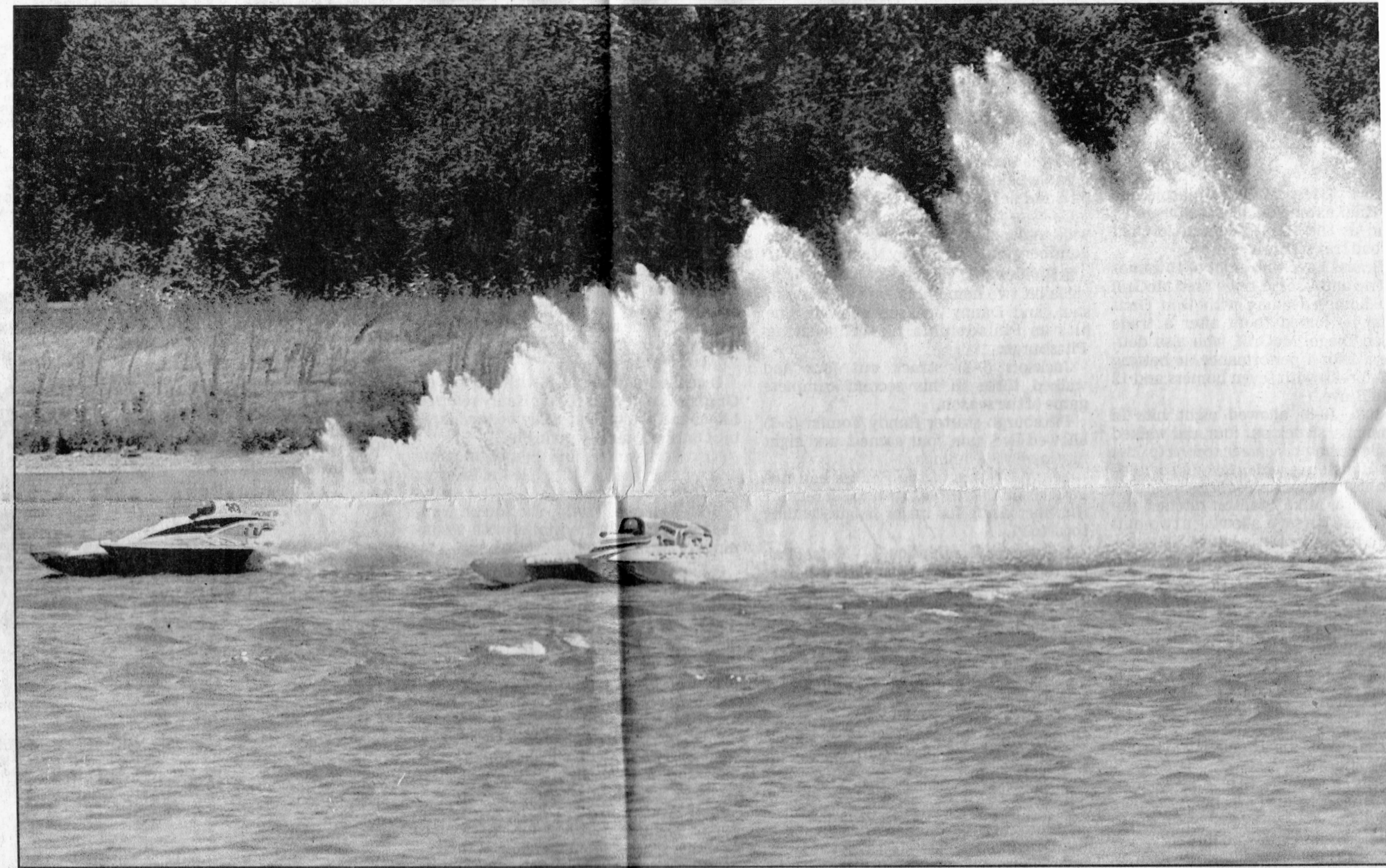


# Making waves at the Dayton Hydrobowl



JIM WITMER/DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Racers in Grand National Hydroplanes division turn corner on final lap of first heat; Charlie Wiggins (left) goes on to win, ahead of Ted Dudley

# Kettering hydroplane pilot driven by thrill of it all

By Debbie Juniewicz

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

She knows the risks.

She's aware of the danger.

Yet, hydroplane racer Suzette McCarthy steps into the cramped cockpit of her 2.5-litre outboard boat and attempts to exceed speeds of 100 mph.

"When it's my time to go, it's my time to go," McCarthy said.

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■ **TODAY:** Noon, with feature race at 5 p.m. at Dayton Hydrobowl, Eastwood Lake (Route 4 and Harshman Road). Admission: \$10 for adults; children 12 and under free.

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"On my tombstone I want it to say 'she had fun dying.'"

The 32-year-old Kettering resi-

dent is one of 75 racers competing in "A Celebration of Speed" hydroplane races at the Dayton Hydrobowl this weekend.

The bright orange safety gear made drivers easy to spot, but you had to search hard for a female behind the wheel of these boats. Only 3 of the drivers were women.

"As far as I know I'm the only female inboard racer in Ohio,"

McCarthy said.

McCarthy has never had a problem finding supporters. It was her husband Mac who encouraged her to try racing three years ago.

"She heals quicker than I do," said Mac, who raced outboards before he married Sue. "She listens well and learns fast."

"I don't think it's because he's trying to get rid of me because I

don't have any life insurance," Sue McCarthy joked.

Her sense of humor and determination have kept her going although she has had little success on the water.

The McCarthy's bought a used 1970 national championship boat and have completely rebuilt it. She will be racing with a different engine today and stands a better chance of being competitive.