

Horse Creek Marina



Horse Creek Resort, 1954

In the late 1940's, a fellow by the name of O. H. Marshall, owned the mud boat ramp called Marshall's Dock. From what I gather, he owned it until 1951, when H. T. Dodson and his wife Mickie purchased it. Although H. T. was born in Tennessee, he had been a Navy man for more than 25 years. After his retirement from the service, he and his wife chose to move to near the place that H. T. had called home in his youth. After their purchase in 1951, they began building a few boat slips and added a fuel dock on the water (a 55 gallon drum of fuel, floating on four empty 55 gallon drums and a wooden platform).

The marina owned a few wooden fishing boats produced by a company called 'Westmoreland'. This company was founded by the father of famed fisherman Billy Westmoreland. This company built

many of the old flat bottomed houseboats of the 1960's and 70's, that most of the marinas eventually rented out for years and years. That company sold out to the Stevens family, who produced many of the flat-bottomed boats for the marinas of Dale Hollow. The Stevens family is still boating Dale Hollow to this day.



Harvey Dodson (front left), Don Sickles (left rear), Mickey Dodson (in white),
And friends Jerry and Millie McClain.
House/store at Horse Creek, 1952



Katie Sickles, Horse Creek 1953

In 1969, H. T. sold the dock to Jack Huddleston and his wife, Red. He had worked at Hendricks Creek Resort for two years, and felt he was ready for a marina of his own. The first couple of years, Jack had partners. Billy Westmoreland took partial ownership, as well as Doyle and Stella Simcox. Well, the rest, as they say, is history. Jack and family have been at the helm since the buy-out of his partners in the early 1970's. Jack and Red, still own the marina, and plan to keep it in the family for years to come. The hollow is quite full these days...boat slips as far as the eye can see. It's a far cry from the days of the four-drum gas dock of the fifties, but Horse Creek still feels like Huddleston to me, and I think it does to many.