at the many vast and diverse varieties of houseboats here on the lake, and it is hard to imagine how primitive some of the early houseboats on the lake were. From the earliest of years on Dale Hollow, houseboats have played a big part of recreational boating for fishermen and boating enthusiasts. With a look at the many beautiful and gigantic houseboats that now grace our shores, one might never believe what once floated in our coves. These old houseboats had no tracking satellites. They had no lavish hot tubs. Their biggest amenity was that they did float and offered some simple amount of protection from the elements.

Some of the early boats consisted of a wooden platform floating on used 55 gallon drums. Then, a small camper would set nicely in the center (high tech).



Edwards Houseboat at Holly Creek

Some other interesting boats were fashioned by facilities like the Westmorland and Stevens Companies out of Celina. Those early Westmorland and Stevens boats made up most of the early rental fleets in the marinas. This one is one of the earliest.



Lester Westmorland's Houseboat

Still other boats were hand-fashioned and were as unique as the folks who built them. Some took on some strange shapes and had many odd forms of propulsion. No two were the same in those days!



Paul McComa's houseboat was cutting-edge technology!

It's difficult to tell where the many different trends will lead in the future of houseboating, but if the styles of the past reflect the diverse future of the industry, then we may have many interesting styles and shapes to look forward to! Who knows...maybe that old paddle-wheel may come back into style.~