

# Bayou Belle

## Craft Print Project No. 364

**B**AYOU BELLE is a 25' scow that can be built as a sports utility, a fishing boat, or a houseboat, depending on your requirements for pleasure offshore. As a sports utility, she can be used for towing water skiers and for cruising; as a fishing boat, she offers a stable platform with plenty of elbow room and stowage space. As a houseboat, she has roomy interior accommodations for a leisurely life afloat.

Construction of Bayou Belle makes use of prefabricated sections, which means that much of the work can be done indoors in the average garage during the cold winter months, and the boat completed outdoors in time for launching in late spring.

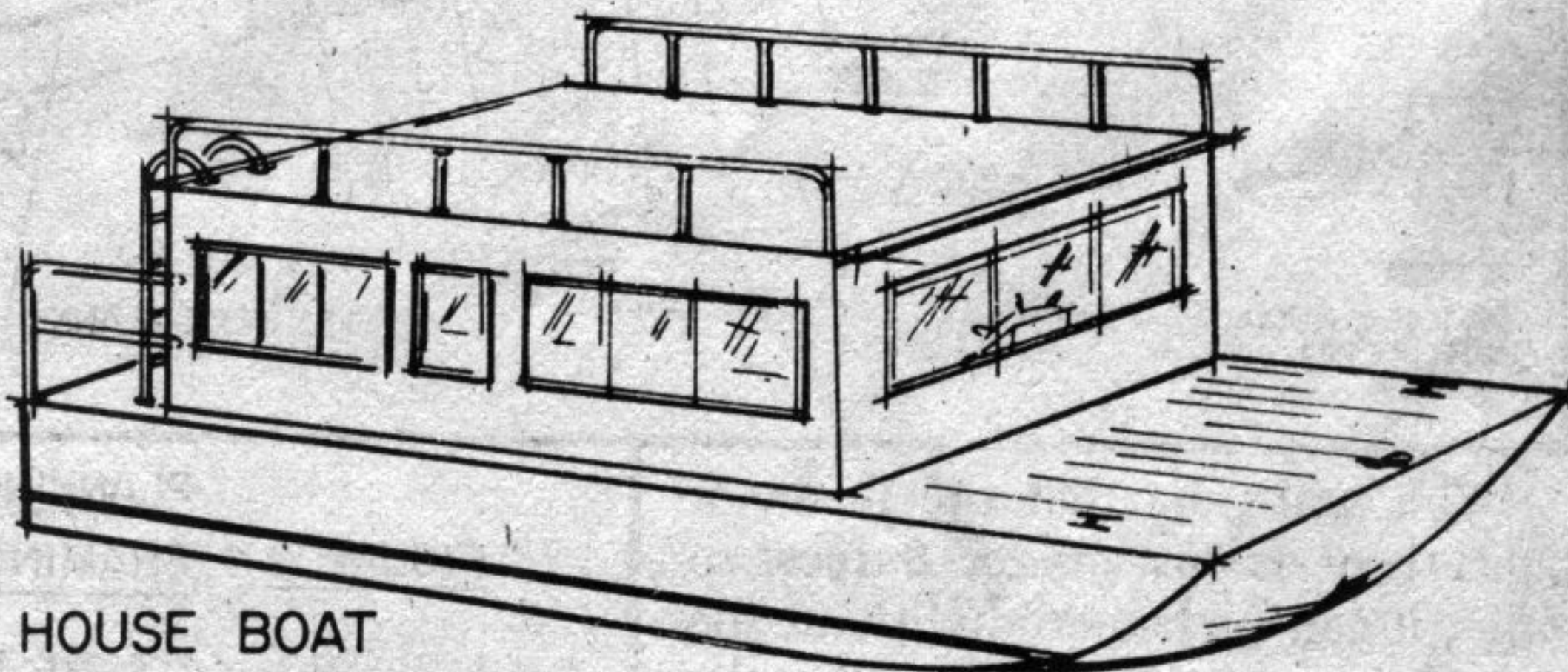
Materials needed are standard lumber stock, with Douglas fir, pine, and hemlock all suitable for the framework, and plywood for hull sides and bottom. Bottom plywood should be 5-ply  $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4' x 8'; 3-ply is suitable for sides and decking. The use of plastic surfaced plywood is recommended, such as Georgia Pacific's "green" ply, or Royal Harborite; these surfaced plywoods take a better finish than uncoated plywood, and they will not check. Plywood in 10 foot lengths is recommended for the sides, and can be obtained from plywood firms. Eight foot lengths can be used, with an extra joint, as indicated on the plans. All exposed wood should be treated with a good preservative before painting.

Fastenings can be barbed nails or screws; use cadmium plated fastenings for boats that will be used in fresh water, and bronze or monel fastenings if the boat will head for salt water.

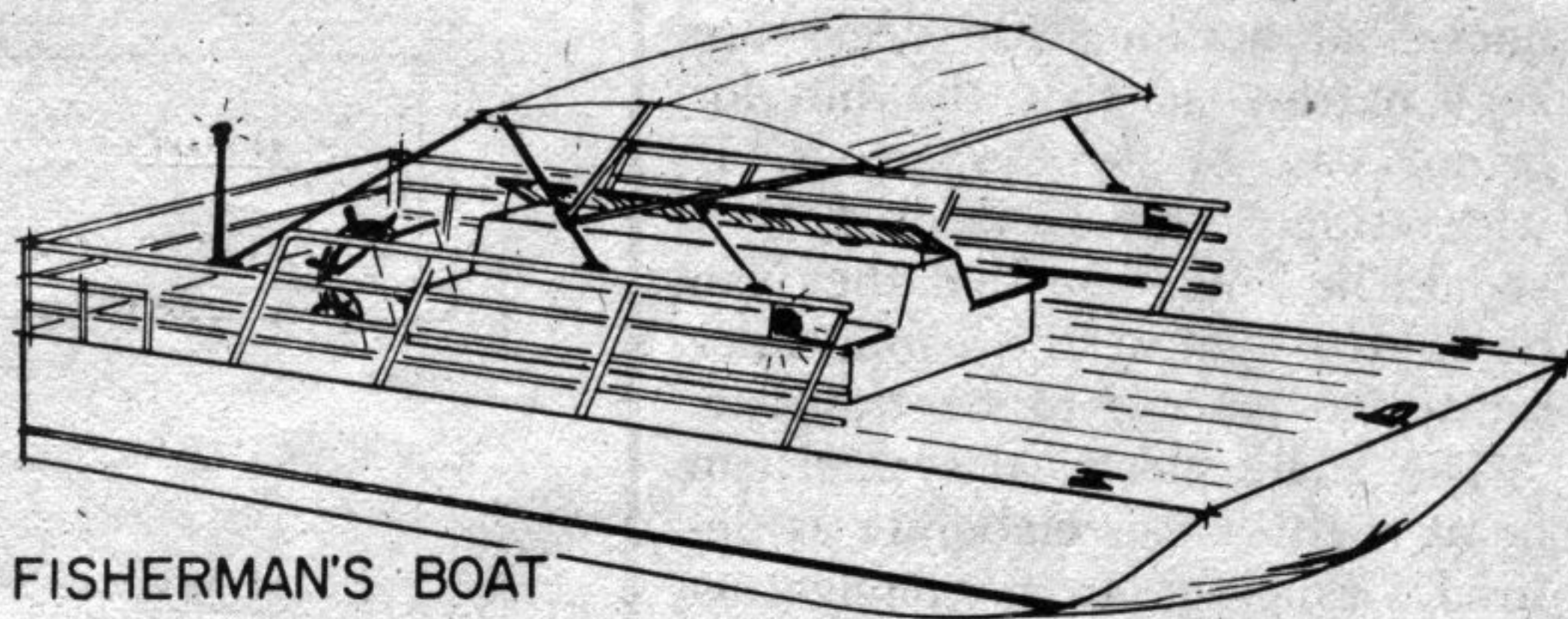
### SPECIFICATIONS

Length	25'8"
Beam	7'11"
Depth of hull	38"
Displacement, bare hull	1500 lbs.
Gross Capacity	3000 lbs.
LOA	25'-8"
BEAM	8'-0"
WEIGHT	1500 lbs.
CAPACITY	3000 lbs.
ENGINE	TWIN 40 HP. MAX. 160 HP

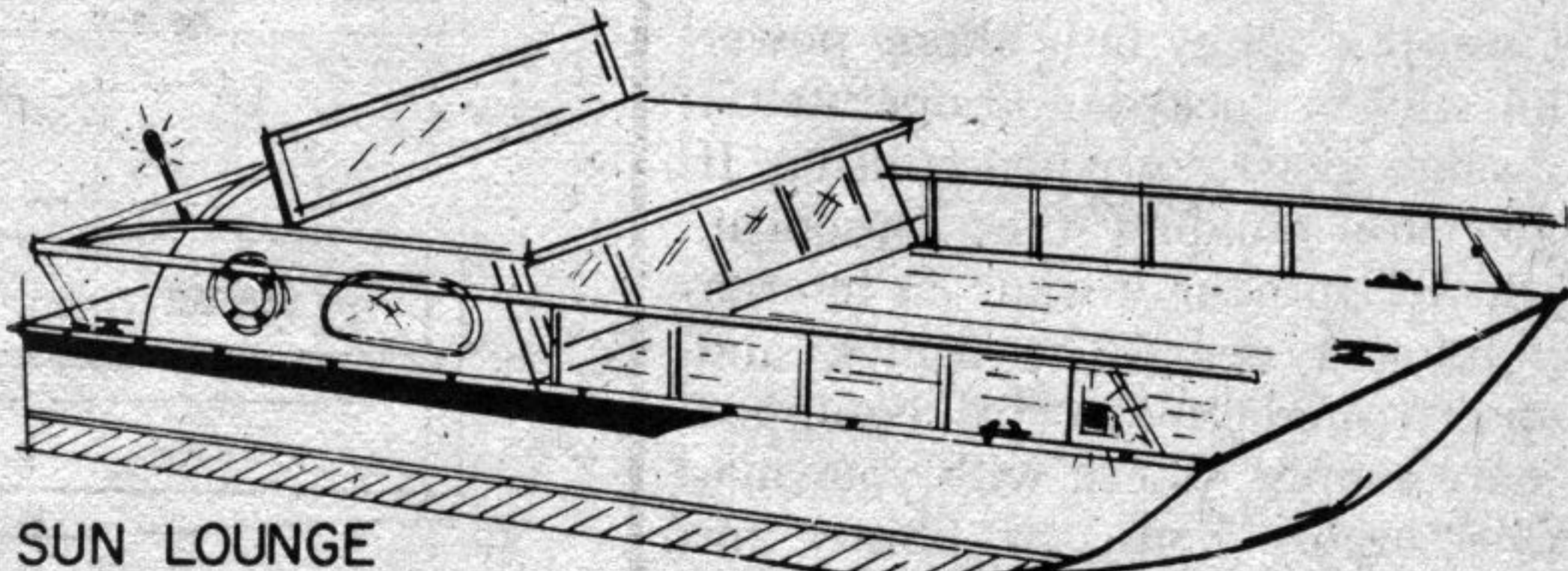
### CHOICE OF 3 MODELS



HOUSE BOAT



FISHERMAN'S BOAT

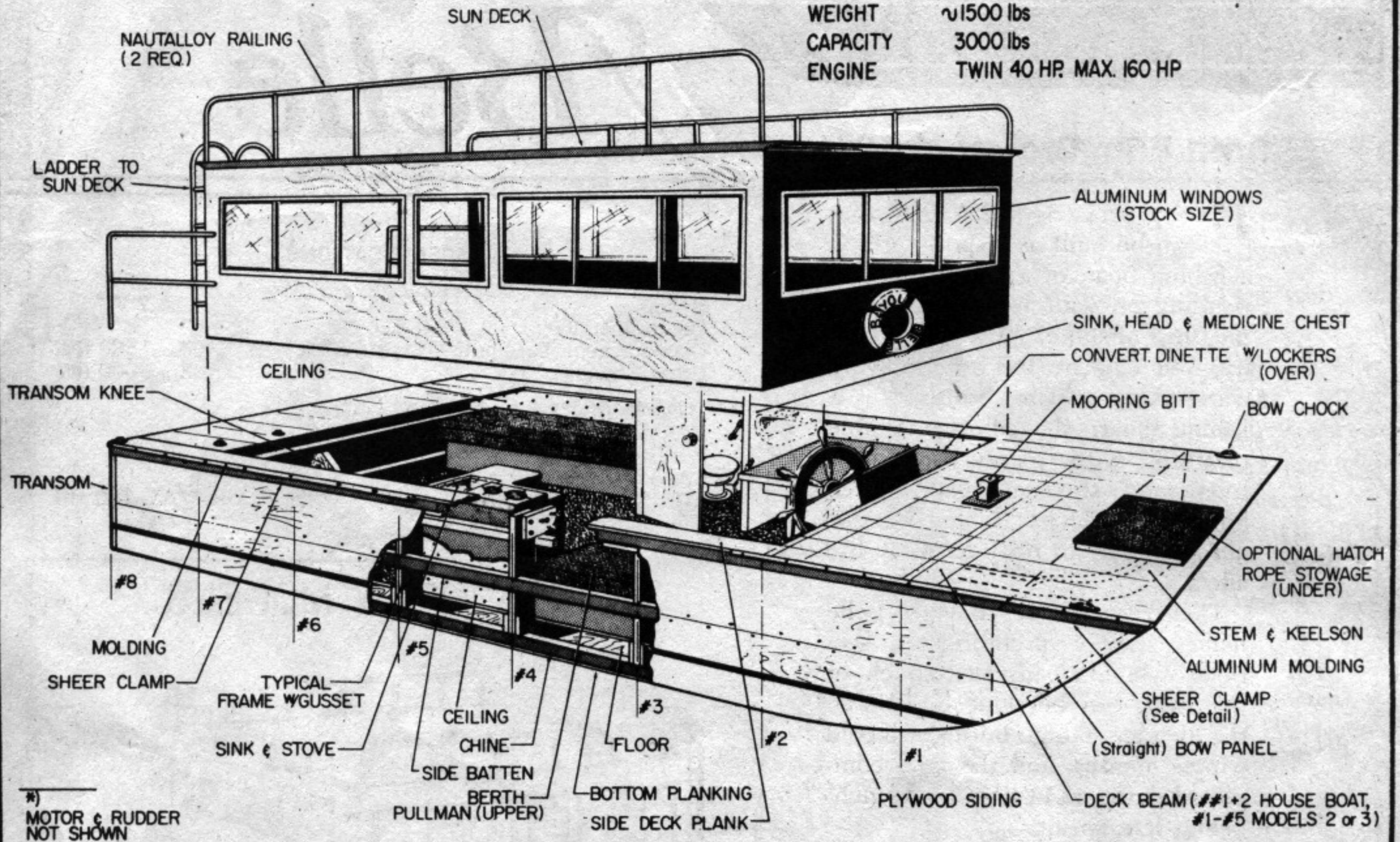


SUN LOUNGE  
SPORTS UTILITY



# Bayou Belle

LOA 25'-8"  
 BEAM 8'-0"  
 WEIGHT ~1500 lbs  
 CAPACITY 3000 lbs  
 ENGINE TWIN 40 HP. MAX. 160 HP

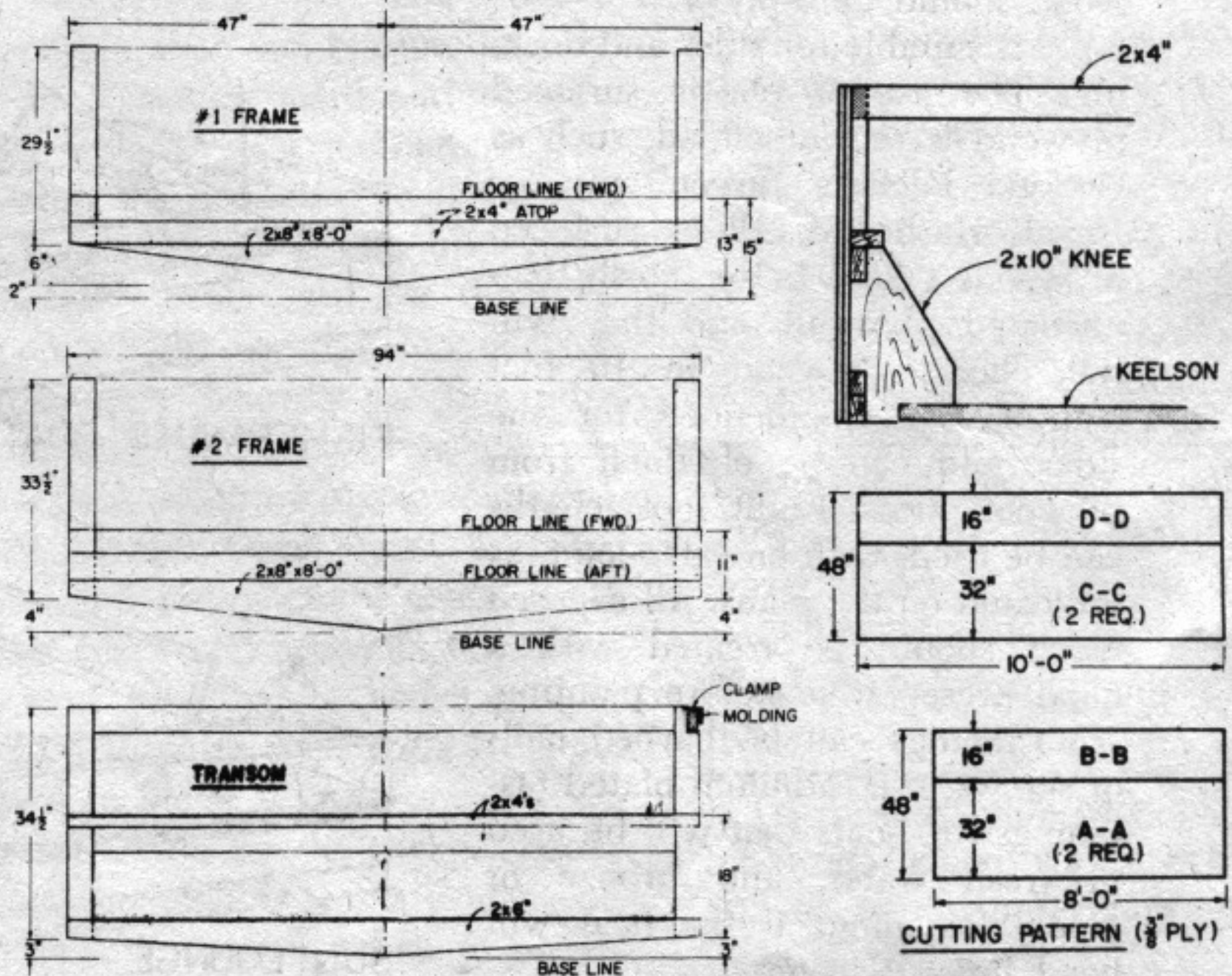


You will note that the beam of this boat is just under 8 feet, so that it can be trailered without the need for special permits. In the houseboat version, side decks are kept narrow so that the interior layout can be kept spacious. If wider side decks are desired, they should be hinged so that they can be folded against the cabin sides when the boat is to be trailered.

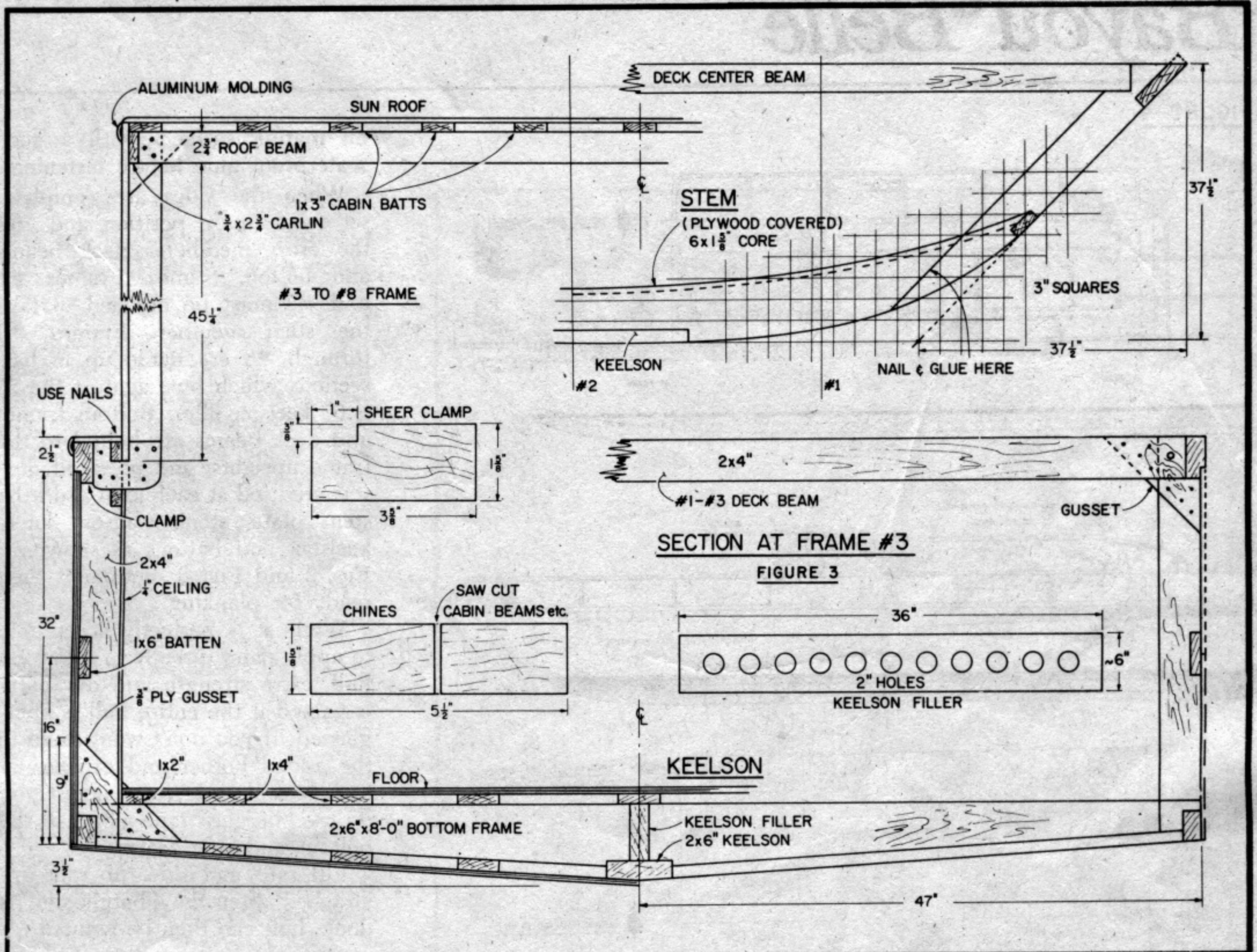
The boat's electrical system can be as simple or as elaborate as desired, ranging from navigation lights that are operated off the battery current, to 110-volt systems that plug into shore power lines when docked, and operate off a small generator when cruising. If you are building the houseboat, you will probably want an interior lighting system. The fishing and sports models can be equipped more simply. Check with your marine supply house or library for information on boat wiring.

## PLANKING FIGURE 2 FRAMING

(FOR FRAMES #3-8 SEE FIGURE 3)







You can use an outboard motor of from 15 hp to 100 hp on this hull. With the smaller engines, the boat will operate as a displacement hull, and top speed will be about 12 mph. The larger engines will provide speeds to 25 mph, with a couple of water skiers in tow.

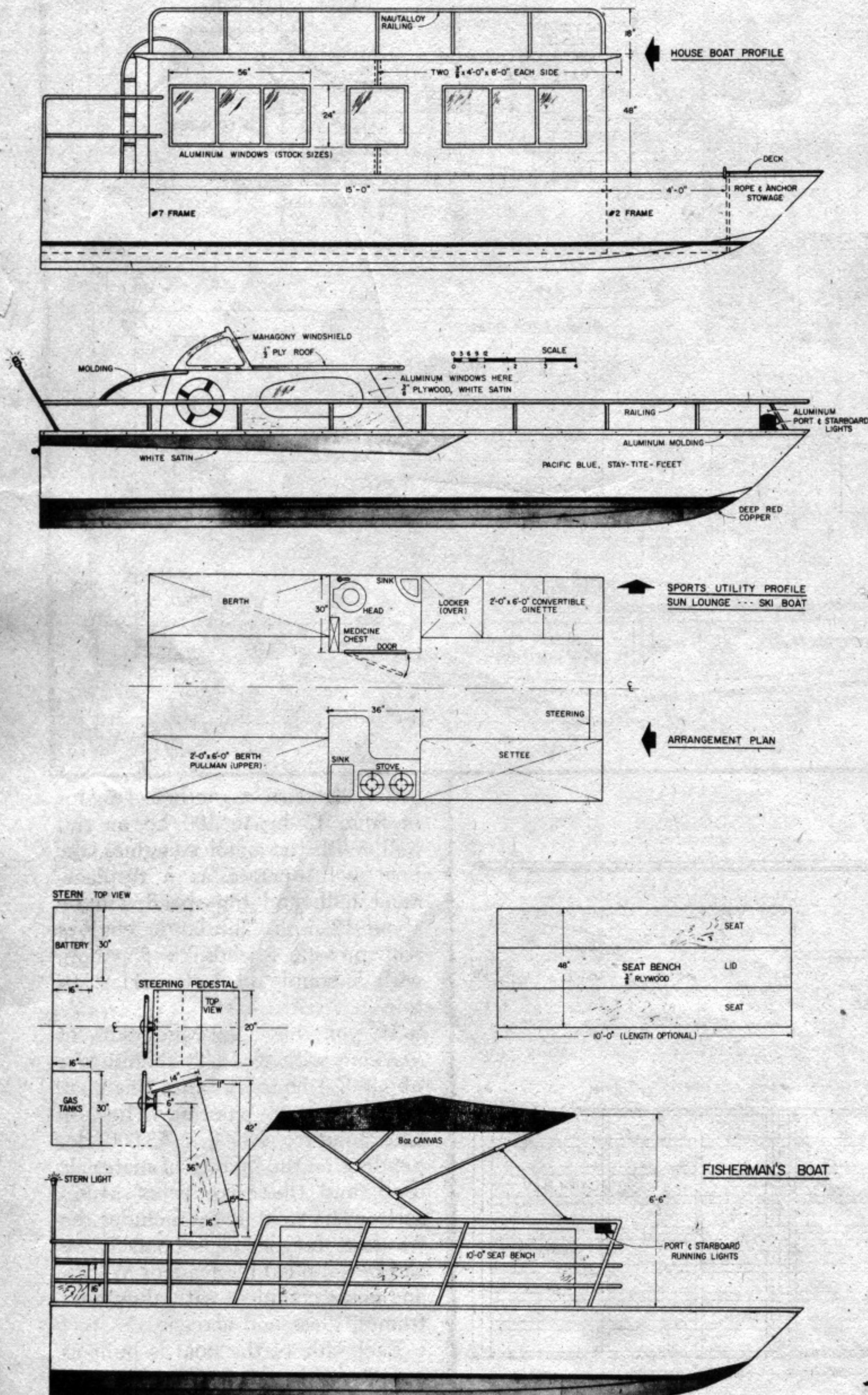
If you have average skill at working with wood, it should take about 150 hours to build this boat, preparatory to painting. The cost can range from \$500 to \$3,000, depending on the quality of materials used, and the quantity of accessories. The \$500 figure includes the windows for the houseboat. These can be supplied by Sears or Wards, and come complete with aluminum frames, glass and screens.

Each side of the boat is built as a unit, with chines, battens, and clamp screw or nail-fastened to the plywood, and the frame uprights secured in place. Be sure to coat



# Bayou Belle

FIGURE 4



all mating surfaces with a good waterproof glue before fastening.

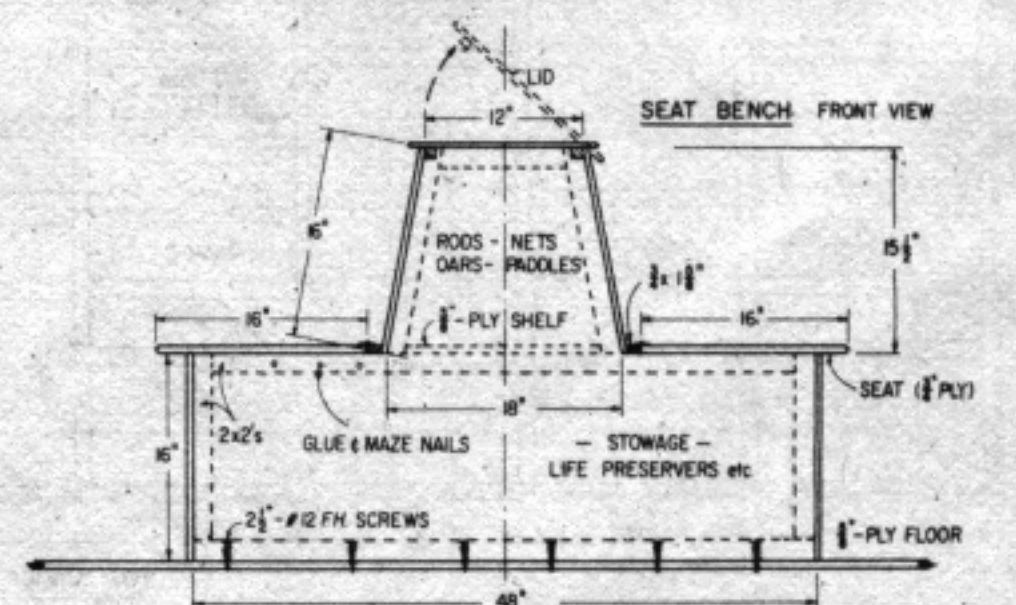
When the sides are complete, set them up in position and add the cross members: deck beams and bottom frames. Frames #1 and #2 must be notched to take the stem member. Frames #3 through #8 are made up in half sections which butt against the 2" x 6" keelson filler. Bottom frames and deck beams are bolted to the frame uprights, and plywood gussets are used at each joint. Add the stem plate, stem, transom knee, keelson, and battens as shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. Bottom is then ready for planking.

While it is perfectly acceptable to apply paint directly to the wood hull, extra strength and durability is gained if the entire hull is fiberglassed. If you don't want to go to the added bother and expense of complete glassing, we suggest you do use fiberglass tape along all the bottom and side seams.

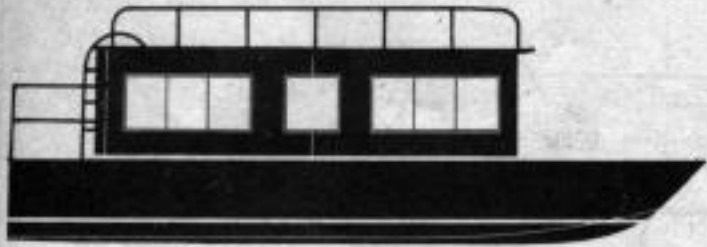
Lift rails and side rub rails are attached after the fiberglassing is done; hull can then be painted.

After the hull has been righted, decking and superstructure can be added. The arrangements shown can be modified to suit your individual requirements, so detailed instructions are not necessary. Out-drive or outboard motor powering will determine cutouts or use of brackets on transom.

• To obtain enlarged plan for building Bayou Belle, Craft Print No. 364, see handy order form on last page of this issue.







*Bayou  
Belle*

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