

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT - 1975

During the calendar year 1975, there were 126 reportable accidents reported to this office involving 178 boats, Seventy-four (74) accidents involved one boat and fifty-two (52) accidents involved two boats. Property damage amounted to approximately \$154,426.65. Twenty-seven (27) accidents resulted in the drowning of 34 persons, and seven accidents resulted in death, other than by drowning, to nine persons.

The following information pertains to those accidents reported to this office.

| <u>MONTH</u> | | <u>COUNTY</u> | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---------------|----|-----------|---|---------------------|---|
| March | 1 | Cook | 36 | Henderson | 2 | Cumberland | 1 |
| April | 1 | Lake | 13 | Grundy | 2 | DuPage | 1 |
| May | 14 | McHenry | 8 | Marshall | 2 | Putnam | 1 |
| June | 31 | LaSalle | 6 | Franklin | 2 | Winnebago | 1 |
| July | 30 | Will | 5 | Madison | 2 | Lee | 1 |
| August | 24 | Calhoun | 3 | Adams | 2 | Gallatin | 1 |
| September | 14 | Rock Island | 3 | Vermilion | 1 | McLean | 1 |
| October | 6 | Mason | 3 | Moultrie | 1 | Williamson | 1 |
| November | 5 | Jersey | 3 | Knox | 1 | Jefferson | 1 |
| | <u>126</u> | Peoria | 3 | Edwards | 1 | Pike | 1 |
| | | Bond | 2 | Kankakee | 1 | Morgan | 1 |
| | | Clinton | 2 | Menard | 1 | Sangamon | 1 |
| | | Fayette | 2 | Lawrence | 1 | Whiteside | 1 |
| | | Ogle | 2 | Macon | 1 | Indiana-Ill. border | 1 |

126

| <u>BODY OF WATER</u> | | <u>TYPE OF BOAT</u> | | | |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------|----|---------------------|------------|
| Rivers | 53 | Open Motorboat | 76 | Canoe | 2 |
| Lake Michigan | 32 | Cabin Motorboat | 29 | Runabout | 1 |
| Municipal Lakes | 17 | Auxiliary sail | 12 | Convertible Sleeper | 1 |
| Chain | 10 | Sailboat | 3 | Kawasaki | 1 |
| Rend Lake | 3 | Rowboat | 3 | Fireboat | 1 |
| Lake Shelbyville | 2 | Cruiser | 3 | Pontoon | 1 |
| Carlyle | 2 | Open with canvastop | 3 | Raft | 1 |
| Inland Lake | 1 | Other | 2 | Outboard | 1 |
| Waukegan Harbor | 1 | Barge | 2 | Unknown | 36 |
| Andalusia Slough | 1 | | | | <u>178</u> |
| Ponds | 1 | | | | |
| Fox River Dam | 1 | | | | |
| Gniesezenes Farm Pd. | 1 | | | | |
| Coby Point | 1 | | | | |
| | <u>126</u> | | | | |

| <u>LENGTH</u> | | <u>HORSEPOWER</u> | | <u>PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES</u> | |
|---------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Under 12 | 6 | Under 5 | 2 | None on board | 3 |
| 12 - 15 | 24 | 5 - 10 | 8 | Yes, used | 34 |
| 16 - 20 | 59 | 11 - 20 | 5 | Yes, not used | 68 |
| 21 - 30 | 30 | 21 - 30 | 8 | Yes, unknown if used | 16 |
| Over 30 | 15 | 31 - 40 | 6 | Unknown, or not applicable | 57 |
| Unknown | 44 | 41 - 100 | 28 | | 178 |
| | <u>178</u> | Over 100 | 64 | | |
| | | Unknown | 57 | | |
| | | | <u>178</u> | | |

AGE AND HOURS EXPERIENCE OF OPERATORS

| Age | Less than 20 Hours | 20-100 Hours | 100-500 Hours | Over 500 Hours | Unknown | Total |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|
| Teenage | 1 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 18 |
| 20-29 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 40 |
| 30-39 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 6 | 37 |
| 40-49 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 21 |
| 50-59 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 16 |
| 60-Over | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Unknown | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 39 | 42 |

WEATHER CONDITIONS

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|------------------|------------|
| Clear, calm | 61 | Rain, rough | 1 |
| Clear, choppy | 17 | Rain, very rough | 1 |
| Clear, rough | 9 | Hazy, choppy | 1 |
| Clear, strong current | 5 | Hazy, calm | 1 |
| Cloudy, choppy | 6 | Fog, rough | 1 |
| Cloudy, calm | 4 | Fog, calm | 1 |
| Cloudy, rough | 3 | Rain, choppy | 1 |
| Cloudy, very rough | 2 | Snow, choppy | 1 |
| Clear, very rough | 1 | Unknown | 10 |
| | | | <u>126</u> |

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|------------------------------|------------|
| Collision with vessel | 43 | Grounded | 2 |
| Collision with fixed object | 21 | Fell in boat | 2 |
| Capsizing | 10 | Over dam | 1 |
| Falls overboard | 12 | Hit propeller | 1 |
| Sinking | 8 | Hit by ski | 1 |
| Hit by boat | 8 | Struck swimmers by propellor | 1 |
| Collision with floating object | 5 | Skier hit canoe | 1 |
| Fire or explosion | 4 | Unknown | 5 |
| Collision with submerged object | 1 | | <u>126</u> |

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|------------|
| Collision with vessel | 23 | Engine back fired | 1 |
| Collision with fixed object | 15 | Inexperience | 1 |
| Speeding | 9 | Applied power too fast | 1 |
| Large Wake | 9 | Collision with swimmers | 1 |
| Hazardous Waters | 7 | Skier Lost control | 1 |
| Carelessness | 6 | Poor judgement | 1 |
| Failure to Yield | 5 | Hit while moored | 1 |
| Falls overboard | 5 | Boat caught fire | 1 |
| Drinking | 3 | Raft hit shore | 1 |
| Obstructed View | 3 | Ran over ski rope | 1 |
| Collision with floating object | 3 | Grounding | 1 |
| Strong Wind | 2 | No Proper lookout | 1 |
| Overloading | 2 | Loss of power | 1 |
| Hit object in water | 2 | Fault of Equipment | 1 |
| Insecure mooring | 2 | Collision with submerged object | 1 |
| Fault of machinery | 2 | Improper lighting | 1 |
| Skier lost balance | 2 | Weather conditions | 1 |
| Collision with skiers | 1 | Unknown | 7 |
| Swamped boat | 1 | | <u>126</u> |

SKIING ACCIDENT AND RESULT

| | |
|--|----------|
| Improper lookout, collision with vessel | 4 |
| Improper lookout, collision with canoe | 1 |
| Improper lookout, skier was preparing to ski | 1 |
| Skier fell and landed on both skies-fractured hip | 1 |
| Skier made her drop off, boat came back and found her faced down in the water | <u>1</u> |
| | 8 |

ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN DROWNING

| <u>TYPE ACCIDENT</u> | | <u>CAUSE OF ACCIDENT</u> | |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Capsizing | 6 | Overloading | 4 |
| Falls overboard | 5 | Wake | 4 |
| Over loading | 3 | Jumped overboard | 3 |
| Jumped overboard | 3 | Drinking | 2 |
| Sinking | 2 | Speeding | 2 |
| Canoe went over dam | 2 | Falls overboard | 2 |
| Carelessness | 1 | Trying to free line | 1 |
| Cruiser caused wake | 1 | Strong wind | 1 |
| Hit Fixed object | 1 | Steering wheel came off | 1 |
| Hit floating object | 1 | Collision with fixed object | 2 |
| Unknown | <u>2</u> | Weather conditions | 1 |
| | 27 | Unknown | <u>4</u> |
| | | | 27 |

| <u>COUNTY</u> | | <u>TYPE BOAT</u> | | <u>PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES</u> | | | |
|---------------|---|------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Cook | 5 | Marshall | 1 | Open Motorboat | 18 | None on board | 2 |
| Clinton | 3 | Gallatin | 1 | Rowboat | 3 | Yes, used | 8 |
| Calhoun | 2 | McHenry | 1 | Canoe | 3 | Yes, not used | 8 |
| Lawrence | 1 | Knox | 1 | Sailboat | 1 | Yes, unknown if used | 2 |
| Fayette | 1 | Williamson | 1 | Unknown | <u>2</u> | Unknown or N.A. | <u>7</u> |
| Edwards | 1 | Morgan | 1 | | 27 | | 27 |
| Will | 1 | Lake | 1 | | | | |
| Mason | 1 | Vermilion | 2 | | | | |
| DuPage | 1 | Pike | <u>1</u> | | | | |
| Bond | 1 | | 27 | | | | |

BODY OF WATER, NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS, NUMBER OF DROWNINGS

| <u>Body of Water</u> | <u>No. Accidents</u> | <u>No. Drownings</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Lake Michigan | 4 | 4 |
| Kankakee | 1 | 1 |
| Kaskaskia | 2 | 3 |
| Gniesemenes Farm Pond | 1 | 1 |
| Mose Lake | 1 | 1 |
| Mississippi River | 2 | 2 |
| Illinois River | 5 | 5 |
| Carlyle | 1 | 1 |
| Fox River | 2 | 5 |
| Royal Lake | 1 | 2 |
| Calumet River | 1 | 2 |
| Little Wabash River | 1 | 1 |
| Spoon River | 1 | 1 |
| Marion City Lake | 1 | 1 |
| Diamond Lake | 1 | 1 |
| Long Pond | 1 | 2 |
| Middle Fork River | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | 27 | 34 |

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DROWNING

Lake Michigan

5-19-75: Strong Wind caused boat to capsize, 1 drowning

6-19-75: Falls overboard after wake, 1 drowning

7-03-75: Unknown causes, 2 drownings

Kankakee River

4-30-75: Operator pushed throttle of boat forward causing boat to capsize, 1 drowning

Kaskaskia River

5-04-75: Front end of boat started sinking, then whole boat capsized, 2 drownings

5-21-75: Running fishing lines, hit a log and capsized, 1 drowning

Gnieseemenes Farm Pond

5-06-75: Fell overboard, 1 drowning

Illinois River

3-15-75: Boat capsized while maneuvering to launching ramp, 1 drowning

7-04-75: Boat capsized, 1 drowning

7-27-75: Speeding, person fell overboard, 1 drowning

9-01-75: Falls overboard, 1 drowning

11-24-75: Boat capsized, 1 drowning

Mose Lake

6-10-75: Unknown causes, 1 drowning

Mississippi River

6-21-75: Strong current, Boat capsized, 1 drowning

6-21-75: Fell overboard after wake, 1 drowning

Carlyle Lake

6-25-75: Fell overboard, 1 drowning

Fox River

7-07-75: Boat capsized from large wake, 3 drownings

9-04-75: Canoe went over dam, 2 drownings

Royal Lake

7-09-75: Boat capsized, 2 drownings

Calumet River

8-03-75: Boat crashed into steel wall, 2 drownings

Little Wabash River

6-01-75: Boat turned over, 1 drowning

Spoon River

6-14-75: Boat capsized, 1 drowning

Marion City Lake

6-15-75: Overloading and sinking of boat, 1 drowning

Diamond Lake

7-28-75: Boat struck raft, 1 drowning

Long Pond

10-04-75: Canoe capsized, 2 drownings

Middle Fork River

6-15-75: Canoe capsized, 1 drowning

ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN DEATH FROM INJURIES

Lake Michigan

- 5-10-75: Collision with vessel, 1 death from injuries
5-19-75: Strong wind caused boat to capsized, 1 death from injuries
11-02-74: Boat capsized, from strong wind, 1 death from injuries

Kaskaskia River

- 5-04-75: Boat started sinking then it capsized, 2 deaths from injuries

Mississippi River

- 6-21-75: Strong current, boat capsized, Operator hit by propeller, 1 death

Lake Mattoon

- 6-28-75: Collision with two swimmers, hit by propeller, 1 death & 1 injured

Illinois River

- 7-27-75: Speeding, two overboard, 2 deaths

ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN INJURY

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>BODY OF WATER</u> | <u>NO. INJURIES</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| November 2, 1974 | Lake Michigan | 1 |
| April 30, 1975 | Kankakee River | 3 |
| May 4, 1975 | Kaskaskia River | 1 |
| May 10, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 1 |
| May 11, 1975 | Illinois River | 1 |
| May 17, 1975 | Lake Shelbyville | 1 |
| May 19, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 3 |
| May 24, 1975 | Mississippi River | 1 |
| May 26, 1975 | Lake Marie | 1 |
| May 26, 1975 | Lake Petersburg | 1 |
| June 1, 1975 | Little Wabash River | 1 |
| June 5, 1975 | Fox River | 3 |
| June 8, 1975 | Andalusia Slough | 3 |
| June 9, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 1 |
| June 14, 1975 | Mississippi River | 1 |
| June 21, 1975 | Mississippi River | 1 |
| June 21, 1975 | Lake Marie | 1 |
| June 22, 1975 | Governor Bond Lake | 1 |
| June 28, 1975 | Potters Lake | 1 |
| June 28, 1975 | Mississippi River | 1 |
| June 28, 1975 | Lake Mattoon | 1 |
| July 4, 1975 | Lincoln Lake | 1 |
| July 4, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 2 |
| July 4, 1975 | Fox Lake | 2 |
| July 4, 1975 | Kankakee River | 1 |
| July 5, 1975 | Chicago River | 2 |
| July 8, 1975 | Rock River | 3 |
| July 12, 1975 | Fox River | 1 |
| July 13, 1975 | Bangs Lake | 1 |
| July 20, 1975 | Kankakee River | 2 |
| July 25, 1975 | Fox River | 1 |
| July 27, 1975 | Rend Lake | 1 |
| July 27, 1975 | Illinois River | 2 |
| July 27, 1975 | Illinois River | 1 |
| July 28, 1975 | Diamond Lake | 1 |
| August 3, 1975 | Calumet River | 3 |
| August 3, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 3 |
| August 4, 1975 | Crystal Lake | 1 |
| August 6, 1975 | Mississippi River | 1 |
| August 10, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 4 |
| August 10, 1975 | Carlyle Lake | 1 |
| August 10, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 2 |
| August 16, 1975 | Mississippi River | 1 |
| August 18, 1975 | Kankakee River | 2 |
| August 18, 1975 | Rend Lake | 1 |
| August 22, 1975 | Mississippi River | 1 |
| August 23, 1975 | Chicago River | 2 |
| September 1, 1975 | Wonder Lake | 1 |
| September 4, 1975 | Fox River | 1 |
| September 6, 1975 | Rock River | 2 |
| September 13, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 1 |

Accidents from injury cont'd

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>BODY OF WATER</u> | <u>NO. INJURIES</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| September 13, 1975 | Lake Shelbyville | 2 |
| September 13, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 1 |
| September 13, 1975 | Lake Michigan | 1 |
| September 14, 1975 | Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal | 3 |
| October 4, 1975 | Illinois River | 2 |
| October 16, 1975 | Lake Michigan | <u>1</u> |
| | | 87 |

Total Accidents: 57
Total Injuries: 87