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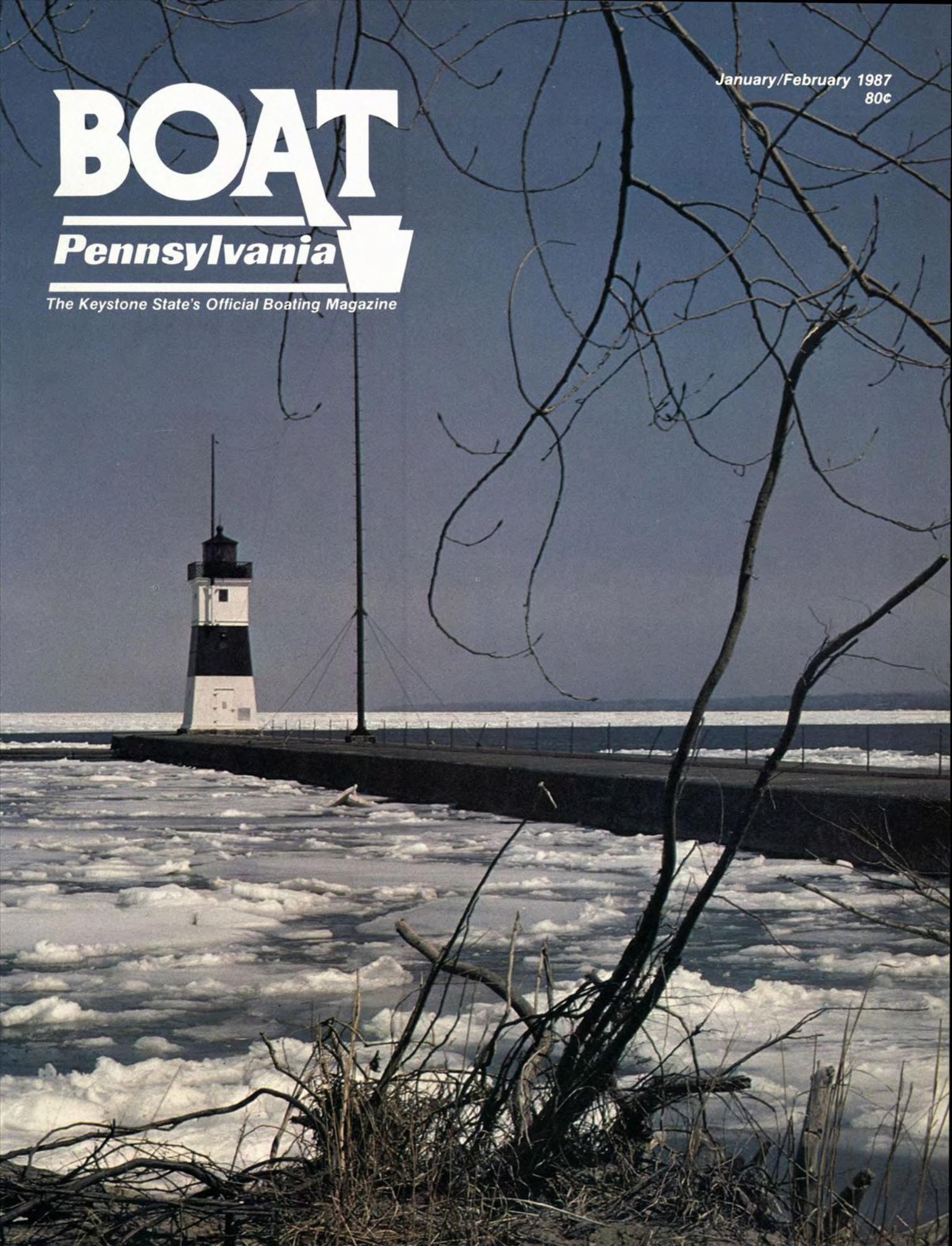
# BOAT

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## Pennsylvania



*The Keystone State's Official Boating Magazine*



# VIEWPOINT

## *Boat Manufacturing in America*

Last week we visited the home plant of one of our country's largest boat manufacturers. What we saw makes us feel good about the old U. S. of A.

Innovation and ingenuity abound. Problems that have plagued the industry in the past, production inefficiency and shoddy workmanship are being solved through renewed company leadership and management interest.

For instance, the company we visited produces a well-equipped boat, but offers no factory installed options. This reduces inefficiency on the assembly line and at the same time removes the necessity of a large inventory. Cost is reduced and a better boat is passed on to the customer.

To assure that quality of workmanship is built into the product, the manufacturer pays bonuses to assembly teams based on quality control reports. When the boat leaves the factory, a dollar factor is added to the overhead for warranty work. If, at the end of the warranty period, that boat has not used up all the warranty dollars, the remainder is returned to the team that built the boat.

These are just a few of the innovative ideas our host of last week uses. Competition in the boating industry is keen, so you can be sure that the other companies are using techniques just as imaginative to stay in the ball game.

Companies of integrity and makers who care are not the only factors that go into the making of a good boat.

The Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 put the Coast Guard into the regulatory construction standards business. So you don't have to worry any longer about household wiring, un-fused circuits, untested fuel and ventilation systems, flotation standards, and so forth.

We should also recognize those organizations that develop the standards and test the component parts—the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Underwriter's Laboratories (UL), the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) Boat Certification program—to name a few. When shopping, look for their logos.

This is the boat show season. Walk down the aisles of colors and dreams with confidence. Buy American.



**Gene Spurl**  
Assistant Executive Director  
Bureau of Waterways  
Pennsylvania Fish Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Spurl".

# BOAT

## Pennsylvania

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#### The cover

The ice-locked winter scene on this issue's cover shows Presque Isle Inlet and Lake Erie. Photographer Denis Stager braved bitter winds and cold to capture this scene on film. Speaking about braving the elements of Presque Isle, check out the nostalgic picture painted by the article that begins on page 18—those ice boaters careening across the frozen bay at speeds up to 100 mph! If you prefer to look forward to spring, consider how to enjoy a successful shakedown cruise in a new boat, in the article on page 26, and if you're unfamiliar with tournament water skiing, the article that begins on page 29 may interest you.

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