

A Lake George Legacy: A Chris Craft Preserved for Another Generation

By Anthony F. Hall

As their children and grandchildren gathered at the family camp on Pilot Knob for the start of Memorial Day weekend, Lynne and Clark Curtis slipped out, saying they'd be back shortly.

They returned an hour later, in a newly restored 1928, 22-foot Chris Craft. Without a word to anyone, the Curtises had purchased the boat a year earlier from Hall's Boat Corporation, where it has been under restoration ever since.

This was to be a Memorial Day surprise like no other.

The boat has never left Lake George. Its last owners were Pat and Roger Ide, and when the boat became available, the Curtises adopted it.

"My family has been coming to Lake George for more than fifty years, but our boats have never been quite as special as this," said Clark Curtis, who closely followed the process of restoration.

"We wanted to preserve a piece of Lake George history," said Lynne Curtis.

Last Friday, Hall's Boat Corporation threw a launch party for the Curtises and their boat, which has been renamed AhPuh, the grandchildren's name for Clark.

"Boat restorers are notorious for telling clients their boat will be finished by Memorial Day without specifying which year," said Reuben Smith, Hall's Boat Works Manager. "We're pleased we could save the Curtises from that fate."

According to Smith, who supervised the restoration, the boat was



stripped and refinished. It was given a new bottom, transom, decking and keel and chines, among a variety of other repairs that made the boat as seaworthy as it was when it left the manufacturing plant. And, of equal importance, just as beautiful.

"They got the colors just right,"

said Clark Curtis.

A new Mercruiser engine was among the few concessions to modern technology. According to Smith, the original was long gone, and Clark Curtis said he had had his fill of engines never turning over when he wanted to take his family for a cruise.

This engine leapt to life as Clark and Lynne left Hall's marina for their Pilot Knob camp.

And the reaction of their family when they pulled up to the dock? "There's only word for it - excitement," said Clark.

"We spent almost the whole of Memorial Day weekend in that boat," said Clark Curtis. "Even the youngest grandchild could tell this was a very special boat."



Above, Lynne and Clark Curtis toast the launching of their restored 1927 Chris Craft at Halls Boat Corp. Below, the crew at Hall's, on hand for the celebration.