#### **Starke County 24**

"Tidbits of Starke County History".....

Some of the fun things about being connected to the Starke County Historical Society are the requests we get for information and the people from around the world with whom we come in contact. Recently a gentleman, a Mr. Bateman from up-state New York, called the museum about a request. He wanted information on a **boat** design that was offered in the March, 1964 issue of Popular Mechanics.

Well, "that's a tall order", you might think. What does a boat design have to do with Starke County? Remember, I have said, "if you have lived in Starke County, you are part of the History of Starke County". Back in the 1950s and 60s, a couple by the name of William D. and Rosemary Jackson and their two daughters, Joyce and Rita, lived on the east side of Bass Lake. William (some called him Dade) was an expert boat designer and designed boats for people around the world. He regularly wrote articles for Popular Mechanics.

As a child, this Mr. Bateman from up-state New York remembered a certain boat, the "sports sled", which was featured on the cover of the March, 1964, issue of Popular Mechanics. He wanted to know if any of these plans were still available somewhere. He now would like to build this boat. With the help from friends living at Bass Lake, I found the address of Joyce, the daughter of William and Rosemary Jackson. She lives in Granger, Indiana. Mr. Bateman contacted her and discussed some of the aspects of her father's designs.

An interesting story developed during their conversation. William Jackson had built this boat in his shop and had sent the design and article to Popular Mechanics. A photographer and editor planned to come to Bass Lake from Chicago, along with a model, to take photographs of the boat. At the last minute, the model couldn't make it. So the photographer asked William if he could use Joyce, who was 16 or 17 at the time, as a model for the photo. So.....as you can see in the photo of the **attachment** is Joyce and the editor in the boat. A part of Starke County history.

Jim Shilling Starke County Historical Society

http://www.starkehistory.com http://www.scpl.lib.in.us/historical/

(If you do not wish to receive "Tidbits of Starke County History" in the future, please let me know.)

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