



Staff Photo by Al Wilson

Charles Fyffe (left) And Dean Chenoweth

... Working on "Chuck's Joy" for the big race

"Chuck's Joy" Brings Joy To Bricklayer, Xenia Pilot

By Dick Belsky

Journal Herald Sports Writer

Charles Fyffe and Dean Chenoweth, the area power boat racing team that captured a national championship last year, will be among the estimated 175 entries participating in the Eastern Divisional Powerboat Championships to be held here July 9-10.

This announcement came yesterday from publicity chairman Gene Whipp, who expects 25,000 people to flock to Eastwood Park Lake for the two days of speed and spills.

Chenoweth has been racing boats for 16 of his 29 years but it's only been in the past two years that he has teamed up with Fyffe, a Dayton bricklayer who builds boats in his garage during his spare time. The results since the two have combined talents have been sensational.

Driving Fyffe-built boats Chenoweth has won just about every major race he has en-

tered. The highlight came last year when the team won a national championship in the highly competitive 145 cubic inch class with "Chuck's Joy" —the same boat they will use in the competition here.

"Dean had been driving outboards for about 13 years before we got together, and he was looking around for a good inboard boat," Fyffe explained. "I let him drive mine one day and he's been doing it ever since."

"Just A Bricklayer"

Fyffe, it should be added, is somewhat of a phenomenon among racing boat builders. While most of them pour huge chunks of money amounting to as much as \$12,000 into a boat, Fyffe builds them in his garage at a cost of about \$250.

"I'm just a bricklayer," he says, "and I can't afford to put all that money or equipment into it. So I just do everything here myself."

The 29-year-old Chenoweth,

co-owner of Chenoweth Motor company in Xenia, O., has been racing since he was 13. He won seven national championships driving in outboards before he teamed up with Fyffe and got in the inboard competition.

"We had a cottage when I was a kid," Chenoweth recalls, "and I guess I just sort of grew up on the water. It's just like some people used to grow up in the woods and be a hunter."

Chenoweth and Fyffe will be competing against a whole host of other boating enthusiasts during the two day event which will include nine separate categories.

Eastwood Fine Spot

According to Whipp, racers from around the nation who participated in a race here last July were enthused with Eastwood Lake and called it perfect for the sport.

"It's an ideal site," Whipp admitted. "The only place close to it in the country is in Miami, Fla., and they spent \$3 million to build that."

Some of the advantages of the Eastwood location are, according to Whipp:

—High banks that protect the water from the wind.