

OLD CRESTLINER STILL IN THE FAMILY AFTER 43 YEARS

By Brad Mlynar

Back when I was a kid in the early 60's, owning a boat in rural Minnesota was not the norm. Most people fished along the banks of the Crow River or along the shore of a lake with a cane pole. Being able to scratch up the money to rent a 12-foot row boat from a resort was a very big deal in those days.

In the mid 60's boat ownership started to take off (along with snowmobiles).

In 1966, my dad Ed bought this 1966 Crestliner 14-foot Mustang from Kraemer's Mobil and Marine in Norwood, Minnesota. Ed got a nice deal at 20 percent off Manufacturer Suggest Retail Price and paid a whopping grand total of \$1,212 for the boat, 33 horse power Johnson outboard motor, and trailer. This also included the convertible folding top, battery and battery box, a full tank of fuel, and the boat license. She was fully rigged to go boating immediately after pulling out of the dealership parking lot!

At that time, Little Falls based Crestliner, was a part of Molded Fiberglass Body Co. (MFG). Crestliner had production facilities at Little Falls: Strasburg, Virginia; Centralia, Illinois; Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; and Como, Italy. They had started out in 1946 as Larson Watercraft, making aluminum fishing boats. By the late fifties they expanded by adding a few fiberglass boats to their line. The Mustang was the smallest of the glass runabouts in 1966, with a centerline length of thir-

teen-foot five inches. She came with a Surf White hull and option of Bahama Blue or Sunset Red deck, covering boards and splash well. Rated for up to 40 HP, she was the perfect size for small families.

There were a few aluminum boats around our home town of Lester Prairie (40 miles west of Minneapolis). This was one of the first fiberglass boats in the area. At that time this Crestliner fiberglass boat was much heavier than aluminum boats of

SALES CONTRACT
KRAEMER'S MOBIL & MARINE
Norwood, Minnesota Phone 467-5351

ITEM	MANUFACTURER	SERIAL NUMBER	PRICE
BOAT	CRESTLINER	1117637	22700
MOTOR	JOHNSON 33	3625707	59100
CONTROLS	ODC		35.50
PROPELLER	Boat license		1.50
TRAILER	17.50# ATRAS	502204	125.00
ALLOWANCES	Delivery & Box		28.00
TOTAL			1212.00

ITEM	MFR.	ALLOWANCE
BOAT		
CONTROLS		
MOTOR		
TRAILER		
OTHER		
TOTAL		6-3-66

TRADE

ADDITIONAL ITEMS: Log and fuel tank \$2140, Seachoice Runabout Motor Hoops \$855, Trailer Springs TOTAL \$1574.30, LESS DISC. SALES TAX \$302.30, TOTAL SALE \$1272.00

REMARKS:

Ray H. Kraemer
Kraemer's signature

Edward J. Mlynar
Customer's signature

(PI Form No. 4)

ORIGINAL SALES RECEIPT

similar length. Today, this boat is very light in comparison to both fully rigged 16-foot aluminum and fiberglass boats.

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The 33 HP engine was considered a good sized engine in its time. It had plenty of power to pull two kids on water skis....What more did you need?

trailer, pulled the car ahead 10 feet, hooked the winch hook to the car, and then used the winch to crank the boat out of the lake!

Many hours were logged in this boat fishing on central Minnesota waterways such as Waconia, Stieger, Ann, Howard, Mary, Rock, Cedar, Collinwood, Granite, John and Clearwater Lakes. In the early 80's, we ventured to the big waters of Lake Michigan on several brown trout fishing trips which meant tackling up to eight-foot rollers. The boat had a removable top which saved the day on many rainy fishing trips. This was a great advantage over the topless aluminum boats in those years.

Back in those years boat landings were often crude dirt trails on many lakes. There were very few concrete ramps. Four wheel drive did not exist in those years; we all pulled boats with cars. Getting your boat out of the lakes was sometimes a challenge. I remember one day we loaded up the boat, then unhooked the

After all these years the Johnson is still running, with only minor tune-ups needed. The seats and top are both original with no tears. The hull looks very good. The boat has been in storage for the past fifteen years. Last fall we pulled it out of storage, greased the wheel bearings, and I have plans to show it off a few times each summer.



FALL 2008
THE BOAT IS STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 43 YEARS



PHOTO FROM THE ORIGINAL 1966 BROCHURE.
FAMILY FUN ON THE WATER!