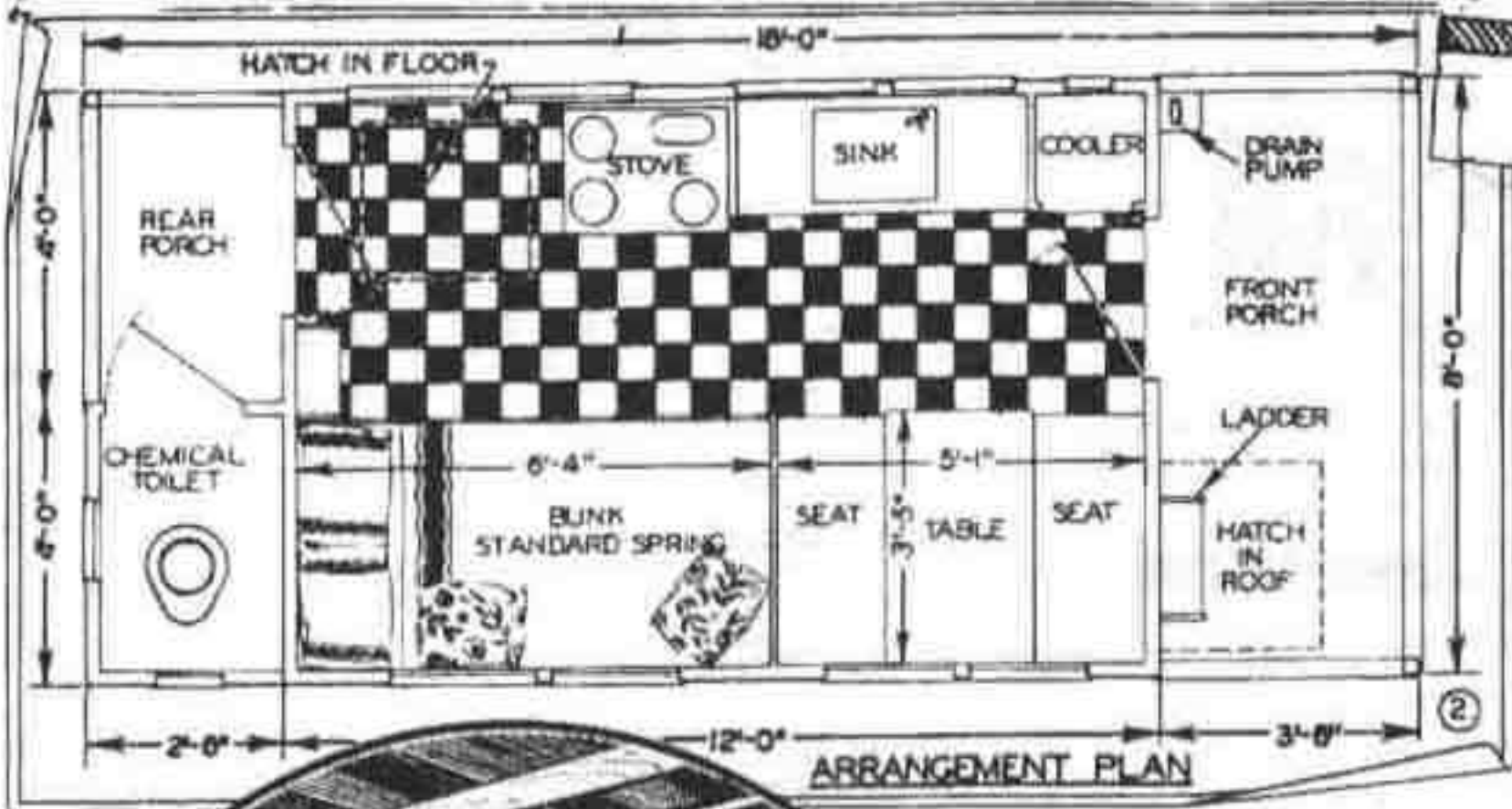
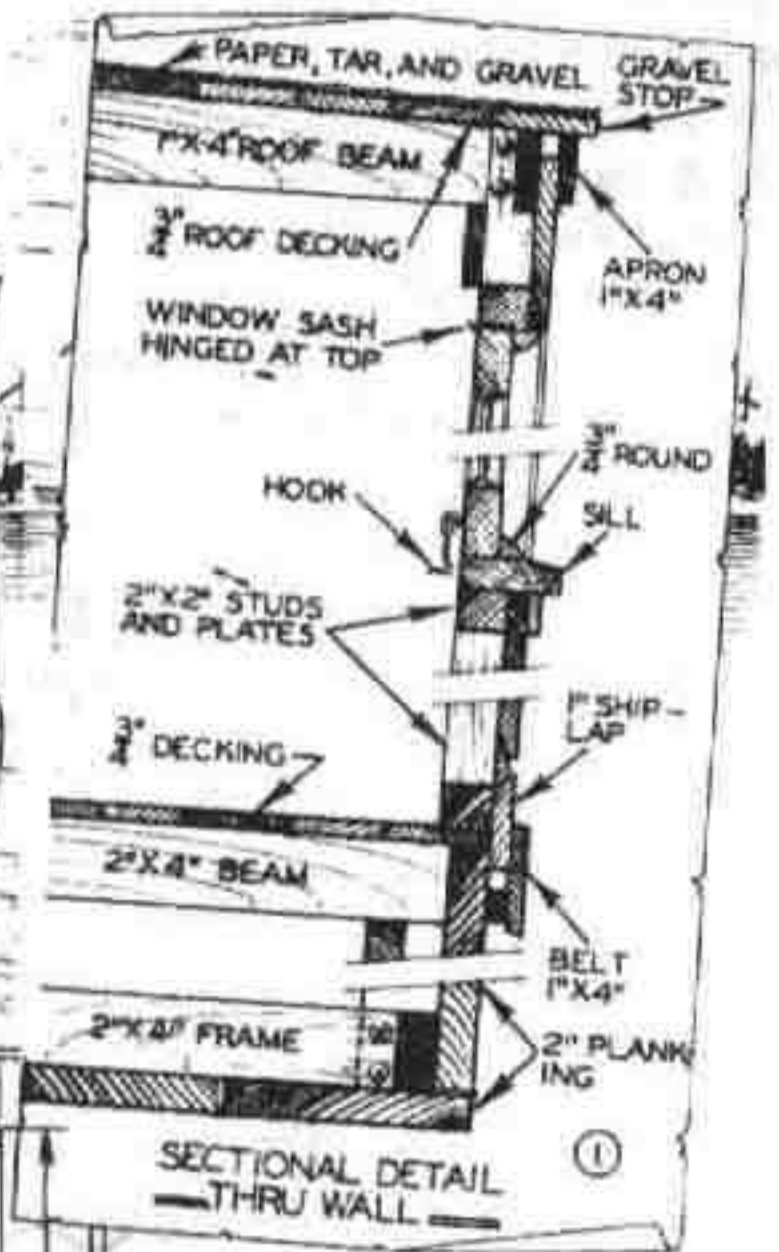
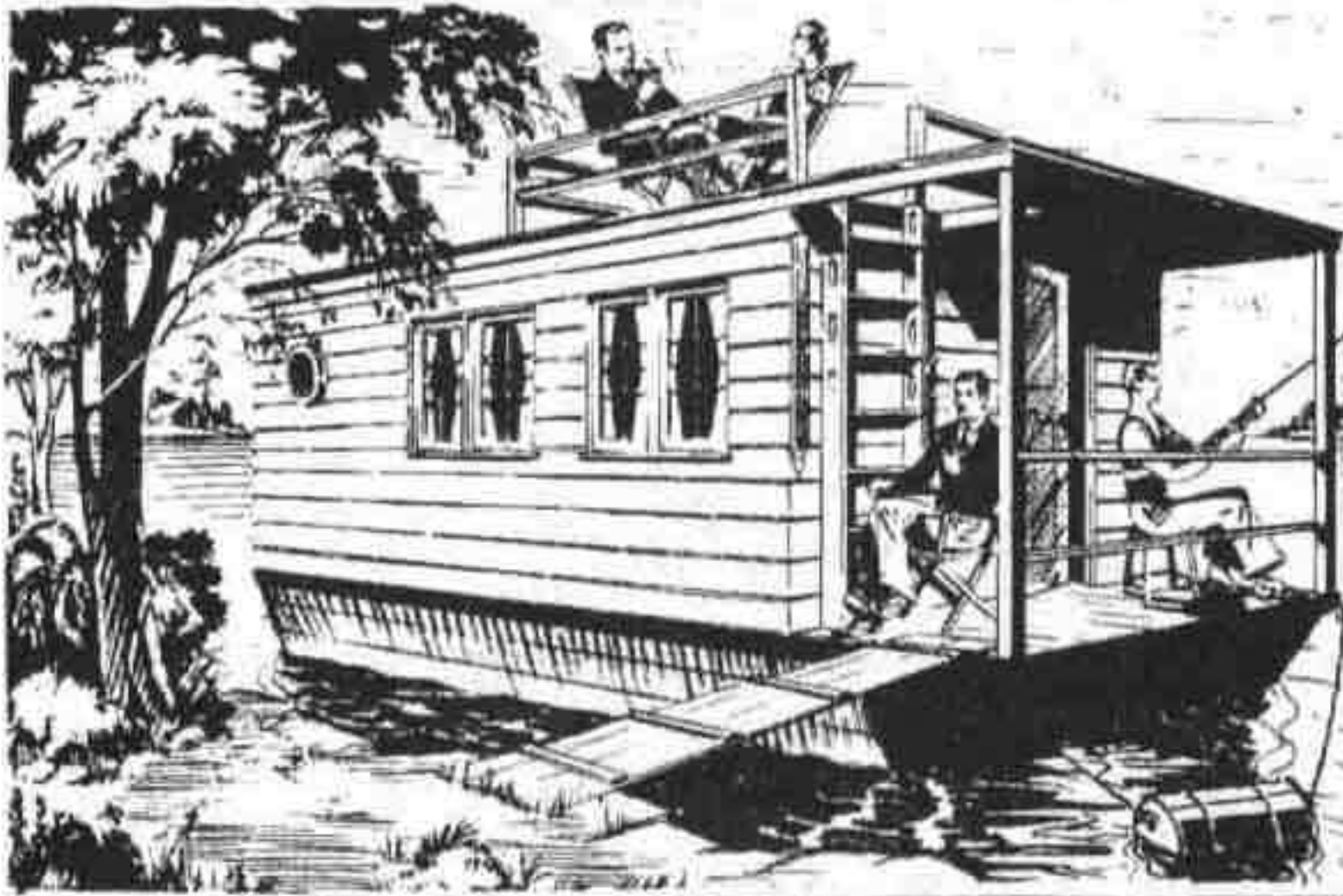


Vacation In A Houseboat

Spend next summer on a houseboat. "Coolwater" can be built for about seventy dollars, including all furnishings, by careful selection of materials.



Finished "Coolwater," with a gangplank running to shore is pictured at top. Roof deck is reached by ladder just outside cabin. Green and white is attractive color scheme for this house-boat; green roofing paper is then recommended. Build railings around lower and roof decks from 2x4's. Screens should be used on all windows to keep out flies and mosquitoes; use copper screen if near or on salt water. The wall construction is shown above.



One corner of "Coolwater" house-boat showing kitchen range, sink, icebox. Windows are hinged to swing upward.

THIS house-boat was designed from the experience, wishes and desires of the owner of half a dozen different floating shanties, all of which, while serving to satisfy the longing for days afloat on cool waters, did not entirely fill the requirements of one who likes to spend long lazy days under the water willows in the summer and busy days scouring the marshes for wildfowl during the winter. The house-boat *Coolwater* fills these requirements nicely.

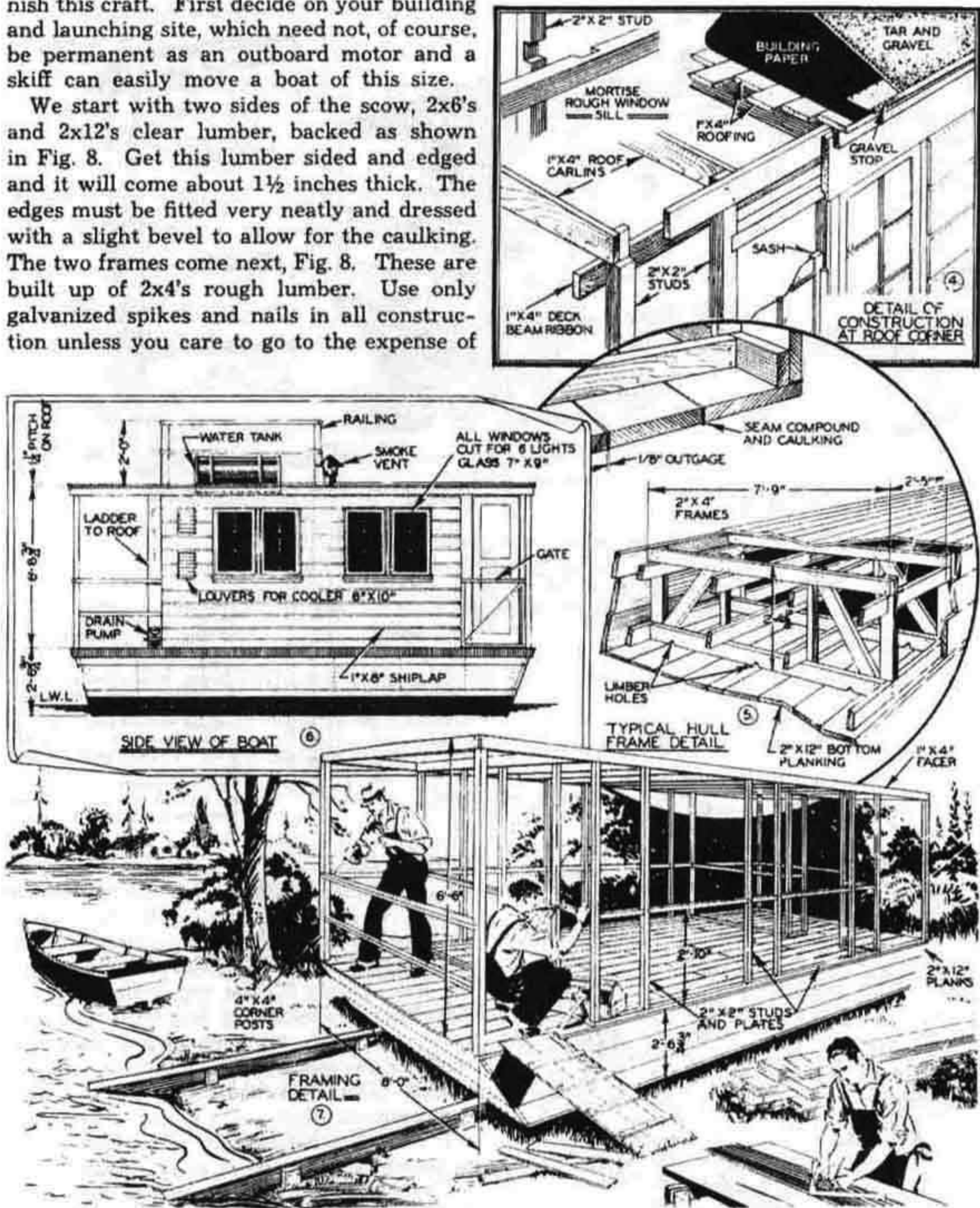
It combines a maximum of comfort with a minimum of expense—a good vacation boat. *Coolwater* will afford pleasure and profit to the whole family, as a permanent or temporary mooring can be found in almost any marsh or along a beautiful river bank free of

Slide Finished Houseboat Into Water on Skids

charge. There is no property to buy and no taxes to pay. If the owner will do the work of simple carpentry himself, it will be hard to find a better way to spend the 60 or 70 dollars that it costs to build and furnish this craft. First decide on your building and launching site, which need not, of course, be permanent as an outboard motor and a skiff can easily move a boat of this size.

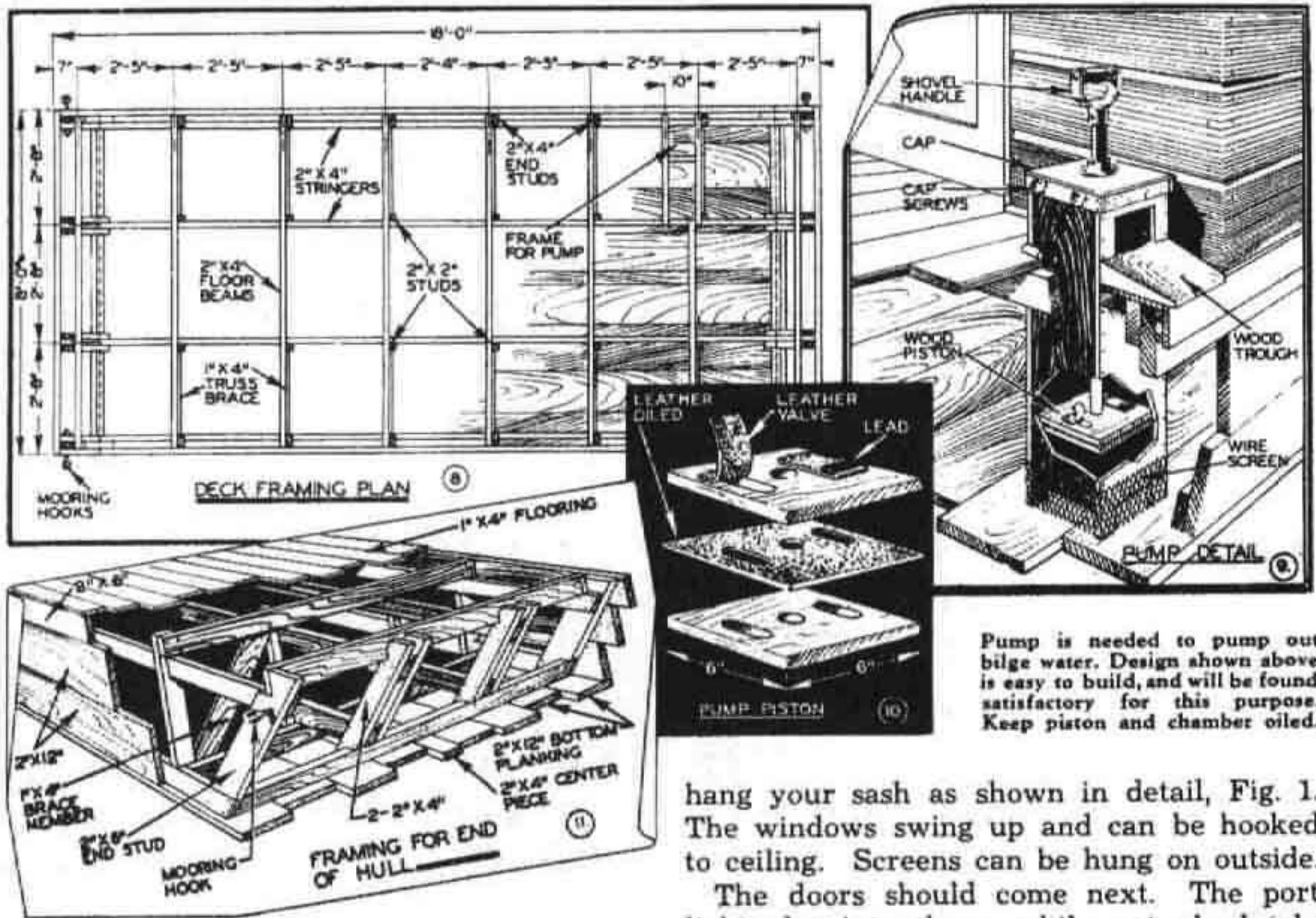
We start with two sides of the scow, 2x6's and 2x12's clear lumber, backed as shown in Fig. 8. Get this lumber sided and edged and it will come about 1½ inches thick. The edges must be fitted very neatly and dressed with a slight bevel to allow for the caulking. The two frames come next, Fig. 8. These are built up of 2x4's rough lumber. Use only galvanized spikes and nails in all construction unless you care to go to the expense of

galvanized bolts. Now lay your frames and sides upside down on a flat level place and put on your end planking. Don't forget to notch out the limber holes, as in Fig. 5, to



Build houseboat on shore, then slide into water on skids as shown above. Other sketches show details of roof and frame construction. Chemical refrigerator will be found ideal for "Coolwater," but ordinary icebox is simplest where only week-end visits are made. Use lever to slide boat onto the skids. Grease the skids where shoreline has little pitch.

"Coolwater" Bunk Takes Standard Size Spring



Pump is needed to pump out bilge water. Design shown above is easy to build, and will be found satisfactory for this purpose. Keep piston and chamber oiled.

allow for all leakage to drain to the pump, before putting on the bottom planking.

The general way to make scows waterproof is to caulk the seams with long strips of oakum and then run hot tar all over the inside and up to the water line on the outside. A half a barrel of tar, an old mop and an iron bucket are all you'll need. Keep the tar bubbling hot and brush it well into all corners and seams.

Now lay your decking, not forgetting the hatch and pump hole, and you are ready for the house. The 2x2 plates are laid first. The studs and upper plates are laid out on the floor and the door and window openings framed in before you raise the walls. The rafters are sawed from 1x4 hard pine, giving about a 1½ inch pitch to the roof. The roof, Fig. 4, is covered with 1x4 tongue and groove boards, and tar and gravel roofing paper in a color to match your final paint scheme.

The house is sheathed with 1x8 shiplap trimmed out flush with the window and door openings. The corners are mitered or covered with 1x2 battens. ¾-inch quarter-rounds serve as stops for doors and windows. Next, put in your finished window sills and

hang your sash as shown in detail, Fig. 1. The windows swing up and can be hooked to ceiling. Screens can be hung on outside.

The doors should come next. The port lights let into them, while not absolutely necessary, give a very shippy appearance. Any glazier will cut the glass circles for you. The frames are band-sawed or fret-sawed from some soft ¾-inch material.

In the interior layout the bunk takes a full size spring and mattress. By lowering it a trifle another bunk could be built in above. Lockers under the bunk and under the seats must be ventilated or dry rot will soon set in. The cushions for the seats are made from an old pad and covered with a bright chintz to match the curtains.

A sink is very handy even if water must be carried to your boat. A shallow well dug six to ten feet from the river bank will nearly always yield good water and a tank could be mounted on the roof (see Fig. 6) with a hand pump and length of hose to pump it full. Failing that, a pair of clean 5-gallon kerosene cans with wooden handles will give you a week-end supply.

"COOLWATER" house-boat blueprint plans, containing all sketches shown in this article enlarged many times, are available at \$1 postpaid for those who prefer to work from large-size plans. The bill of materials for "Coolwater" is included with blueprints. Send orders to Modern Mechanix Publishing Co., Fawcett Bldg., Greenwich, Conn.