

2014  
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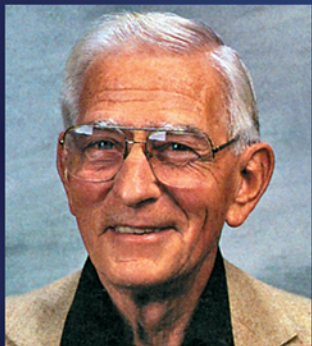
## John Cripe

*Founder of JC Manufacturing & TriToon Inventor*



John Cripe was born in northern Indiana in 1918 and was educated at Purdue University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. During WWII he worked for JD Adams, an Engineering Firm out of New York. Their primary focus was on projects for the Navy in ship building and design.

After the war, John moved back to Indiana with his wife and two young sons where he started Cripe Equipment Company and built custom machinery for various industries. Being a dreamer, he developed a number of products that he patented and sold. This allowed him to get back to his first real love, which was boats and in the mid 50's he started designing and building Sylvan pontoon boats.



In the mid 60's, Sylvan needed capital to expand and John entered into an arrangement with Harold Schrock and sold the majority holdings of Sylvan. Then hard times hit in the late 60's and John decided to sell his remaining stock and moved on, however, the boat bug never left him. In 1976 he purchased a small-boat builder in Topeka, Ind., by the name of Party Barge. In 1977 John partnered with Jerry Amsden and purchased the current JC Manufacturing Facility in North Webster, Ind. With that, JC Pontoon was off and running.

With Sylvan, John had built a number of boats with three tubes and even four tubes with twin engines along with sterndrive pontoons that utilized two tubes and a motor pod. He wanted something that would truly utilize the TriToon concept and house the inboard/outboard engine. Going back through some of his old concept drawings he found what he was looking for. The design was the fore runner of the current TriToon Classic. This hull was designed to lift and plane like no other pontoon before it.



John passed away in 1999 and never got to see his TriToon design fully develop.

Some of the new high tech designs we see today on the water look like design sketches he drew four decades ago," said his son Kim Cripe, who currently owns and operates JC today. "He loved bright colors, speed and flash and he believed that you cannot build a boat in the board room. It must be done on the dock."

