

Good Trailering Will Get Your Boat There Safely — Here's Sound Advice

The boat trailer is a marvelous invention, allowing the average boater to fish, water ski, camp, picnic and cruise on water miles from his home.

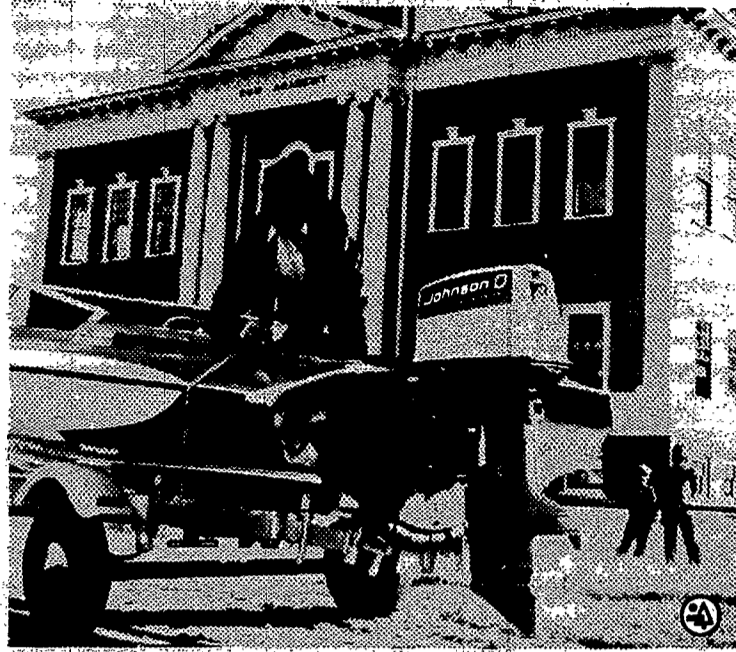
If you're considering purchasing a boat and trailer, here's some advice from the Johnson Outboards News Bureau on how to get there safely and confidently.

Buy a good trailer. Your boat hull should fit the rollers and stability bars squarely. Make sure the trailer is strong enough to handle not just the boat and motor, but all of the water skis, ice-chests and other gear you would store onboard while trailering.

Federal regulations now require new trailers to have a weight certification plate on the frame for the protection of the consumer. Look for it.

Also, get care and maintenance instructions from the dealer and follow them. It's wise to purchase a "spare" tire and a lug wrench for the trailer tires.

Insure your boat and trailer so you can put your mind at ease while on the road. Most insurance companies can attach a rider to your car insurance at surprisingly modest rates.



When towing a boat, check your rig when you take your normal-picnic breaks. Make sure it is tied down securely. See that the outboard lower unit is not scratching the road surface.

Make sure that your towing vehicle is heavy enough and with power enough to pull your boat and trailer. Experts recommend the tow car be equipped with an automatic transmission. This allows for smoother shifting and makes hills easier to negotiate.

You may also want to consider purchasing a vehicle with four wheel drive.

While this isn't often necessary, you'll be able to launch at unimproved spots that others avoid. On steep ramps, four-wheel traction can rescue your boat easily while others are slipping and sliding.

If you've never pulled a trailer before, spend some time practicing backing up. It's not difficult, but the "turn-right-to-go-left" technique does take some practice.

Before heading out make sure the boat is tied to the trailer securely.

Driving a trailer rig is

easy, so long as you always remember that it's back there. When turning a sharp corner you'll have to take it a little wide to make sure the trailer tires clear the curb.

Give yourself plenty of braking room. You'll need extra power on hills.



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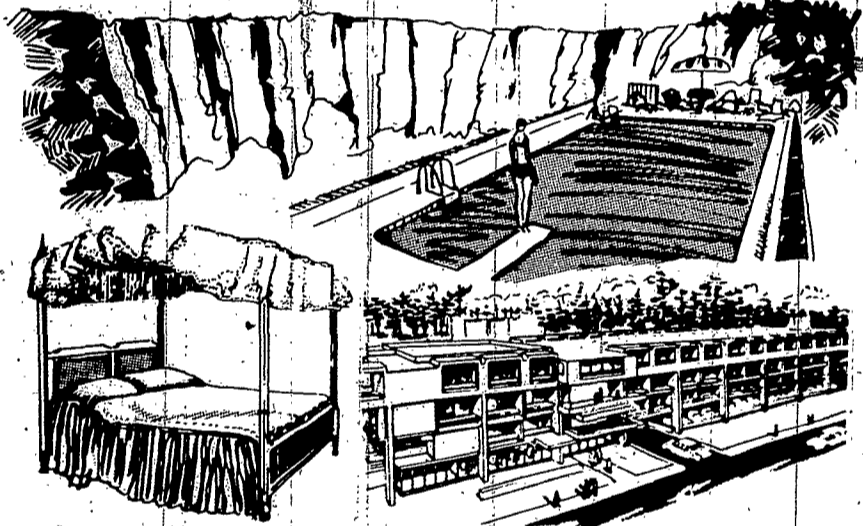
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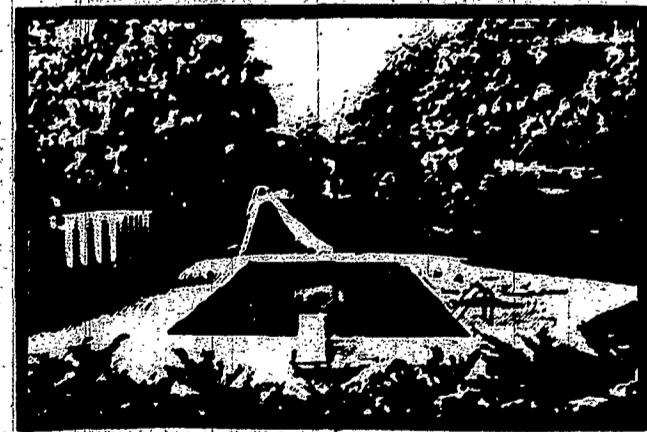


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