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# Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

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Nov. 15, 2012

## History

### Early Steamboats On Pecatonica River Part 5 of 15

Emil Molter and Allie Temple had a launch made at Racine Wisconsin in 1901 called the El Capitan. They operated it for about two years then sold it. Then joined by Mr. Robert Lamb they bought a larger Racine boat called the Mosquito, which they operated for several years.

In 1903 our uncle Mr. George Siefertt built a twenty-foot boat in his carpenter-shop which was located across the alley from the present Walker Mortuary. This was powered by a three HP engine which was the first engine made by Mr. Charles Klein. Mr. Siefertt operated the boat for about six years and then sold it to be used below the dam.

About this time the Richter brothers built a boat twenty feet long, which was docked near the Rambler and Eureka. They operated it for about ten or twelve years.

### The Freeport Motor Boat Club

Mr. George Yoder ran a rowboat livery on the south bank just upstream from the Cedarville Bridge. About 1910 or 1911 several more motorboats appeared on the river and most of them docked with Mr. Yoder, as he was short of room the motorboat owners leased ground across the river just west of the bridge.

They built a twenty by thirty foot clubhouse with clubroom, kitchen and locker room. This was set on posts set as to be above high water. They also had a floating dock. The space between the posts was used to store some of the smaller boats in the winter. This was boarded up with doors in front.

The boats were launched and pulled out of the water by means of tackle, hung from the bridge. The clubhouse was the scene of many parties both for the members and their families. In winter skating parties were held good ice permitting. The club also had a cabin about seven miles up stream for camping and picnics.

In 1927 the building was moved upstream to the bend about ¼ mile. The club disbanded about 1930 due to most members buying cars and selling their boats. The building was sold and is at present used as a residence.

The Club membership consisted of Fred Altemeier, Otto Altemeier, Clarence Bolsar, Leonard Carter, Edward Engelhardt, Fred Englehardt, William Englhardt, Ira Law, James Lilley, George A. Martin, William J. Martin, Edward Meusenkamp, Clarence B. Molter, Julian L. Molter and Charles Ott.  
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