







BOAT WORKS

John O. Johnson immigrated from Norway in 1893 at the age of 13. He worked at Amundson Boat Works for his friend, Gus Amundson. In 1896 John founded Johnson Boat Works. In 1900 he designed and built a 38 foot sailboat, "Minnezitka", which he called the first true Inland Scow. The flat-bottomed, planing hull design was the precursor to the Class A Scow. the world's fastest single hull sailing craft.

John O. Johnson's inventive and creative mind led to his construction and flight in 1910 of the first successful powered airplane in Minnesota. In 1923 he designed, built and patented the first rotary snowplow.

Milton, Iver and Walter, the next generation of the Johnson family, guided the growth of the Inland Scow classes throughout the country. They were instrumental in the design and construction of the first competitive fiberglass scows.

Skip. Steve and Jason, members of the third and fourth generations of the John O. Johnson family, undertook further expansion of the various scow classes, and also developed and manufactured additional national one-design racing sailboats.

After 102 years of sailboat manufacturing, and the delivery of thousands of Johnson scows throughout the United States, the manufacturing business was sold in 1998. The following year the City of White Bear Lake purchased the property and Marina.

THIS MARKER WAS ERECTED IN 2000 BY

THE JOHNSON FAMILY

WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE



