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[The Original Ferry Tales](#) - a folk history of Conneaut Lake

The Boats - Clank, Clank, Clank....

I wanted to drive the ferry so badly as a kid. Man, that's what I wanted to do. Be captain of a ship. Who the hell wouldn't want to be captain of a ship? And that nickel squirter - gotta have that nickel squirter! Passenger - 1950s



You know what I remember about the ferry? That coin squirter

thing that the guy driving the boat wore. It so cool. You'd give him your money and he'd pump that thing and there'd be your change. Man, I wanted to drive that boat so bad! Passenger - 1960s

The ferry always looked the same, at least as far back as I can remember. it was white with those black rub rails around it. The inside was just plain wood and the seats were red and the floor gray. Just like that. Passenger - 1950s

All I remember is getting off the dock into the boat and seeing that you had to go so far down inside. Deep in. Once you were in the seats it was fine, but it seemed really far down. The inside was roughly finished on the inside with the wood and all. We should've gotten splinters up our... you know! Passenger - 1950s

You were close to the water. When you got in the boat you got down into the boat. You sat inside the hull. You were 'way down low. You know, you could look into that green water as the waves peeled off the side of the boat. It felt like you were moving along. Passenger - 1970s

I only took one ride on it with my brother and two of my cousins. We were over at the Park and decided to take the ferry to Town and back. This was about 1976 or 77. I was around 12 years old. I remember the rear seat that wrapped around and had the brass upholstery nails going around it. It was an uneventful trip. It was the last trip of the day and it was dark before we returned to the park. Passenger - 1970s

And of course when any friends or family that visited us who wanted to take a boat ride on the lake, we always suggested they take the ferry instead of the Barbara J. The ferry was cheaper and gave a better and longer ride. Passenger -1970s

The controls couldn't have been simpler. The wheel, the throttle and the gearshift. Out on an empty lake anybody could've driven her. The hard part was thinking ahead, watching all of the other boats, and landing. The ferry couldn't turn on a dime and took a long time to stop and you had to plan ahead or there would be trouble. Crew - 1970s

The wheels were on the side when I worked there. In the Outing you could