

//WHEELIE

by George Daniels

"WHEELIE WILLIE" is the economist's dream and the orthodox boat builder's nightmare. A few cents worth of nails and a little heap of second grade shelving are about all that is necessary to build it, aside from a can or two of the cheapest paint available and some odds and ends.

The original boat (shown in the photographs) was hammered together in about five hours, and by coincidence, cost about five dollars. All the tools needed for the job could be bought for a dollar extra.

Little skill or patience is required in assembling this odd craft. Designed for careless handling and the rough use to be expected from reckless landlubbers, "Wheelie Willie" was thrown off a dock for the launching. It hurtled, half painted, into the water ten feet below, and has received the same type of meticulous care ever since.

Construction is simple almost to the point of boredom. To begin, the two 8' side planks are clamped together so that their ends can be sawed to the angles indicated. Clamping simplifies the job and assures similarity of the sides. After the sides are cut out the chines should be nailed to them,

SCREEN DOOR HANDLES

BILL OF MATERIALS

- 2 PIECES $\frac{3}{4}$ " X 12" X 6' SIDES
- 2 PIECES $\frac{3}{4}$ " X 12" X 3' TRANSOM AND BOW
- 1 PIECE $\frac{3}{4}$ " X 8" X 3' TOP BOW
- 14 PIECES $\frac{3}{4}$ " X 6" X 3' (OR EQUAL) BOTTOM
- 2 PIECES 2" X 2" X 6" OARLOCK BLOCKS
- 2 PIECES $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X 12' FOR CHINES, ETC.
- 2 PIECES $\frac{3}{4}$ " X 12" X 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ " SEATS
- 4 PIECES $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X 12" SEAT SUPPORTS
- 1 PIECE $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X 6' 6" FOR KEEL
- 1 PIECE $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X 4' 6" RUNNING GEAR
- 1 PIECE $\frac{3}{4}$ " X 9" X 9" FOR WHEEL
- 2 LBS. GALV. NAILS
- $\frac{1}{2}$ QT. PAINT
- 1 GALV. CARRIAGE BOLT $\frac{3}{8}$ " X 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " AXLE
- 1 GALV. SCREW EYE 1" DIA. FOR MOORING
- 2 GALV. OARLOCKS AND BUSHINGS

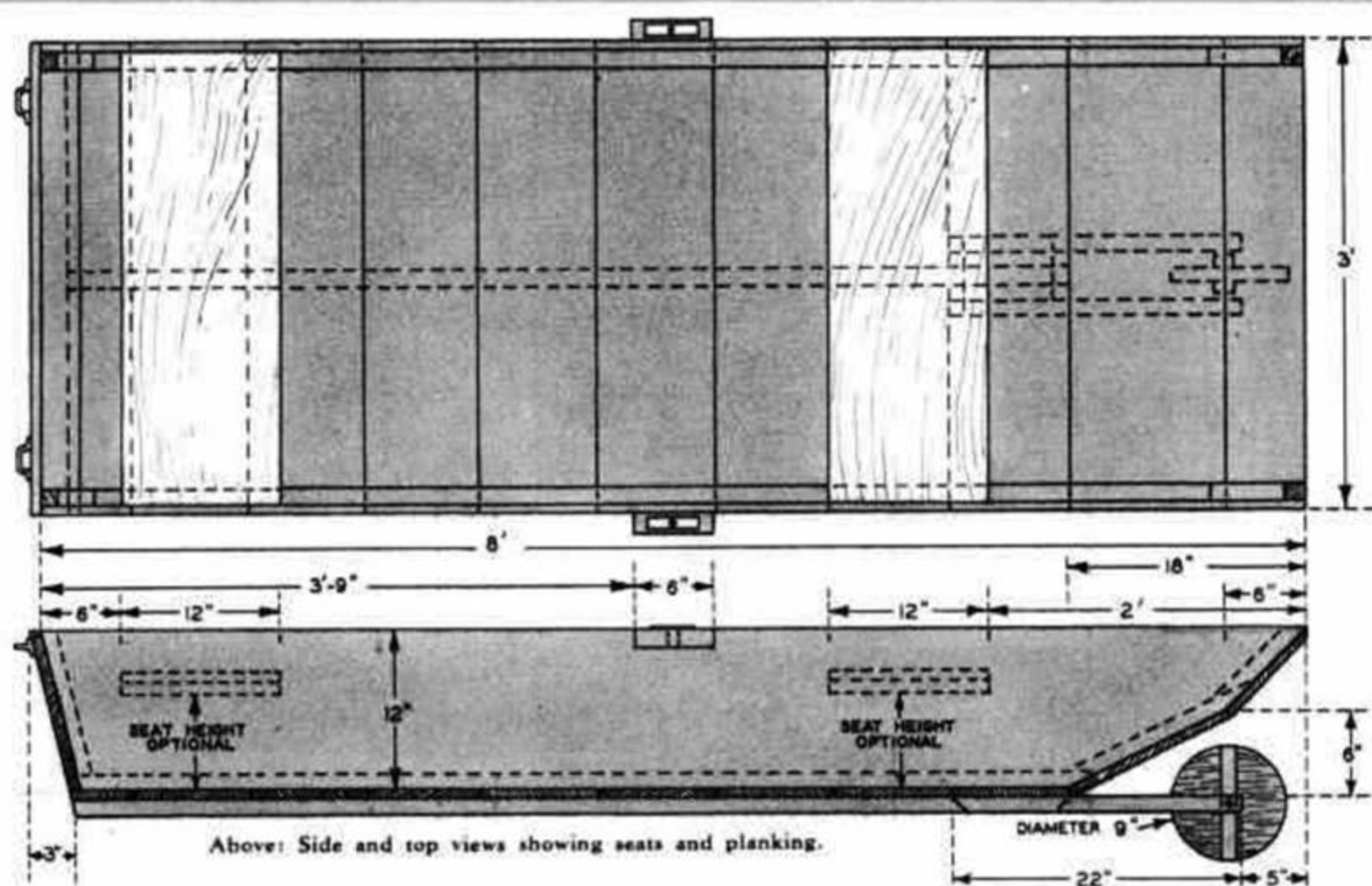
This sketch gives a general idea of the construction of the boat.

AXLE $\frac{3}{8}$ " GALV. CARRIAGE BOLT

1" SCREW EYE

WILLIE

You can build this boat in an afternoon for what you might otherwise lose on a few holes of golf. Any hardware store and any lumber yard will have the materials required for its simple construction.



flush with the bottom edges. When you do this be sure that you don't make two left sides or two right sides. The safest method of avoiding this error consists of standing the sides up on their bottom edges and marking the inside surfaces before attaching the chines. Drive the nails from the outside and

bend them over on the inside. Be sure they're long enough to bend over.

When the chines are fastened nail the transom on. As previously, the nails should be driven from the outside, through the corner uprights, and then bent over on the

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Below: Six foot oars are about the right length as shown in photograph.



Wheelie Willie

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inside. It is wise to nail the top plank across the bow at this point to hold the boat in shape for the bottom planking. This is done in the usual way with the boat upside down. After all the bottom planks are nailed on, the boat is turned over and the nails clinched on the inside. Edges of the planks should be slightly beveled on the outside so that the calking cotton can be driven in more easily.

The wheel is cut out of a $\frac{3}{4}$ " plank to a diameter of 9". A strip is nailed across the grain on each side to reinforce it. No bushing is used or needed in the hub. The wheel wobbles a little but it rolls easily.

All the usual difficulties in beaching row-boats have been eliminated by the wheel. The motor and other equipment can all be put in the front of the boat and pushed into the water in wheel barrow fashion. When landing, the boat is backed up to the beach, unloaded, and pulled out on its wheel.



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