

## We surfed the waves

You could give that boat all the gas you wanted. Once it reached a certain speed she wouldn't go any faster. All she'd do is hunker down and throw off big-assed waves, especially if you were someplace shallow, like approaching or pulling away from a dock.

Crew – 1970s

Some of the most persistent ferry boat memories have nothing to do with being on the boat.

I was born up route 322 by Corry School in 1934. I spent many hours at Dennis Beach at the Town end of the lake, watching the boats going back and forth. I knew how long it took the ferry boat's waves to get to shore from their path across the lake.

Expatriate – 1940s

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We surfed the waves over at Midway Beach. There weren't too many boats on the lake in those days, so the ferry's wave was a big deal.

Visitor – 1950s

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The ferry threw really big waves. We'd pretend it was like a tidal wave and jump and splash through them. It sounds kind of goofy, I guess, but there weren't that many boats on the lake then and a really big wave was something to yell about.

Visitor – 1960s.

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The ferry made the biggest wave of any boat on the lake. We'd wait until it'd cruised by and then pretend like the waves were washing us ashore. Sounds sort of strange saying out loud, but we were kids then.

Visitor – 1970s



**Image: The Redwing departs Midway, July, 1955.** A heavily loaded ferry pulls away from Midway dock, heading south for Shady. Here, you can see one of the two elms that shaded Midway dock. Notice how empty the lake is of other boats, despite the pleasant weather of a very pretty day in July. Ferry pilots of the 1970s and 1980s had to contend with much heavier traffic in their time on the lake. *Copyright Ramsey Frist.*