

KKK to EASTMAIN POST

via

Mistassini, north branch of Rupert, Woollett Lake, Neoskweskau,
Great Bend

Maps Required: For best overall picture of route; though only Eastmain section is currently needed for travel. Map Distribution Office, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, 615 Booth St. Ottawa. (all map sheets are 50 cents per sheet) :

Scale: 8 miles to the inch: Mistassini NW 50/76 Sheet 32 NE
La Grande NW 52/76 Sheet 33 SE
Eastmain NW 52/80 Sheet 33 SW

Scale: 1:250,000 or 4 miles to the inch. These are used for actual travel, and are quite accurate.

Mistassini River North 32 I
Lac Baudeau 32 P
Lac Mesgouez 32 O
Lac Rossignol 33 A (not used unless alternate route from Mistassini to Eastmain is followed)
Lichteneger Lake 33 B
Opinaca Lake 33 C
Eastmain 33 D (not yet published in 1967)

Also should be carried in case of emergency and need to alter route to Nemiscau and Rupert House:

Nemiscau Lake 32 N
Rupert House 32 M

Scale: 6 miles to inch. Department of Lands and Forests, Quebec Territories D'Abitibi et De Mistassini, both sections, East and West. (These date from 1950 and may be out of print, they are not necessary, but do indicate several portage locations not found on the unmarked Mines and Tech Survey maps.)

Permits and Licenses:

Permit to travel through Mistassini Reserve should be obtained well in advance of trip from Director, Parks and Reserves Service, Quebec. Reserve includes Mistassini, Part of Rupert, and extends through Woollett Lake. There is a barrier located on road from Chibougamau to Mistassini, just north of carry to Waconichi where permission to travel will be needed. There is also a camp at Mistassini Post (no problem on previous trips), a camp at the mouth of the Rupert (which is missed by two or three miles), a camp on Woollett Lake (vacant when we passed through in 1967).

Travel Permits all the way to Baie James should be obtained from Ranger Station in Chibougamau, located south of Chibougamau at intersection of road from Senneterre with one from St-Felicien. Normally a permit for each person, but it may be possible to get one for entire group.

Ontario Travel Permits should be carried for Temagami area and for Moosonee.

Quebec Fishing Licenses (should have one for each person even if someone is not fishing) obtained in Chibougamau or from Fecteau Air Base. \$5.25 for guide and staff; \$2.10 dependent license for rest of party.

Reoutfitting: Via Fecteau Air Service, Chibougamau. Arrangements should be made well in advance. A Beaver is sufficiently large for resupply. All supplies should be carried via truck to Chibougamau. Truck should proceed to foot of Mistassini and drop 2nd leg supplies on way back. Anything sent later from KKK should be carried to freight office in Temagami to avoid delays. Should leave KKK one week before resupply -- freight takes 4-5 days to reach Chibougamau. Location for resupply should be carefully checked with Fecteau; Neoskwekau may not be the most convenient.

KKK to Mistassini --

Truck rented from Roger Carmody, Latchford, through Dan Charette, BP Station, Temagami. Quite satisfactory (ask him again to bring his large heavy tarp). Additional tarp should be carried from KKK to cover boxes and burlap padding for canoes worked well. Packs, jewelry, and one wannigan carried in cars with personnel with one canoe on each car. Loading should start at 2:00, plenty of time for lunch on way in to landing at Mine Road.

Road to Senneterre quite good. Trip to Senneterre takes about 5 hours. Original plan was to camp out north of Senneterre on Lake Parent, but campsites would be difficult. Much better to rent cabin on Lake Tiblemont south of Senneterre (\$5 for the night with wood stove in cabin) Cabins are on right on Lake about 5 miles north of Louvicourt, roughly Obaska. A one-pump Esso Station.

Road from Senneterre to Chapis all gravel (about 6 hours to Chibougamau. Senneterre to Beattyville was under construction and poor. Better after Beattyville (about 50 miles). Gas stations at intervals, but not many. Road from Chapis to Chibougamau is paved.

Ranger Station and Fecteau Base at Chibougamau just as Senneterre road meets St-Felicien road, about 6-8 miles south of Chibougamau.

Road from Chibougamau to Mistassini (and Albanel) is all gravel. Gate on road just at cut off for Waconichi about 10 miles from Chibougamau. Old charge was \$2 per day per person rod fee. New rate seems to be \$1 per day rod fee and \$1 per day per tent.

Cut off to Mistassini on sand road maybe 30 miles past gate. Road poorly marked "Lac Mistassini" on left. Landing about 2 miles down sand road. No camping area right at dock -- couple Indian houses at landing.

Mistassini --

For future information at Mistassini see Catholic Priest who seems relatively permanent and knowledgeable. Indian Chief in 1967 was Smally Petawabano who was running Indian Affairs office in 1967. Should be able to get Indians for information; he speaks English well.

Mistassini to Rupert Campsite -- see Rupert River report of 1966 for most material with these additions:

Abatagush Bay campsites: One site on small island about 1½ miles

before top narrows -- island is not on map.

2 campsites at narrows. Best one on north point at a little bay just before smallest part of narrows. Other on southern edge of same bay across the way.

Big Crossing: Campsite on last large island just west of Big Crossing (about 2 miles out) on western side of island in foot of bay on northwest side of island about 1 - 1½ mile south of tip of island. Pretty good.

After Crossing -- Map shows two islands after crossing; there's only one with shoals running off to north and south of it. Aiming point for crossing is a cut in highest hill in right direction -- looks as though it was cleared for a large road almost.

Campsite on west shore just to north of island in birch -- not very good. Next on south side of bay above the island, also in birch -- ok. One on north side of same bay, and also with a landing on the lake; very dirty.

Rupert Campsite -- On east side of river there's a bay, which really is a channel of the river which is deep and rocky -- good trout hole? -- 2 taken out of there in an otherwise poor year at this site. Wabun indicated they took trout below the campsite on the Rupert channel to the left of the large island below.

Rupert Campsite to Foot of Capichinatun --

About ¾ miles below campsite 2 small islands block the river -- best run is to far right.

After other branch joins just below, an island blocks the route with rapid on left side to run -- run starts in center and then takes right side, next to island. Portage trail goes across island and may be used to look over foot at least. Head best looked at from small rocky island at start.

Two small rapids immediately afterwards, can be run head on. Another small rapid about a mile on.

Follow map closely through this stretch -- many islands and bays. Current is reasonably good indicator. About 3 miles -- rapid through several islands -- run on right is safest. Should be looked at.

About a mile after entering channel to Capichinatun comes a heavy rapid followed by falls. Portage on left along top of esker. First take out about 40 yards before any heavy water. However, there's a second one in a bay behind a small island. In high water it would be possible to let down between island and mainland. In low water run to outside of island and catch eddy. Look over carefully, however. Portage about 650 yards -- follow esker all the way. View from top is magnificent. There is a trail down to water at foot of first pitch -- don't take it. It would be possible to sneak down shore about 300 yards, but no trail is cut at next drop and esker is easier to follow. Toward end there is another trail off to right which could be taken, but drop to water is very steep and room for only one canoe. Easier to carry the whole way.

Campsite at foot of trail quite spacious and well used in jack pine stand.

Foot of Capichinatun to Foot of Woollett --

Reasonably heavy rapid in first narrows after falls -- can be

run all the way just looking from top.
Steady downhill run at second narrows -- no real rapid, just very good current.
Lake after last narrows very attractive with high hills on both sides. Some burn on right shore most of way up.
3 Indian campgrounds on left shore on way up. First about 1/3 way up (?) not very good looking. Second in birch after lake widens -- looks possible. Third just beyond in labrador -- looks poor.
Fishing camp about 2 miles from outlet on left shore. Tent frames, dock, and one cabin -- pretty new.
Portage around 25' Falls on right in a little bay just before any white water -- log dock. Trail well cleared and recently covered with log walks across muskeg. About 1/2 mile.
Indian campground at head of portage about 50 yards in from water -- fair. Better one at foot to right of trail about 70 yards uphill from water. Falls well worth looking at -- best from foot.

Foot of Woollett to Second Pond out of Woollett --

Indian campsite on cigar shaped island about 3 miles north of falls on sand beach on south end of island.
Indian site on sand point just on left as last section is reached -- about 10 feet above lake on level area -- looks good.
Another less used site almost due north just to east of creek -- not well used.
Indian cache on island just in front of creek.
Creek is shallow, but passable to first pond; small shallows into second pond. Portage between second and third pond about 25 yards to left of creek that connects the two -- trail ok -- about 100 yards, but not well traveled. We stopped investigating here.
Better traveled route leaves at western tip of bay. Water shallow but campground at start of carry. Indian canoe cached here.
Carry 1/2 mile, good trail, well used. Campsite at foot better than one at start, but water very shallow with muskeg bottom.
Follow map west and then sharp north to bay to portage to little pond. Portage takes off in northwest corner of bay -- good walker; about 150 yards to small pond. Trail runs along beside a burn.
Campsite on pond ok, but nothing great. Swimming by taking canoe out to rocks in center of pond -- deep enough to dive -- and much warmer than normal Rupert water.

Pond to Portage on Stream --

Stream can be paddled out of little pond.
At discharge of lake stream is impassable -- portage 500 yards in bay just to left of stream -- well used -- small campsite at foot of portage, but space for only a couple tents.
Follow map carefully to bay at stream exit of lake -- campsite at head of portage just to right of stream. Spacious, but in a burn. Pike and walleye in the bay.
Investigations of portage routes out of bays to north proved futile -- no trails found.

Stream Portage to Point --

Portage about 200 yards from campsite -- well used -- good

walker -- steam too shallow even to let down. Rapid at narrows in stream about 1-2 miles below. Portage trail on left, well used, about 100 yards. Rapid can be run starting on right and running out on left. Lots of rock dodging in top part and could not be done if water were any lower.

Campsite on left of narrows after turning north again. On smooth rocky landing with 7 or 8 tent sites. Quite good. Water not really deep enough for swimming, but spot could probably be found. One of the best sites so far. Walleye, pike, and trout all found in hole to north of campsite in narrows. Trout hole is on right just after little ripple of fast water.

South Point to Portage over Esker --

At narrows after wide section portage 50 yards on right around small rapid. Possible to run top and lift over last chute on left, but only 1 canoe at a time, and not worth time. Good lunch site at foot.

At next narrows portage 300 yards on right. Starts about 50 yards to right of stream -- small campsite at head of portage -- chutes and falls that can't be run. Puts into stream for a short paddle.

At end of narrow section there's a portage trail about 100 yards long on right -- about 25 yards to right of stream. Rapid can be run, however, in three parts -- 1st run to ledge and lift over and then run foot -- look over, however, water conditions may well change -- the center section has a ledge that can't be run. Good lunch site on left at foot.

Paddle to northwest corner of lake just to far right side of sand beach and lift over about 5 yards to bypass beaver dam on right.

Paddle this pond and through narrows into 2nd pond. Portage over esker takes out on left center of pond on obvious landing. Pretty good campground at head of portage. Trail about 500 yards goes up over esker. Not too tough and very well used.

Campsite at foot of trail ok, but nothing terrific. Water in front very shallow on a sandy, gravel beach.

Esker Portage to Height-of-Land Portage --

Indian campground about a mile after leaving esker portage on left (I think) -- looks fair. Has better water in front than esker site.

Leaving next wide stretch of lake to north via narrow stream to left of peninsula there is a rapid at the foot that can be paddled on right shore.

About $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile or 1 mile farther there is a rapid that can not be paddled or lined -- top is too rocky and small rock island in middle is no help. There is an ancient Indian winter camp on left at foot, but no real portage trail -- there is a blazed trail, but it's almost impossible to walk and unloading spot is impossible. We lined up left shore to top and then cut a 25 yard portage to bypass the top -- worked ok in the emergency, but would not work in high water.

Indian must avoid this stretch, maybe by portaging due west at the foot of the first rapid we paddled?

At top there is another rapid, easily lined up on right. Once into lake, it had numerous sand beaches and is quite

attractive.

Indian cache on island just to north of next narrows.

Indian log-sided tent frame on southeast side of narrows and cache on small island opposite.

Course then turns north and large Indian campsite on right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile after turn.

Stream is narrow up around long thin point.

Leaving lake on east side of point, very small beaver dam to go over and then follow ponds.

At last pond thin stream leaves on left just as pond is entered -- very narrow and shallow and hard to find -- paddle 100 yards or so and portage takes out on right to avoid rest of stream that can not be paddled. 200 yards, good trail to next pond. Small campsite at start of carry.

Turn right to foot of pond and carry to next lake leaves at foot of pond. About 200 yards -- very poor campground at far end of carry.

Carry over height-of-land to Eastmain leaves in northwest corner of bay. About 200 yards. Wet at start. Campsite at foot of carry about 40 yards back from water -- very large, but dry wood hard to come by.

Height-of-Land Portage to Small Rapid north of Clear Water --

Portage to Clear Water leaves southwest bay at obvious landing -- Campsite at near end -- about 400 yards. Fairly high rock toward far end with good view of first part of Clear Water.

Follow map on Clear Water into northeast bay.

Stream has a rapid that can be run if looked over carefully -- rocks in middle and foot are tricky. Walk right side is best -- portage trail on right too.

Stream swings back on itself a couple miles farther on and opening is difficult to spot -- current in turn.

Next narrows is a small rapid with a cellar -- run left side over cellar pretty much -- portage trail on right.

Campsite on sand point just before this rapid -- not much, but ok for a night if necessary.

Small Rapid to Round Lake before Tide --

About 3 miles farther on river swings north and at narrows there is an 8' Falls (?) which can't be run -- portage on right about 75 yards.

River runs pretty straight, but shallow with numerous sand bars. Good lunch site on rocks to right at a rapid about half way down, run left side -- watch rock in center at foot. Trout in rapids.

At bay to right just before lake there is an old Indian site on right.

At stream exit from lake portage leaves on left side about 20 yards into bay that starts stream. Landing hard to see -- little patch of grass -- portage about 100 yards bypasses rapid in 3 sections -- top can be run; 2nd is harder but possible; 3rd too many rocks to make it practical and swells too big. Trout in rapids -- between 1st and 2nd and better between 2nd and 3rd, best spot on portage side at that pool. Indian site at foot of portage, pretty good, but quite open.

We used Surveyor's site about 75 yards past stream exit -- not very good, but ok -- slightly more wooded than Indian site,

but not much.

Round Lake to Neoskweskau --

Another Indian campground on right about 1/2 mile below portage -- not too much.

1 rapid about 1 mile below portage.

Stream easy to paddle, reasonably deep with respectable current -- takes a little more than 2 hours to go down it to Tide Lake.

No good campgrounds, but in an emergency ones could be cut.

Map not really very useful -- maybe watch streams coming in and elevations, but they don't help much. Several very short rapids on the way down, none of which amount to much. Toward foot there is another campsite -- not very good -- and toward foot a couple little rapids.

Stream comes out in a multi-channeled delta -- follow current until peninsula with high hills is rounded and then lake has reasonable depth down to Post and looks more inviting. Head for bright white sand beach -- its opposite the Post.

All left at Post is 1 building. No dry wood near post at all -- stop and cut enough for entire stay -- campsite at Post in field near post -- or on edge of lake in grass growing on sand. Not the best, but there seems to be nothing better.

Neoskweskau --

Apparently Indians camped along shore to both north and south of Post; sites now very overgrown and impossible to use. To south there is a circular quiet bay entered by water through a narrow channel. At far side of this cove there is a beaver dam with a large pond backed up and large beaver house on southwest side. Just to north of being directly behind the lone house a trail, well used, starts and follows ridge just to north of beaver pond and leads almost across the peninsula on high ground to cemetery. Just after trail starts, there is a well used trail down to the beaver pond. About 500 yards along trail there is another to the left, less well used that follows ridge to south for a ways at least. Cemetery is 200 yards farther on main trail. From trail, the bay at the north end of the peninsula can be seen easily and in land at foot of bay almost all trees have been drawn off, probably for firewood. Trail continues 100 yards past grave yard to higher ground and then seems to stop.

About a mile south of Post what looked like probably an Indian shack as we arrived turned out to be an unmanned weather station.

Dry wood very scarce anywhere near Post and best place we found to draw it was island to south of post -- far shore of Lake was just as bare as land around Post where all that could be found was dry alder along the beach.

Neoskweskau to Nasacauso --

Small rapid after rounding point on which post is located and passing between next point and main land

Good looking Indian campsite on west shore about a mile to 2 miles past narrows.

Next narrows hidden as approached. Follow west shore, jumping creek entrance on left that is not as large as map would have you believe -- if in doubt watch current and direction of

weeds in water in particular.

Rapid at narrows has a portage on left -- very well used. About 100 yards. If running, look over before passing start of portage -- top is very easy and looks like nothing, but there is a right angle turn to left. Foot has terrific power swells. Run left shore, if running, staying as close to shore as rocks will allow and out of swells in middle.

Indian winter site on south side of point where major and minor branches of river join -- just before Pte au Bouleau -- sand beach to south. Best landing is slightly to east on more of a pebble shore.

A couple minor rapids down to Nasacauso, but nothing that needs to be looked over -- one requires going back and forth across river, however.

Campsite on left just before lake is reached directly opposite small stream on north side and in view of hill with perpendicular side to west that will be on east side of river after it leaves lake -- site on rock landing with tent sites just up the bank on flat area. In a grove of balsam.

Nasacauso to below Ross Gorge --

Pretty large looking Indian site on left shore just as Nasacauso is left -- much more recently used than the one we had last night.

At bend in river rapids start about 100-200 yards past bend and obviously can not be run. From top of rapids, similar white water can be seen coming in from far channel around island and there is white water seen as they join -- headed north.

Portage is located up a little creek that enters the river just on the bend and angles north -- there is another creek also about 50 yards before the correct one -- creek runs into a pond after 25-30 yards and leaves pond at northwest corner in a very narrow crooked stream just wide enough for a canoe with lots of twists and turns -- with 20 foot canoes there would be real trouble. Trail leaves creek on left on one of the bends that gets close to the trees on that side. Trail goes along roughly parallel to the creek and crosses what's left of the creek after about 150 yards. There's a pond on the left and a relatively large Indian winter camp just across the creek. Trail leaves right side of Indian camp and climbs a high hill, and then drops down the hill -- both climb and drop are tough -- then reasonably level to a beaver pond. About 3/4 mile from Indian site to pond, but it seems longer. Muskeg in places, usually somewhat covered with Indian logs or brush.

Small winter camp about 400 yards from pond.

Lunch site on pond, but nothing else.

Carry leaves pond at end to left and is level to the left for 100 yards and then drops down hill in two steep pitches to the water. Ending in a shallow bay with spring water emptying into it.

Poor Indian campsite up on top of last drop to water -- quite small though. Trail is about 300 yards in all.

West side of bay was recently burned and path out of bay is very hard to find since there are more islands than map shows.

Could not find a campsite toward the gorge and so ended in a very poor Indian site to north of large island below the bay.

Large Indian campground just above site we used, just behind

western tip of long thin island on north shore, a short way up a small creek -- there are two creeks; it's the eastern one of the two. Winter camp very level with good sites, but only nearby water is on creek which is fine for cooking, but no swimming. Bugs likely to be bad too.

Ross Gorge impractical to approach from lower side. There is swift current the whole 2 miles of narrow river after the actual gorge. Best view is probably from top before taking the carry.

Below Ross Gorge to Prosper Gorge --

River runs with some current to split around large island.

Three Indian camps at split -- one on left just as left channel starts. One on point where split is made and third on right a couple hundred yards onto left split -- 3rd looks best.

We took left branch -- maybe right is better, but we jumped all rapids.

Just after river curves on left split, a reasonably long rapid starts. Run is on left. Watch rocks on way down and there is a ledge at the foot with opening on left. Speckled trout in rapids -- one was seen.

There are several more good rapids on way down -- one just as river comes in from left is really a good falls or chute.

All pitches are short and violent and difficult to stay out of swells.

Once river comes together it runs with fair current and all rapids are large river horseraces. We stayed left of all islands.

Creek comes in where shown on map -- as does 2nd creek.

From last night's campsite to split in river left shore is pretty well burned.

At Prosper Gorge we looked for a trail on left shore and found nothing.

Cut a campsite on right about 15 feet above the water in stand of birch and spruce. Not very good cooking area and no dry wood. If same plan is followed again, it is probably better to go down closer to the gorge.

To reach gorge follow right shore, staying close to shore -- or follow left shore, but view will not be as good and no possible campsites. There is an island to the right of center that can be used as a vantage point, or canoes can be run all the way around, following right shore to edge of falls on right where best view is obtained. No portage signs anywhere -- maybe Jarden went over rocks on falls. Look to be two or three really heavy rapids in straight river below.

Prosper Gorge to Head of Prosper Carry --

Stream leaves river opposite first island in wide stretch on way down and is angled a little north so is difficult to see coming down until opposite or past it. Runs with some current, but is easily navigable though quite crooked in places. There are numerous bays and side streams that enter maybe after 15-20 minutes of paddling. Only good way to be sure of right stream is to watch weeds on bottom and check current.

There is one little rocky spot a short distance before small lake that is narrow, but can be poled.

Takes a good hour from river to small pond and there is some

high ground to be rounded on left where map would say it is all swamp.
Stream leaves small pond on left shore about 1/4 - 1/2 mile after entrance.
Indian winter camp on right after stream is entered, but would be no place to stop -- tent sites are terrible.
Stream flows much straighter than before to large lake.
Foot of large lake very shallow for 1/4 - 1/2 mile.
Looks to be a possible campsite on east side of large island.
Portage leaves lake on north side in west corner of wide bay to north of islands. There is a bold rock cliff or hillside just to west of trail and landing is on a pebble beach just short of a small sand beach. There are no real markings to locate trail which starts up a slight hill through a burned area.
Indian campsite about 75 yards up trail from water -- pretty good.
Lots of dry wood in burn!

Head of Prosper Portage to Falls where Bauerman River enters --
Portage 3/4 - 1 mile to river. Rises up slight hill, has easy walking during most of it and drops sharply at foot -- but not impossible. Landing at far side about a mile or so above two islands. Small Indian site at foot of carry -- not as good as one on other side.
River to falls has two rapids at narrows in river. First is run on far left shore -- best to look at from rock on right shore. 2nd run on right shore.
As falls are approached rapid starts before Bauerman River enters -- look over from right before entering any fast water -- run is along left shore, however, passing a large sand beach where there is a good eddy, and then follow close to shore around bend to lip of falls and unload on rock at head of falls -- scout first.
Carry starts on rock, about 300 yards long and hard to follow -- a fair amount on rock and trail very bushy and overgrown. Sharp drop to river at end and loading in a large eddy. Leaving eddy stick to left shore very closely.
No real campsite at falls -- tents pitched all over the place on thin moss cover on rock. Cookery at head of portage. No Indian site. (Maybe Indian goes up Bauerman River to Bauerman Lake?) Trout in eddys in falls -- walleye in eddy below where portage ends.
River about 3-4 miles above falls is most attractive section seen thus far.

Bauerman River Falls to Opposite Village Lakes --
Leaving eddy at foot of carry, follow left shore almost close enough to reach with paddle.
Looks to be a portage trail entering below the fast water that would cut the whole chute and rapids at once.
A short quiet stretch follows to a rapid marked on map just below -- chute just passed can still be seen from head of rapid. Run is on right shore and rapid continues for 1-2 miles, but heavy part is at top. Can best be looked over from left shore, however, and then decisions have to be made while running -- a few rocks to go around.
About 3-4 miles below there is a big river horserace run just to right of center.
River to islands above Village Lakes has no more rapids and

current is only fair. Scenery pretty good, however; river banks unburned and fairly frequent rocky outcroppings. Winter Indian camp on north shore about 8-10 miles below falls, would be no good in summer. Old surveyor's camp on left shore just before round island in front of Village Lakes area. Unloading impossible with steep clay bank. A log ladder arrangement was available for us. Tents crowded into small area. Much better site below Village Lakes carry.

1 Mile above Village Lakes to 1 mile below Village Lakes Portage -- Portage to Village Lakes is to right of waterfall that tumbles into a bay off the river --where map indicates. Portage around falls and stream about 250 yards, goes up a fair hill at start. Good trail; well used. Good campsite on point about a mile or less below on right. Used by Indians and also by Quebec Department of Natural Resources -- 3 freighters and 2 canoes stored on rack behind site. Pike and walleye in bay where Village Lakes waterfall comes in.

Notes taken at Eastmain Post by talking with Matthew (Chief of band who has most eastern trap grounds adjacent to Mistassini Indian, just to east of Clarke Lake, and to Teddy Moses' grandmother, Lisa. Teddy's father has grounds on Clarke Lake.)

Matthew says there's a route up to Bauerman Lake that leaves the river to the east of the end of Prosper Gorge. Also suggested you could get up the Bauerman River and onto Clearwater that way. Also suggested another way around Prosper Gorge starting up a stream to the right on the split of the river around the big island before Prosper and coming into the deep bay to the east of the foot of Prosper. But all these are over small ponds and small water and don't sound very interesting.

Route up through Village Lakes has the portage we found out of river. Another on narrow land spit between Lakes and then one up over a hill at the north end of 2nd Lake. Then at least 2 portages from Lichteneger Lakes to Clarke Lake. After Clarke Lake all rapids on Clearwater River have to be portaged. But route is much easier and safer than Great Bend he indicated. Trout supposed to be found in the 1st of the Village Lakes, Clarke Lake, and in a lake-like section just off the Clearwater River about 2/3 of the way from Clarkie to the river. Matthew seemed to think route through the lakes would take him about 3 days on a paddle. Also said there were salmon in same areas?

Lisa had another route that left river at very southern end of Great Bend and looks like it goes through Lake Pivert to rejoin river on bend just before our 1st night on river after Great Bend.

Village Lakes to 1 mile before supposed Short Cut at Great Bend -- Country pretty low and swampy after leaving Village Lakes for about 6 miles -- not much place to camp it would seem. Rapid about a mile below large island -- about 6 miles below Village Lakes -- run on left. Surveyor's old camp on north shore about a mile above rapids marked on map. North channel at rapid was followed, top is nothing and where rapid is actually marked there is nothing worth mentioning --

good current though. Rapid is at foot of island. In low water might be run on right (?). We went to rock island next to left shore and lifted over right side of island on rock about 20 yards. Left side of island is a rough chute -- to right there is a little falls of about 4 feet with no real opening in them.

Maybe left channel, which is much smaller on map can be run with no lift over (?)

Just below river curves right into another rapid. We ran left shore with one really good swell, caught an eddy, and then ran a chute at the foot -- just to right of rocky ledge off left shore.

Some burned area near large island a couple miles below -- take south side of island.

Old prospector's (?) camp on north shore about 1 - 1/2 mile before presumed short cut -- ok for a night, but nothing very exceptional.

Great Bend Short Cut to Large Island on West Side of Great Bend --

There is no short cut. Bay goes back from river to where small stream should start and ends in a thick clump of alder with no passage way through. No portage possibilities either we were told at Eastmain.

Several campsites on way down Great Bend. One on left it looks like -- we did not investigate -- about 2 miles below last night's site. One on right maybe for 1 tent a couple miles farther. Another on right about a mile before river starts to curve west -- good possibility -- used for lunch, but Indian had only 1 tent there and a rack for storage. Just below on right there is a large old surveyor's camp, slightly on a hill.

At far south extremity where large thin island is located there are stands of birch on the island, or better on right shore that look good.

Two small big river horseraces where river turns west after northern run. First run on left and second on right.

Old camp used probably by Natural Resources people on southern tip of large island just before river narrows. Used for the night, nothing exceptional, but ok -- site can not be seen well from water and is entered through a cut in the bank from the sand beach on the tip of the island.

Great Bend to Island 4-5 miles from end of rapids --

Leaving island campsite take west side of island -- there's a rapid at the foot and left side is much less difficult than right.

Run right of island below on next rapid, and after rounding island rapid continues -- run on right side.

River runs relatively quiet for a mile or so -- follow current, however, map is difficult at this point.

Next rapid -- after wide stretch -- was run.

Rapid at island is a 15 or so foot chute on either side. We followed an ancient one-time portage on the island on the left side of the eastern chute -- trail splits after first 50-60 yards and one trail runs parallel to the chute and is the more difficult. We reblazed the left branch that goes up over a little hill and ends in a bay off the chute. The

trail ends at rocks at the foot of the chute.

Next rapid, just below is a falls also after some fast water. We ran right side to top of falls and cut a portage to an eddy at the foot -- ok, but it goes over boulders part of the way and is not very safe footing therefore. On left side there is an ancient trail with poor walking also, but it would be almost same length although in our water we would have had to lift over a rock ledge first -- maybe in low water you can run around it.

Next rapid at foot of narrow straight stretch run on left to very foot where we ran a chute on left shore which probably does not exist in low water. There is a rock island just out from left shore and probably in low water you would have to lift over it. We camped on left just after chute on a rock ledge at the chute's eddy. Tent sites best right along shore. Trout in rapids -- and also at falls above.

Middle of Rapid Section to Two Rapids from End --

Leaving campsite run was made easily behind small island and to the east of large one.

Stream around large island enters soon, but would be hard to use -- fall at foot is worse than anything run in front of island.

Next rapid run on west shore -- as were all -- there is a real tricky turn around the large point and path probably does not exist in low water

Next rapid -- Flying Catch Rapid -- right below has perpendicular cliffs on west shore -- we ran past cliffs and caught eddy at top of a 4-5 foot falls to lift over -- real trouble!

Next 300-400 yards can be run on left shore to next rapid where we lifted over several rocky points in the process.

A relatively calm stretch follows for 500-600 yards.

Next rapid run on left shore with some touchy spots and one lift over down to near foot where canoes had to be taken out and portaged on trail we made to avoid about 3 heavy pitches.

Carry goes up a hill from a smooth rock landing at the head of 1st of the chutes and then carries along a terrace about 25 yards above the river and ends in a bay or eddy just past another smooth rock point.

We camped at end of carry -- tents had to be pitched on bare rock pretty much with a slight moss covering. Kitchen on rock point. Only good feature was the trout fishing off the rock point.

Two Rapids from End to Bend of River from North to West just on Opinaca Map --

Run along shore about 400-500 yards to next rapid. Portage about 50 yards across smooth rock.

Lift over just below 25-50 yards around a chute.

Paddle left shore 300-400 yards and portage 100-150 yards on smooth rock to foot of last rapid.

Run out on left shore into bay at foot.

Clearwater River enters at northeast corner of this bay. Canoe was cached on east shore of bay -- we didn't investigate.

Looked to be a campground on north side of bay -- several Indian sites on north shore of bay -- one with a teepee frame -- one with a cache -- and one with a wickiup frame.

Rapid marked at end of Lichteneger map looked over from left

shore and then run on left shore around corner and all the way around bend of river below -- almost to large island shown on map.

Burn starts -- particularly on north shore just after island. Reasonable current in river in places where there are no real rapids.

A sudden rapid at narrows in river -- run on left shore -- a quick drop with white water to right -- heavy eddy at foot of run.

We used a small Indian campsite on south shore just as river curves from north to west. Nothing to recommend it except that we needed a site.

Just onto Opinaca Map to about 6-7 miles before Rapids marked on Map Old surveyor's site on northwest side of bay or river entering on north side just past our campsite. Would have been much better than site we used -- at least much more spacious.

At next narrows in river there is a heavy rapid run on left shore -- actually in 3 sections with eddies in between.

At next narrow stretch there is a rapid -- falls -- that must be carried on right 300 or 400 yards depending on trail used. Landing is on rock ledge just at top of falls. Carry goes around an eddy or bay at the end of 1st drop instead of putting in. At west side of bay, on top of slight rise there was an old Indian wickiup and trail splits here. Better used section goes almost straight ahead -- maybe a little right and goes all the way to foot past all heavy water. Left fork of trail much less used and puts in at end of 2nd drop with some white water still to run. We used left trail. Trail is bushy and has some windfalls and alder across it, but can be followed fairly easily. Not a good walker, but there are worse! No campsite anywhere on or near trail.

At next narrows there is a slight rapid at end of narrows -- can be run on either side. Left is probably better, but we ran right easily.

There was an old Indian camp about 300 yards before rapid on left shore at edge of a burn. Had a couple log-frame teepees covered with dirt. We decided not to use it.

We camped on a sand beach on right shore just after rapid. Nothing to recommend it at all, but we needed a place.

6 Miles before Rapid Marked on Map to same Rapid just below Akautago River --

At end of narrow stretch -- about 2-3 miles from previous campsite there is a rapid, run on the left through a tricky course next to left shore that would not exist in low water. Very old ill-used trail on that side. Right was not tried.

About 2-3 miles below rapid there is an old surveyor's campsite on sand beach on left shore, sort of at end of curved arc of land. Would be ok if needed.

Just before rapid at Akautago River there is a group of islands before rapid -- pass to north of sort of circular island following main stream as much as possible -- there is a rapid at foot of southern channel.

Rapid is below these islands several hundred yards and is broken into many channels by a group of rocky islands. In low water it might be possible to run between some of them. There is an excellent portage trail on north shore with

several possible landings depending on water level. Trail is about 200 yards with pretty good campground at foot of trail. We ran right shore instead of carrying -- a little tricky at top and foot -- but run would be quite different in low water. We found no trout in rapids -- pike in pool below the portage.

Akautago River Rapid to 6 Foot Chute --

2 Prospectors camped on right shore about 4 miles below previous campsite -- nothing exciting about location.

Rapid at head of island east of mouth of Kausabiskau River on south side of 1st large island not very much, but we took north side and encountered really nothing but fast current.

Old surveyor's camp on left shore about 3/4 way up islands -- in swampy land and not desirable.

There was an Indian cache on right shore shortly after leaving previous campsite and an Indian teepee -- again logs covered with dirt on left shore in a burn about mouth of Wabistan River -- neither would make very good campsites.

Stretch of river from previous campsite to 1st chute is not very exciting; some current in spots but nothing to get excited about.

1st Rapid or Chute is portaged about 300-400 yards on left just at head of chute -- room for only one canoe at a time to unload -- approach carefully one at a time. Trail quite bushy at start, but gets better though laurel is knee high most of the way. Puts in at arc of bay below rapid -- good lunch site at foot -- Indian campsite about 50 yards back up trail from foot. Area is a sparse jackpine grove and would make a campsite if desired.

2nd Chute (8 foot chute?) carried on left about 400 - 500 yards. Carry starts 30-40 yards before white water starts -- therefore some distance before it would be expected normally. Puts in on a gravel-rock beach and there is a little current still to run out, but not much.

Neither of these chutes was looked over carefully and it might be possible to do something on right shore -- particularly at 2nd where there are several islands in the top of the rapid.

Coming down left side it is easier to carry on established trails. Both need some clearing of alders.

3rd Chute -- 6' Chute -- carried 100 - 150 yards on left across point. Carry starts just at top of real white water. There is a slight run to make first past a bench mark -- it was under water in '67. Carry starts on smooth rock ledge just before tip of point. Campsite at foot was adequate for a rainy day, but not great.

No one tried fishing any of the chutes, but it would be possible to stop at foot of 1st or 3rd.

6' Chute to foot of Conglomerate --

Reasonably fast water leaving 6' Chute turning into a mild rapid after a mile or so.

We ran down right shore to very foot with no trouble and then had to carry along shore about 50 yards to bypass a small falls. Carry was easy and preferable to going back up and trying left side. Left side might be possible, but throw of the water is all left and there is some rough looking water at the foot. There is an island in center of last falls and left side of it might be possible.

A mile or so later is the 10' chute, carried along rocky shore 50 - 75 yards on right shore. There is an old Indian campground back in the bush maybe 25 - 30 yards from shore and area looks good for campground -- back from water in trees. Carry easy along rocks and signs of Indian trail in the few spots where rock is hard to follow.

Portage for Conglomerate Gorge takes out in bay about 150 yards short of northwest corner and goes up a hill at start rather than in low land to north. Canoes should be hauled up the first little clay pitch before trying to flip. Good level Indian campground on top of hill.

Portage is 3 miles to very end of trail as we did it. Starts out with good walker on top of hill, but soon gets wet and then wet and good trail alternates as long as trail stays on top of hill -- about 2 miles. Two old Indian campgrounds along the way. The second has a small stream running just before it and could be used as a campsite if desired.

Trail finally starts downhill -- you can hear gorge to your right. Suddenly there is a left turn in trail and it then runs parallel to water for a while on side hill. At this turn there is a less used trail going straight ahead -- investigate seriously next time. It should lead to eddy at foot of gorge and so make carry $2\frac{1}{4}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Rapid below gorge should be run -- pretty much down center except to avoid white water.

Trail we followed gets progressively worse and needs clearing of windfalls and runs parallel to river around rapid below gorge for at least a half mile putting in below all fast water.

Campsite at foot poor, but we used it anyway.

If 1st trail is to be used, someone should go ahead with an axe before starting down it. It takes almost an hour and a half to get a load across whole portage, so best plan is to camp at head at lunch time and take one load across in afternoon and second load the next morning.

Gorge is spectacular with water rushing down in a flow of white at top, splitting around a rocky island with a sheer drop on left and then a sheet of white water at the foot. It beats all gorges and falls on any other river! Best view is from a rock side about half way from start of 1st trail to foot of 2nd. Don't pass up the pictures, especially with an afternoon sun.

Foot of Conglomerate to Head of Clouston --

22 miles of relatively straight paddle. Some current -- stay toward center of river if possible. All banks are alder and small growth making it very difficult to land even for lunch.

Indian canoe cache on left shore about 1 mile below end of carry and one one-tent Indian site opposite long island about 4 miles from head of Clouston -- on right shore.

Islands before Clouston have rapid between them. Best to run left shore on left side of 1st island. We ran right shore -- tough and leaves you with current to cross to avoid gorge.

Trail for portage leaves north shore of bay about 200 - 300 yards from start of gorge -- poorly marked. Goes up a hill at start to a good level campsite in jackpine grove.

For view of gorge catch eddy at top on bay side and walk back through bush to rock ledge about 50 yards down gorge -- view is spectacular -- white water churns down in a cascade on

this side of a rocky island and at foot of island falls in mist to meet channel on other side. Also excellent view by beating through bush another 400 yards or so to next rock ledge -- better to try walking on higher ground back from river. Water below falls at bend in river is relatively calm.

Head of Clouston to Island Rapids --

First 150 yards of trail goes through jackpine stand and is excellent walker.

Next 3/4 mile or so is through a beaver meadow or swamp pretty much on trail of own choosing -- though every Indian seems to have made one; all going the same place. Trail goes straight across meadow, pretty much due west (according to sun). In the near distance there is a stand of trees -- trail stays right of it and then bends very slightly right and into trees on far side. There's no chance of staying dry!

Trail gets much better farther on. Still wet for another quarter mile and then pretty good walker for last mile.

There's an old Indian camp just before drop to water starts -- teepee frame left standing.

Descent to water is gradual and not too bad. A lot of alder growth once trail starts to drop. Maybe next time through kill a wannigan or two and send a couple people through with axes to clear trail at far end.

Portage takes roughly an hour -- about 2 miles. Quite wet, but a lot easier than Conglomerate.

Puts in on smooth rock in bay at foot of gorge.

Small campsite at foot could be used, but one at head is better.

Excellent view of gorge by walking up shore to rocks at foot.

Whole river tumbles through a very narrow opening at the foot. River relatively calm for next mile, but rapids start as soon as turn is made to south. Rapids have a lot of power -- river is very narrow and problem is swells, not rocks. Run pretty much down center -- a real good swell at top -- maybe better to run left shore here.

River calm for 4-5 miles to head of Island Rapids.

Old surveyor's camp on right about 1/2 to 1 mile before large island before falls.

Portage 400 yards on left just before smooth rock point juts out. Fair campground at head which we used. Nothing at foot -- drop to water is quite steep. Indian campground on high ground toward end before drop to water is made, but it's a long way from water.

Trail pretty good and pretty dry.

Falls are spectacular -- not one great falls -- largest single drop is 20 feet or so. Best view by taking trail to Indian camp, bearing right into bush toward sound of falls and skirting a deep rocky valley on left which would be a stream in very high water. There is a path across it at top right next to river, and then go down river 25 - 30 yards to rock point. View is well worth the effort.

Island Rapids to Talking Rapids --

Leaving end of Island portage, stay to left shore. Map would have you believe rapid lies below, but it is only run off from Island cascade. Fine view looking back at entire cascade from eddies on left shore, but nothing to run but fast current.

Very soon river becomes swift and almost rapid. Take right shore

after bend to west and follow right shore closely down swift current and some rocks to eddy on right just before bend and real white water starts. Portage landing is on a rock shore and hard to spot.

Small campsite at head of portage.

Portage 1 1/4 to 1 1/3 miles on right around rapids that can not be run -- the worst can not be seen until carry is over. Watch trail very closely at start over rocky areas. It is easy to get lost and trail does not always follow rocks, but cuts across them. Trail reasonably good with a few wet spots. It has one drop toward water about a mile from start, but there is still a ways to go. Small campsite at foot just up bank, but could easily be enlarged. Area has some traces of burn.

River then curves west and then sharp north around a long thin point. Tip of point is actually an island in high water.

Rapid going around point is really just fast water.

After point swing to right shore and run rapid along right shore if possible -- or run center and then angle to right shore (we tried left first and had to come back up).

Talking Falls has an island in center and main volume of water goes left of island around curved bay. To right of island is a steep 20' chute.

Landing is on right shore in eddy just above chute and starts on a grassy landing before rocks. Trail 50 - 75 yards across a point. Puts in in bay at bottom of chute.

Campsite very small -- to right of trail about half way across. We used it for two tents and put three others on moss and the kitchen on smooth rocks at foot of trail.

Talking Rapids to Foot of Basil --

Nothing below Talking except the run off from the chute and falls -- get away from the right shore as soon as possible -- the current throws against a rock shore about a quarter mile below the loading area and creates too much of a chop.

Fair current down to Basil. There are a couple islands not shown on the map in the wide part of the channel -- nothing to get excited about.

Opinaca River comes in on right a couple miles before Basil -- nothing really to see. There is some kind of cabin or house on the island just off the point where the two rivers join.

Portage around Basil takes off on middle of west side of bay long before the gorge is reached -- goes up through a poplar area much cut by beaver.

Gorge itself starts with a fair drop -- Bench mark on left shore just at head of drop and a weather station just before that.

Portage is an excellent walker -- the first part mostly on a sand esker and the second on good forest floor -- but it's about 2 1/4 miles long. Drop to water at foot is almost straight down for 100 feet. Impossible to carry canoes down.

Good campsite at both head and foot -- one at foot could hold a dozen sections in a stand of jackpine, but water is hard to reach. There is a small stream or spring back up the trail 50 - 100 yards that might be used to draw water instead of climbing hill.

Nothing is seen of gorge along the trail and sounds from it are very faint. Trail is so hard, dry, and sandy that walking can be tough on feet used to softer surfaces.

Next rapid can be looked over reasonably well from top of trail before it drops to water.

Foot of Basil to Eastmain --

Rapid right after bay at foot of Basil has rocks on left shore -- cross to right and run right shore.

Next rapid almost immediately below -- cross to left and run left shore staying next to shore -- rapid bends to right, stay on left shore -- there's a ledge in the center.

Last rapids, just below, probably should have been run on right -- we let down along left shore by doing a lot of wading -- probably can be run also. We also lifted over the last rock ledge -- a point, really.

At foot of rapids there is a solid rock shelf on left shore -- and no more rapids.

Some current follows and then it's about 12 miles to the Post in wide water really unaffected by tide with some current.

Shores are pretty much clay banked, but there are a couple places where Indians have cut campgrounds -- particularly on south shore.

A reasonably deep bay is rounded on south and islands follow.

Take narrow channel to south of islands -- there are a couple shallow rapids between islands and mainland and water is murky and hard to see what's going on.

Post lies on south shore on sand cliff maybe 15 feet above water. First dock encountered is a hydro establishment, then Catholic Church, then Bay Post.

We camped just above beach on grass shore between Catholic Church and Bay Post -- ask permission of Father Vaillancourt at Church.

Eastmain --

No wood, as usual. We carried in wood from up river.

Water in river is perfectly good -- used by whole settlement, but we got some from Father Vaillancourt that was at least clearer.

River bends slightly after Post. A few houses along shore past post -- Nurse and School Teacher. Main village is reached by a trail just past post, about 300 yards from Post -- they reach water after river curves.

Norseman lands at hydro dock. Canso at a bouy in the river just back up river from hydro dock. 110 miles to Moose by Canso; 125 by Norseman that has to follow shore. Radio is in manager's house rather than store.