

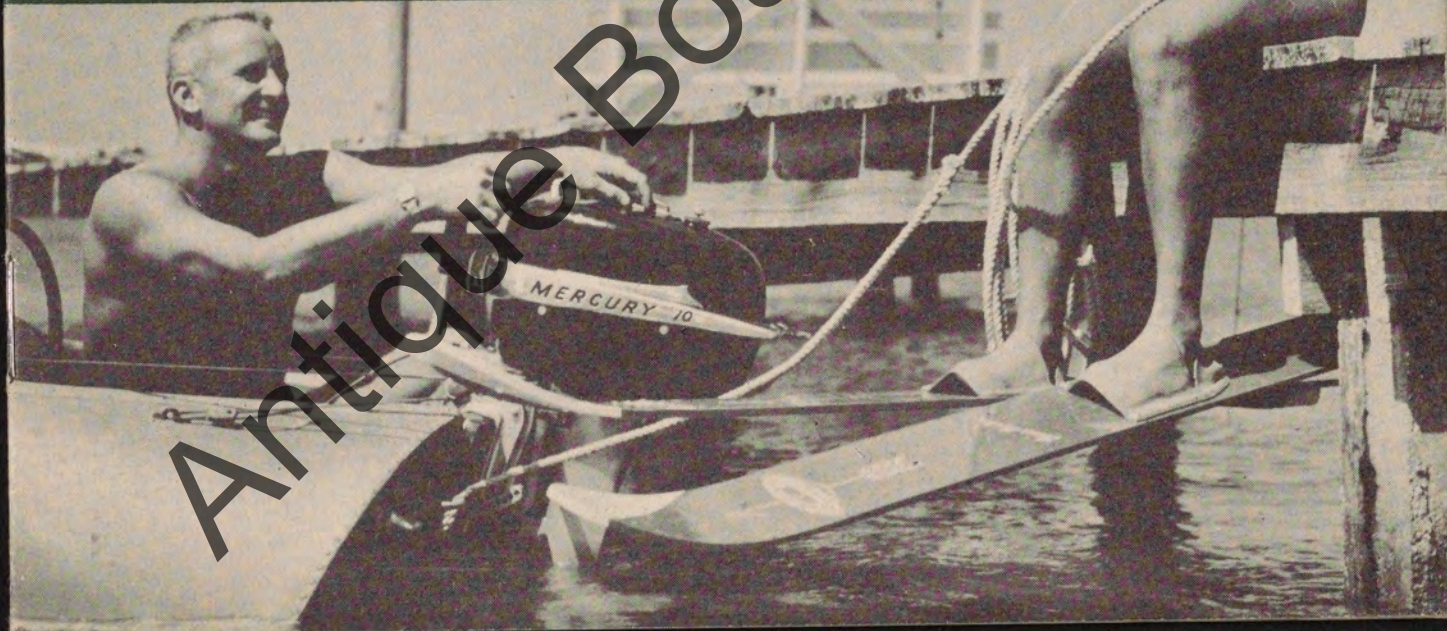
how to
WATER SKI
WITH AN OUTBOARD

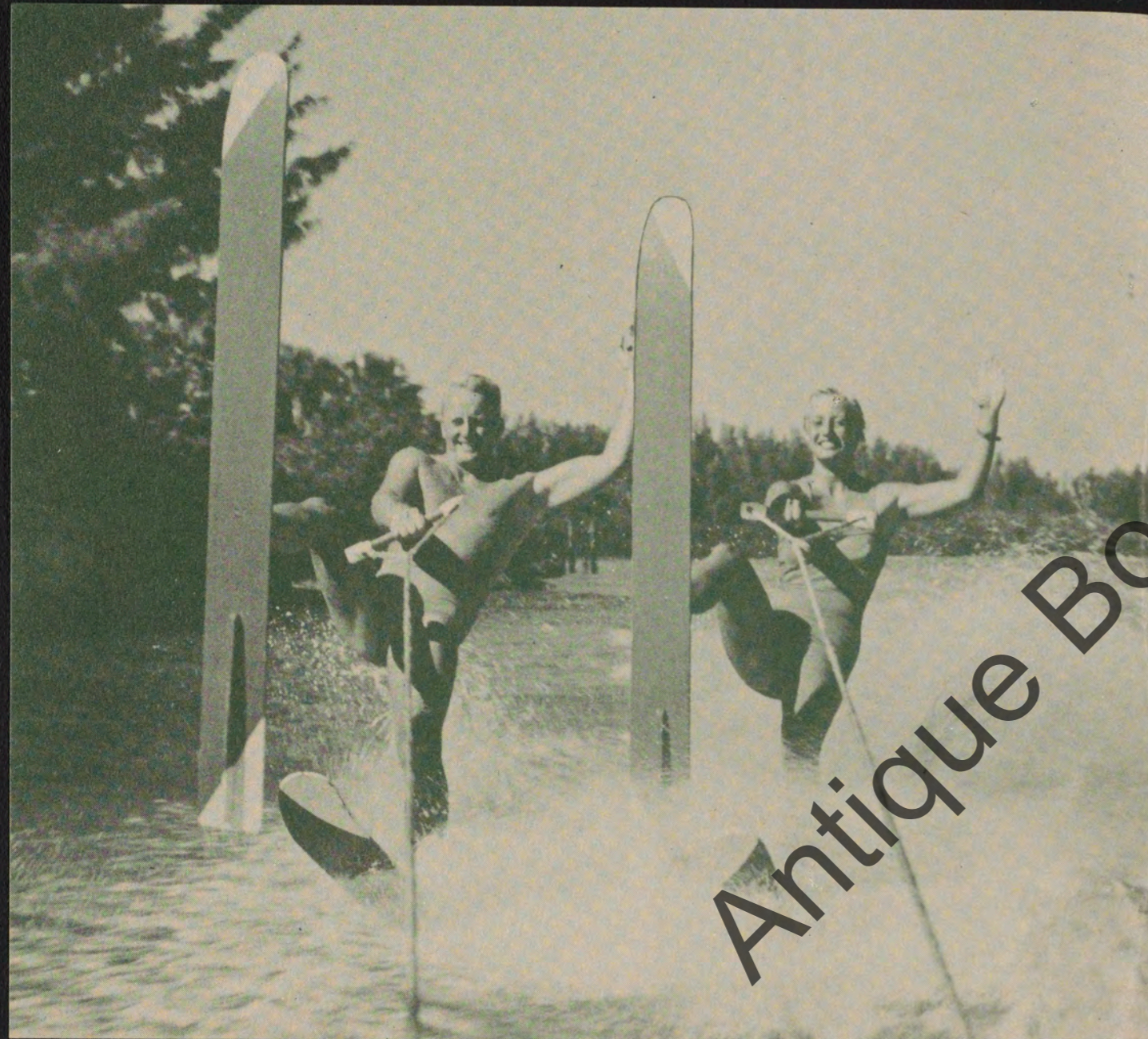
by Bruce Parker

Nickluser

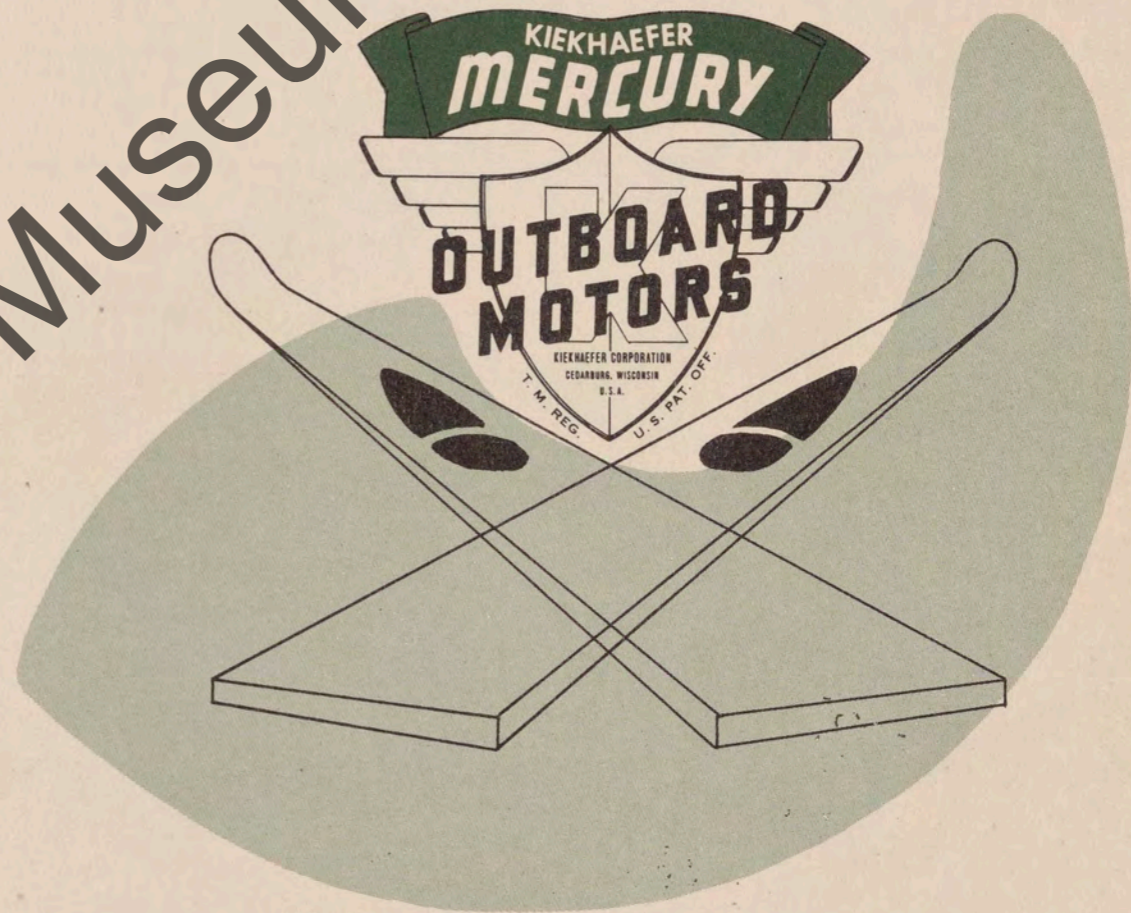
1950

Antique Boat Museum





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forward

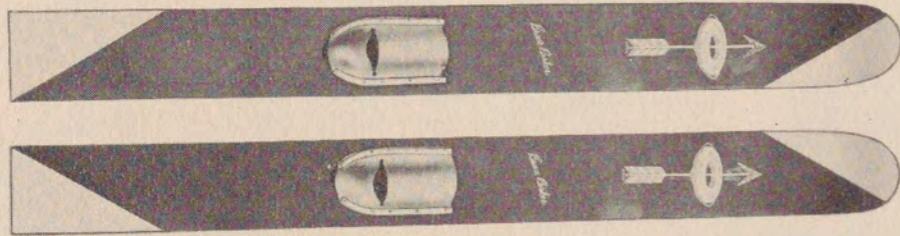
There are a growing number of faulty misconceptions about the sport of water skiing in the mind of the average sports-minded American. It is assumed, for example, that water skiing is for the very young and the very athletically inclined. Not so! If you are six or sixty, if you have never participated in any sport more demanding than jump rope, hop scotch or mibs, you can very easily learn to water ski. It is

mistakenly assumed that water skiing, as a participation sport, is the private property of the upper income brackets. It is my sincere hope that this booklet will serve the very worthwhile purpose of correcting such erroneous ideas. The thrilling fun and health-giving recreation of water skiing is awaiting millions of Americans.

Bruce Parker

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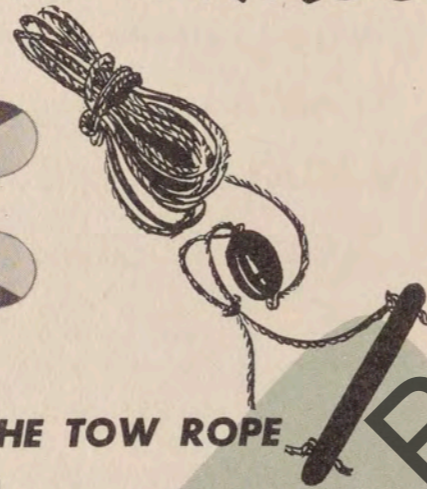
equipment—have this, and
YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES



THE SKIS

Inexpensive water skis specially designed for use with outboard powered boats are now available. Designed by Bruce Parker, the APCO* skis depicted have extra length and width that provides maximum planing surface for easier starts and greater stability. Special construction processes are utilized in producing a ski that will not warp or break under the extreme stresses of water skiing.

*Atlantic-Pacific Mfg. Corp., Brooklyn 2, New York



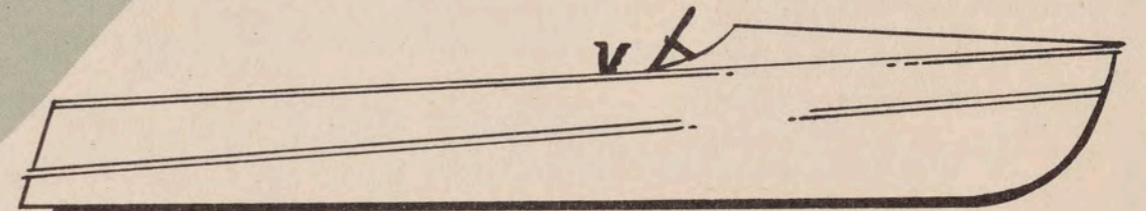
THE TOW ROPE

Several grades and sizes of ropes will be found suitable for skiing purposes. Linen is best, but any good quality 1/4 inch Manila rope in 25 to 50 foot lengths will prove adequate.



THE BOAT

Special boat construction and design is not essential for use in connection with water skiing. Remote throttle and steering controls are desirable, though not absolutely necessary. The average runabout, or streamlined fishing hull will prove to be perfectly satisfactory for the purpose.



THE MOTOR

The tremendous increase in power and all range performance of some outboard motors has eliminated the need for costly inboards as a necessary adjunct of water skiing. The Mercury 7 1/2 h.p. motor, for example, will easily tow one adult water skier at speeds upwards of 25 mph. For towing two or more skiers, the Mercury 10 and 25 h.p. models will do the job with ease. For extra performance, use of a low pitch propeller is recommended.

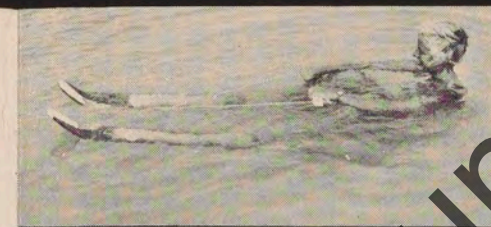
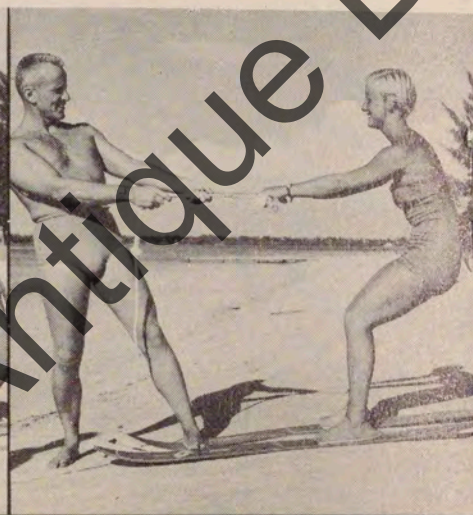
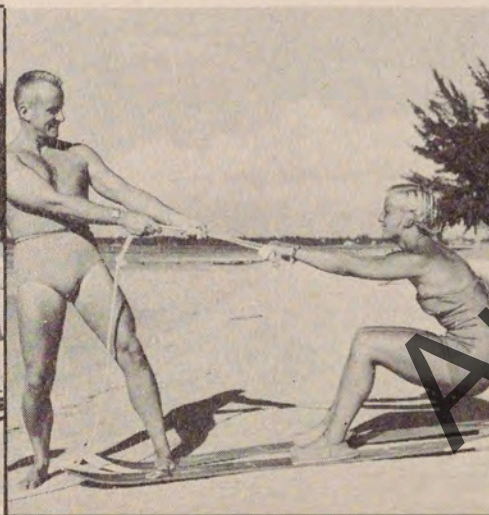
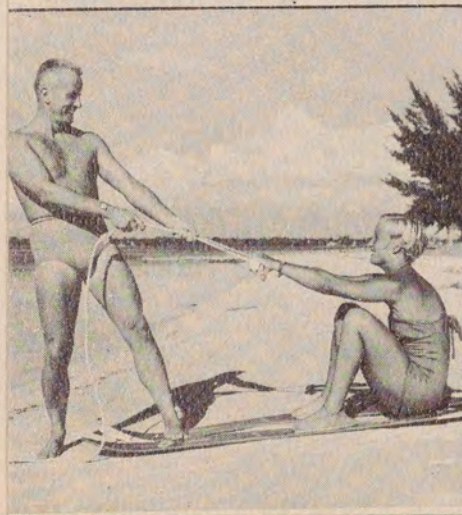
dry run - take your first lesson on the beach

To get the "feel" of rope pull and practice proper beginner form place skis on beach, parallel, about 6 to 9 inches apart and push feet as far forward in bindings as possible, then pull up heel pieces. (Fig. 1)

Now sit on the back of your skis with upper legs against chest and have a partner supply the pull on the rope — bracing one foot on your skis as he does so. (Fig. 2)

Keep knees bent, elbows straight and let your partner do all the work as you come out of the sitting position. Your ankles are the fulcrum for your entire body as you move up into skiing position. (Fig. 3)

When you are in correct beginner's position, elbows should still be straight and knees bent as shown. Weight should be balanced evenly on both skis. Try this several times before attempting a "wet" run. (Fig. 4)



sounds easy, looks easy - 15 easy

Now, in about three feet of water, assume the same sitting position as you did on dry land, but raise the tips of your skis above the water and steady yourself with the tow bar. (Fig. 1)

When the boat operator sees your ski tips clear the water surface and you give him a nod of the head he should throttle forward, giving you a fast, steady pull. As the resulting water pressure forces your skis up, hold them straight and retain the same position as you did on dry land. (Fig. 2)

Keep knees bent, elbows straight and resist the tendency of your skis to wobble as you are in the process of coming up out of the water. Don't jerk the rope, but rather let your boat power do the work. (Fig. 3)

Once up continue to keep knees bent to cushion the slight shock of the waves and to aid you in keeping your balance. As soon as you attain a speed of 15 to 20 miles per hour your skis will automatically assume a straight position. (Fig. 4)

but DON'T TRY THIS



A
Crossed ski tips



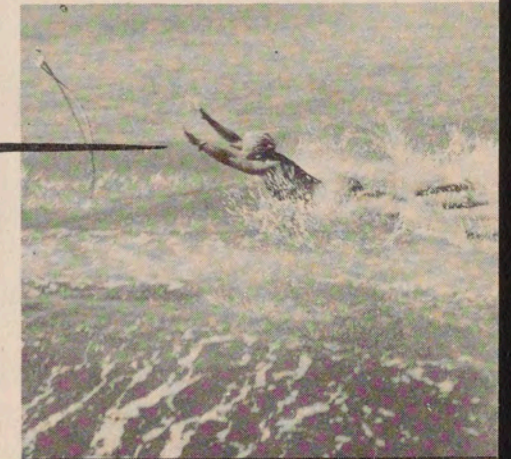
B
Hauling in on tow bar and spread eagle skis



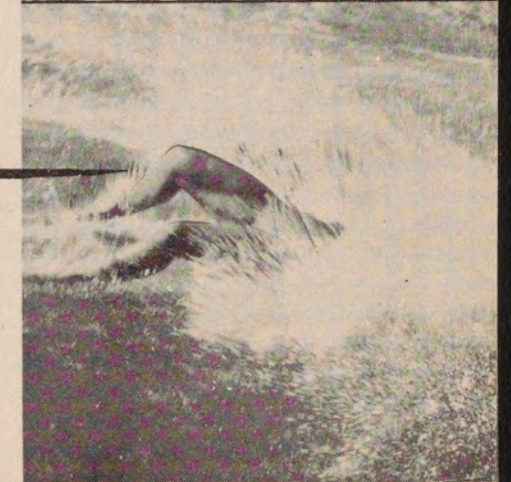
Loss of balance due to standing up too straight or too quickly.

— unless you want to ski

like THIS

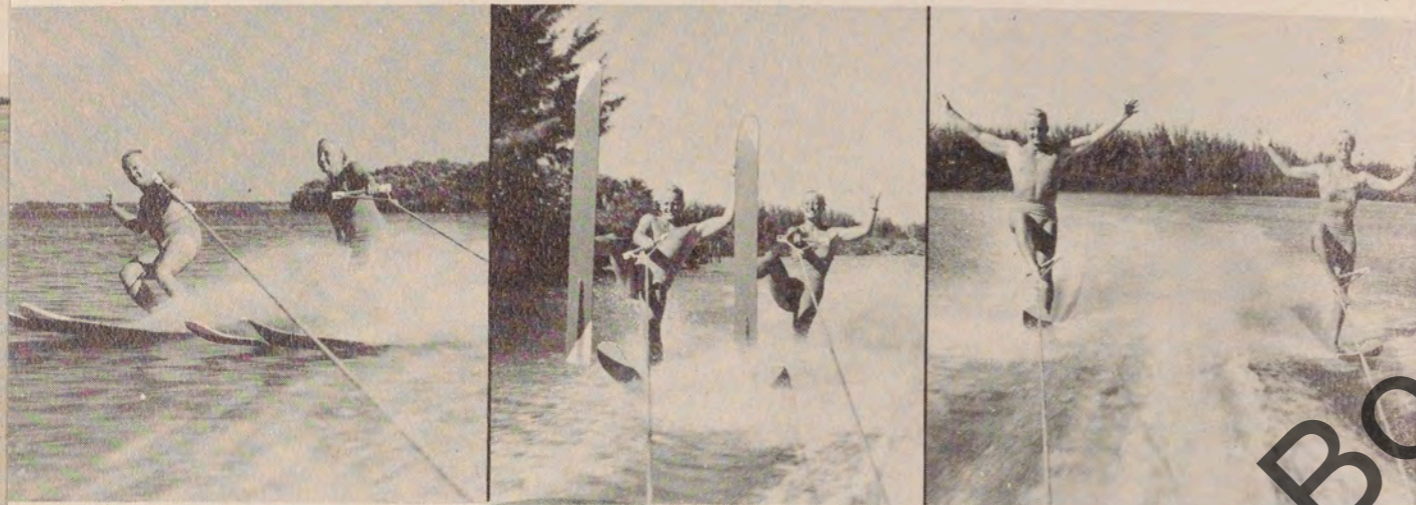


or THIS



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this comes later



Once you have mastered the starting and straight riding your rate of progress in achieving water skiing excellence is pretty much up to you, but first practice your turns within the V-shaped wake of the boat until you are sure of yourself.

To steer the skis to the right, merely relax your knees, push slightly with your left leg and turn your body in the desired direction. To change directions, shift your weight and exert the pressure with your right leg. Keep practicing these turns inside the wake until you have mastered them.

- two's a company

To cross the wake, pull to the left, inside the wake and make a right turn like you have just been practicing, but this time you do not stop, but pull straight on through it with the knees relaxed and slightly bent to "take it with the knees." Now to get back inside the wake, pull out to the side about twenty feet and reverse your turn.

Soloing on skis behind a fast boat and motor is a lot of fun, but some of the more complicated tricks and maneuvers require a partner. Outboards recommended for pulling two or more skiers with power enough for multiple skier takeoff and flashing running speeds are the Mercury 10 and the Mercury 25. These motors pack all the punch necessary to give you the tops in water skiing thrills.



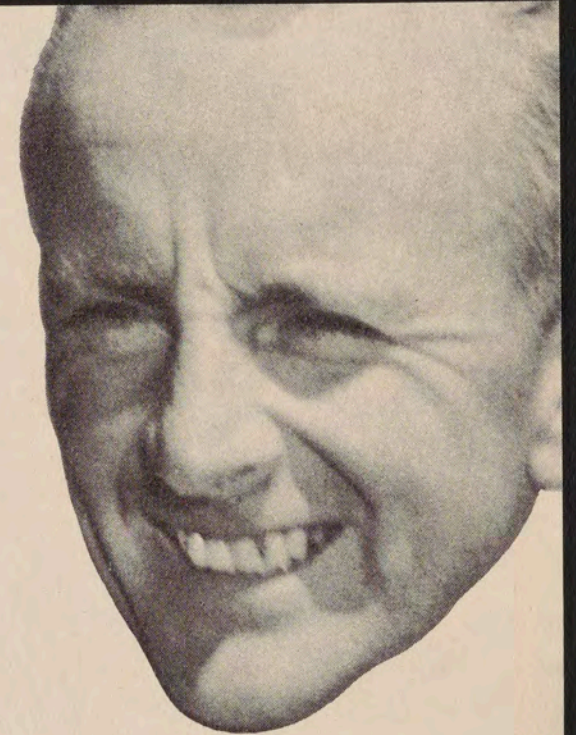
tips to your driver -

1. On starts, wait for the skier's ski tips to show or for his signal.
2. Give him a fast, smooth steady pull on the takeoff.
3. Gradual, wide-arc turns are the rule if you want to keep your skier above water.
4. Give other craft and obstacles a wide berth.
5. Always shut off the motor when taking a fallen skier into the boat.
6. To recover a fallen skier for a deep water start, idle past him, then turn *his* way at a 45° angle so the trailing rope will come to him.



about Parker

World's best known skier and two-time winner of both the World's and National Water ski titles, Bruce Parker, knows whereof he speaks. From his headquarters in Amityville, New York, he directs his numerous ski schools across the country, and trains the "Ski Belle" ballets that grace aquatennials, exhibitions, fairs, civic functions and water sport shows in most major cities. The principles set forth in this booklet have been developed during the course of his many years of experience at teaching water skiing.



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and
when
skiing's
done...
boating

