## 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).

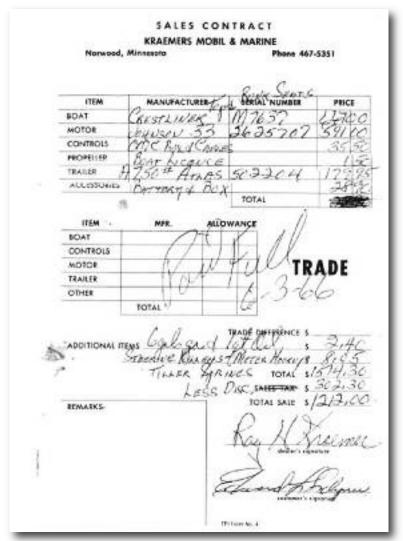
In 1966, my dad Ed bought this 1966 Crestliner14-foot Mustang from Kraemer's Mobil and Marine in Norwood, Minnesota. Ed got a nice deal at 20 percent off Manufacturer Suggest Retail Price and paid a whopping grand total of \$1,212 for the boat, 33 horse power Johnson outboard motor, and trailer. This 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



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similar length.

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



## OLD CRESTLINER STILL IN THE FAMILY AFTER 43 YEARS Cont'd

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

FALL 2008
THE BOAT IS STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 43 YEARS

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

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.

After all these

years the Johnson

is still running,

with only minor tune-ups needed.

The seats and top

are both original

hull looks very

good. The boat

has been in stor-

age for the past

with no tears. The

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

