

Henry Long

Ohio

My Best Time Fishing

I grew up fishing on my grandpa's 1970 26' Lyman. My grandpa bought the boat brand new, three months before my dad was born, and he made it into the best fishing boat on Lake Erie. Since my grandpa passed away in 2012, we have continued to use the reliable Lyman to fish for yellow perch and walleye in Lake Erie. The boat has won many fishing tournaments throughout its life, and continues to be the best fishing boat we could ask for. I have greatly enjoyed growing up fishing on the same boat that my dad grew up fishing on. While it takes a lot of hard work keeping it in good shape, it is without a doubt worth it, as everyone knows that Lymans are the best riding boats on the Lake.

I have had many great experiences, and formed many cherished memories fishing on this boat, so it is hard to pick just one. One of the best days fishing I ever had was a few years ago, on a nice July day. My dad and I had a somewhat late start to the day, but still decided to make the long haul to Old Woman's Creek from Sandusky. We had heard of a few good perch reports in the area, and figured it was our best shot. We found a good spot, and set our anchor. After dropping down our homemade perch rigs, the design of which are a family secret, we immediately began getting hits. The perch lit up our poles, and we caught fish after fish. After a while, we began leaving the top of the three hooks empty, as it saved time. I remember catching a few fish after that on the top hook-the fish must have seen the shine of the hook and decided to bite it. As we headed back into Sandusky, we were all amazed at the awesome fishing day we had.

Another memorable fishing trip I had was my first time walleye fishing. I had been perch

fishing for years, but my dad decided that he wanted to get back into walleye fishing. I got casting down after a little bit, and a few snags on the front of the boat. My dad and I took the Lyman out off Kelley's island, and began casting. My dad has always said that trolling for walleye feels like cheating. When my dad and grandpa participated in walleye tournaments, they always casted, and never trolled. They were able to win multiple tournaments by just casting for walleye. That first trip I had walleyeing was a lot of fun, and gave me a new hobby to enjoy. We caught a few fish that day, but it was fun to catch fish in a new way. I have since been walleye fishing many times, and have always enjoyed casting rather than trolling.

I hope to continue to use my family's trusty Lyman for many more years, and make many many more memories fishing with my friends and family. My grandpa's fishing spirit lives on with our old Lyman, and there are few boats on the Lake that have caught more perch and walleye in their lifetimes.

