1959 Cadillac wood boat.

Purchased: February 2009

I knew there was some rot but did not know the extent until I started taking the boat apart. A lot of the rot was hidden and areas did not appear to be rotten but were decayed. In the spring of 2009 I was so disgusted with the condition of the hull that I almost pulled it into the backyard and set it afire! Thankfully, I took the evening off and it didn’t seem so grim the next day.

The trailer was a disaster; I completely rebuilt it with new axle, wheels, tires, lighting. We removed the center section and replaced with a new steel tube and trailer connector and painted Tropical Turquoise (a 1957 Chevy color).

I decided early to do a complete renovation to the best of my ability. I took a lot of liberties with the re-construction. I added a back deck to cover an inboard gas tank; the original boat had a 6 gallon can.

It was under-going renovation for 2 ½ years but I took two breaks of about 10 months during that period. I estimate that I spent 18 months of steady work. A lot of time was spent in repairing the rot; I believe I could have made one from scratch in about the same time because of the massive amount of prep work in the hull.

The only original wood is the basic hull. All the mahogany that you see varnished is new construction. All wood was sealed with at least 2 coats of varnish or epoxy on the back side of components to prevent rot. Exposed varnish work has at least 6 coats of spar varnish.

The deck hardware and lights area original, including the emblems. I did not do anything to the hardware except polish it and everything works great.

The engine is a 40 HP Mercury (original to the boat) and the throttle quadrant is original except I painted it. The engine was basically sound but un-reliable. I have spent some time making it more reliable which included a new wiring harness and milling the head for a better seal.

By **Randy Bordner**