

Sailboats Now Skim Over Area That Once Was Fertile Ohio Farm Land



Shown here are boats sailing over what once was fertile Ohio farmland. It's now Charles Mill lake, near Mansfield. Below is a

group of yachtsmen just in from an afternoon's sail. Left to right they are: John Hill, Al Mercurio, Lee Forups, Walt Wixen, Commodore Tommy Nielsen, Vice

Commodore August Grotegut, Glenn Macy, Dick Brightbill. Front, Eddie Macy and John Hill, jr.

MANSFIELD, OHIO, SEPT. 5.—

A made-to-order wartime sport, with the participants joyriding as much as they please and with nature supplying the motive power free of charge, is growing in popularity on Charles Mill lake, five miles east of here.

The 1360 acres of Charles Mill lake, a part of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy district, was farm land just a few years ago, with the Blackfork river coursing its way through it.

With the appearance of the first sailboat on the lake less than three years ago, interest in sailing was kindled. Today there are 33 of that type craft, ranging from the popular eight-foot prams to 18-foot sloops.

Most Are Home-Made

Nearly all the boats are home-made. Eight of the prams were made at the home of W. C. Rein-oehl. A sailboat enthusiast on Lake Erie before the coming of the waters at Charles Mill lake, Rein-oehl is responsible in no small measure for creating an interest in the sport here.

The "Beezy," an 18-foot sloop owned by August Grotegut, was made by him in his own back yard and a trim craft it is, making 15 miles an hour in a favorable wind.

Interest in sailboats increasing, 18 months ago the Sportsmen's Sailing club was organized with 40 members. But it is not the men alone who are sailing enthusiasts.

The families of the sailors are just as keen for the sport.

Race Each Sunday

Every Sunday afternoon sailboat racing takes place. All types of craft take part, with handicaps placed on certain boats so that all may compete equally. A cup will be awarded at the end of the season to the pilot having the most points.

The scenery around Charles Mill lake is lovely with its many inlets and islands scattered throughout.

"It reminds me very much of the scenery around Georgian bay—every bit as picturesque," remarked Glenn Macy who is secretary and treasurer of the club and who used to spend his vacation at that northern resort.