

1968 SUPPLEMENT to EASTMAIN

including additional notes on Rupert Trip as well as Eastmain.  
Rupert River North Branch from Woollett to west of Mesgouez  
Route from Rupert to Neoskwekau  
Clearwater River Route around Great Bend

Maps:

1:250,000 or 4 miles to the inch.  
Eastmain 33 D was published during winter of 1967-68

Permits:

In 1968 Travel Permits in Quebec were eliminated. No need to stop at Ranger Station in Chibougamau.

Abatagush Bay --

Campsite used on north tip of island at top of bay is pretty dirty. Try right side of narrows on way in next time. There's one in grove of spruce at start of narrows and another on east shore of narrows opposite island.

Campsites on east side of large island north of Fishing Camp at top of Abatagush Bay Peninsula --

One on southeast end of island -- looks like a cabin, about 1/4 mile north of southern tip of island.

One in large bay, just north of stream on island.

One behind island 2/3 of way up shore.

One just after turn is made to reach main lake for crossing

Small cliffs, or rocks on west side of island -- not large, but would be rough to land on.

Exit between islands is very rocky and shallow.

Crossing to Rupert done on magnetic compass bearing of 330-340.

You can see opening clearly before starting across. Crossing takes 1½ hours plus.

Rapids from Rupert Split to Esker Portage --

Small one about half way up among islands -- right channel was run after looking over.

About 2-3 miles before portage is a fair one, run on right shore, goes behind a little point, but nothing exceptional.

Trout in rapids at Esker Portage. More luck below the falls than above.

Woollett to Falls below Wollett --

Leaving Woollett aim for exit leaving highest hill ahead just on left.

Rapids at north end of island -- 1st could be run on right shore, but 2nd looks tough, so we did not try.

South exit has fair current between island and point and rapid on south end of island was not much.

The river swings north around island and about 400 yard rapid follows. Looked over from ridge on right. Run was down right shore most of the way. Rocky at foot and run out on right.

One small swift out into wide stretch.

Turn left at first real open stretch.

A couple openings to right between islands to exit of river -- hard to see as paddle is made.

Carry at falls on right about 100 yards before any fast water -- 250 yards, good walker. Indian campsite at foot, not great, but serviceable.

Falls below Woollett to 1 mile below rapid at northern turn --  
Shallows leaving campsite and then swells off falls to be run out  
Right below is a rapid -- mostly big river horse races -- that  
runs for about 2 miles to foot of narrows. Goes back and forth  
across river. Top is roughest and is run on right between  
shore and swells. Then over to left for most of rest of run,  
finally running out on far right. We had a heavy head wind,  
maybe making the run contain more white water than should be the  
case

Small Indian campsite on sand beach just before swing to north is  
made. Very poor.

Burn starts on right shore at foot of long rapid and continues  
past bend to west after northern run. Occasionally jumps to  
left shore also, particularly at turn to west.

Small rapid beside an island just before turn. Run just to right  
of island and stay out of swells. Very strong eddy behind  
island.

Then at turn, a couple rocky islands are in center of stream. Run  
is just to right of rock island closest to right shore and then  
angles toward center of river.

Campsite on left about 1 mile below on a small point. Very poor  
with tent sites all on rock and reindeer moss.

1 mile below turn to Rapid on West Channel around large island --  
Portage at falls after making turn to northwest on left -- 200  
yards -- starts about 75 yards to left of falls. Drop of about  
20 feet. Sort of rapid on left and falls on right. Pretty  
attractive. No campsites, but one could be cut at foot of carry  
if necessary. (After passing through Bellinger)

Next rapid several miles ahead has three channels. We did not  
look at east channel. Center channel has a rough chute at top  
that might be run, but we went down west side running all the  
way. Runs at top made without looking over, but at foot last  
run needs to be scouted. Run pretty much to right of center,  
leaving rocks to right and then near rocks at foot leaving  
swells to left.

2 miles ahead next rapid run on left shore.

Then path is very difficult to follow -- we followed current  
working west all the time until current took us north. Little  
riffles along the way and through the islands.

Rapid half way down left channel run on right shore -- look over  
carefully; stones at foot.

Campsite on long rock point on left just below rapid. Good  
kitchen, but no tent sites and very exposed.

Still in burned country all day -- more on right shore than left  
until late in the day when left was more burned.

One good trout taken at campsite.

Halfway down West branch to far side of Mountain Peninsula --

Rapid just below campsite run on left.

Just below east branch joins and looks much too steep and small  
to be run. If Indian comes that way he probably portages it and  
rapid at foot all at once.

Rapid at foot (marked on map) run on left in two sections catching  
eddy half way down. Second section has a good number of rocks  
toward the foot and run was started out from shore and run out  
near left shore.

1-2 miles north where swing is made to southwest, map would lead you to believe there is water between mainland and an island -- there isn't.

Just below is an island with a rapid on either side -- south side has a ledge and can't be run -- north side fine.

About 1-2 miles below there is a narrows with a fair rapid in middle. Run is on left.

Follow current through islands at foot of this stretch, some small swifts all the way down.

Next series of rapids just before Mountain Peninsula -- coming up to it Mountain can be seen reasonably easily and is aiming point during approach.

Top rapid has a pair of islands in it. We ran just to right of islands ok. Left shore could also be run.

Half way down left shore there is a sharp turn to left into a side channel, the turn into which probably can't be made while running. This channel leads back into a bay and around an island and back into river before next rapid. If Indian portages peninsula to avoid next rapid, trail should be back in this bay. Since top turn into channel probably can't be made, easier approach is through lower channel.

Next rapid is rough with power swells. Run is right down center and then between swells off a large rock on left and a ledge on right. Far right of river has a ledge across it.

We paddled around peninsula -- no problems.

Campsite on white sand beach that faces east across the bay after turn to west is made. Was once a small one-tent Indian site -- grassy depression 20 yards in from beach used for tent sites -- would be a swamp in high water. Area is in a partial burn and sites could be cut closer to the water with a little clearing. Good place to bake beans, but otherwise not too much.

Just past Mountain Peninsula to Lac Bardeliere --

At end of peninsula leading west, take east side of island. Don't try west side it's too shallow.

Rapid at narrows comes in three sections. First has really big swells and was run on right. Look over carefully.

Second is a chute with large swells in center. We cut a portage on left about 200 yards, starting on a sand clay bank well up from the chute and putting in in a little bay below.

Third starts about 75 yards below and has two really rough places -- one about 2/3 of the way down and also at foot. We cut a 400 - 500 yard portage starting from a beach above the rapid and going up over the ridge to a sand beach below.

Looks like the Indian might have a trail across from this on north shore going up a sand bank. Or he may carry the entire rapid on the north side starting in a bay parallel to the river and running roughly north of a dried up stream bed and a pond. However, trail is very faint and poorly used. How else he gets around this is a mystery. He probably does not run it.

At island about 2-3 miles ahead we ran north channel easily on right side. Very poor campsite on rock on north shore; tent sites would be very poor.

We found no sites below this all the way to Bardeliere and camped in desperation on west shore in a bay about 1/2 mile past possible turn to north to Neoskweskau stream. Tent sites just into trees back of 10 yards of beach.

Kac Bardeliere to Lac Mesgouez -

After Bardeliere and turn to west is made there is a long, thin, narrow stretch. Relatively soon there is a rough rapid run down the center to start cutting toward the right hand shore to stay to right of large swells, but just missing rocks off right shore just before large swells. Eddy behind rocks is quite powerful. Just below is a second rapid run just left of center leaving a large pointed stone on right at top and a second similar stone on left about 25 yards below. Rocks all the way through to the foot, however.

Just before turn is made to rapid into Mesgouez there is an Indian campground on point just before turn.

Rapid is a long flat rapid with 200 yard carry on left back in a little bay and trail cuts across point and puts into calm water in a bay behind an island several hundred yards off main river.

Mesgouez has no campsites for several miles. We finally cut one on bay facing south on an island 4 miles from rapid -- terrible.

Lac Mesgouez to foot of First Rapid --

Just before turn to west at top of Mesgouez there is an island where the map shows water between it and the left shore -- there's an unbroken string of rock across the passage -- go to right of island.

There is a fly-in camp on an island right at the turn to north toward rapids. Looked maybe to be another campsite on an island 4-5 miles before the fly-in camp as you come southwest along a point and are about to turn north. Another on left shore about 1/2-1 mile after turning west at top of lake and maybe another on right just before turn to north to approach rapids. Another on left shore just before narrows while approaching rapids. We investigated none of these, so some, or all, may be unuseable.

Narrows two miles before rapids has good current and there's good current all the way down to rapids.

At first rapid, river swings at right angles to left. We lifted over rocky island to right of rapid as approached, ran as close to swells in center as possible, crossed swells, and caught 2nd bay on left -- it's blind from the top, so look over on left shore first. Then lifted over around a chute on left, dropped down another 75 yards, and lifted over again, and dropped down another 100 yards into a small bay to the left of major drop on this side. Then carried on faint trail to foot of rapid -- 150 yards much of which is over boulders back in the bush.

Good campsite on flat rock at start of carry with tent sites in stand of jack pine just south of cooking area. Trout in area along shore, best below campsite, maybe. None of this would be possible in very high water. If first run is too rough -- crossing could be dangerous -- there's a short portage trail on left shore at top to get by first little drop. Also at first part there is a little channel to right of rocky island we lifted over, and in slightly higher water it might be run to avoid lifting over island.

Indian trail for rapid goes out of bay to east of rapid. Start must be made over rocks unless water is high enough to paddle to start -- on right side of rocky area. Trail not well used -- but traveled -- and must be 1/2 mile long. We didn't follow all the way to foot.

First Rapid out of Mesquiez to Last Portage before Turn to Creek -- Leaving campsite, rapid on left side of island was run on right side to right of large swells and left of a ledge from right shore near foot -- it has a really good drop -- perhaps rapid on right side of island would be safer.

Just below is a falls, carried on right starting on smooth rock at head of falls and putting in on rock ledge at foot -- about 250 yards. Trail not well used, but passable. At one point about half way across a row of boulders is met and trail swings left rather than going straight ahead. A campsite could be made at head of portage if necessary, but none there now.

Then a large sand cliffed bay is met. Cross to left side of river and run left side to about half way down and catch eddy before major drop. Very top is easy, but heavy water before portage is rough. We had to go way out in stream to avoid rocks on left shore -- look over carefully. In higher water left shore could be followed.

At calm just before last couple drops there is a bay just before a smooth rock stand of jack pine -- follow bay all the way to foot and portage takes out at right foot of bay and carries a good bit over smooth rock to a calm bay back off the river -- about 300 yards, good trail, but not well used.

We made a campsite on smooth rock in the jack pine. Not nearly as attractive as one night before, but serviceable. Tent sites on moss covered rock and only about a half dozen possible places.

Last Portage before Creek to Pond about 6 miles up Misticawassee Creek --

Run off from large rapid at campsite run on left the rest of the way.

Next very slight rapid run just on left shore over shallows and through rocks.

Last rapid run outside large stone about 50 yards off left shore and inside larger swells more toward center. Just below is another stone not out of water -- run inside. Pretty good swells.

Sand bar comes far out from right shore as Misticawassee Creek is entered.

Several good Indian campsites at turn and up creek for 2-3 miles. Mostly in stands of jack pine just behind sandy shores.

Several little swifts to paddle up to pond before creek narrows. Territory very attractive to first pond -- and would be afterwards except for burn. One place before pond pulled up on left shore for about 25 yards.

After pond, first rapid was pulled up starting on left shore and then crossing to right about half way up and pulled the rest of the way.

Small calm follows and stream swings left. First couple little riffles pulled up and then a portage of about 75-100 yards cut on right shore through burn to avoid a couple rapids that could not be pulled and a falls at the top.

Then thin pond is paddled about 1 mile to an island with rapid on either side -- either pull up or paddle right side.

At narrows a falls was carried on smooth rock on left -- about 25 yards.

Campsite on left of pond before bay on left on a point at an old Indian site. Stand of spruce and jack pine. OK for a night.

Water shallow; sand beach in front. Area where campsite is located not burned, but most of pond shore to south was.

Pond to East End of Z shaped water about 8 miles due east --  
Creek alternately pulled up, paddled, and portaged and lifted over.  
Each rapid has to be handled differently. Only one portage actually cut -- that on right shore for maybe 30-50 yards. Several lift overs, however.  
Took about 3 hours to reach pond. Above pond going is easier, but there are at least 3 lift overs or portages, now a trail at each where no trails existed before.  
Looks like Indian probably doesn't travel the creek and must have a portage out of the bay of the pond where we camped to the pond on the creek. Portage would be about a mile, but easier and faster than coming up the river.  
After widening there are several swifts that have to be paddled -- none very hard, but there is some current in the wide water anyway. Burn ends pretty much as wider water is reached.  
We camped on left about a mile before end of stretch in an old 2-tent Indian site on a sand beach. There is another Indian site just beyond about 75 yards farther on, no better.

Z Shaped Water to 3 miles north of creek on Misticawassee Lake --  
1 mile farther; carry around rapid entering Z shaped water on right about 30-50 yards to right of rapid. Good trail. About 250 yards. Some over bare rock, hard to follow. At foot trail splits just before water and right has easier loading. One tent Indian campsite at top of portage, but more could be cut. Bare rock at start might be used.  
Just above a rapid, short, that can not be lined easily; carry on right about 75 yards; good trail.  
At pond above we looked for a portage out of north bay to Misticawassee Lake and found nothing. So carried around falls in south bay on right, well traveled trail about 200 yards. Easiest loading at top goes left of trail at top and out on a smooth flat rock.  
In pond before creek, take north side of large island -- there is practically no opening between island and main land.  
Creek has two entrances; 2nd one, deeper in bay, is the larger, but both are passable.  
After several large turns of creek, about 1/2 way up, there is a falls carried on right about 40 yards.  
At least up to this point left shore is all a flat table-top-like stand of jack pine. We lunched on portage, but almost anywhere could be made into a campground.  
Just around the bend is a long rapid, carried on left about 400 yards -- longer than you think it is going to be as you start. Start is in a little cup shaped eddy and needs some paddling to get there. At top of carry trail sort of begins to peter out and you put in with one swift still to paddle. Trail may go all the way past this spot. Good lunch site at start of carry and could be a campsite. Top is nothing.  
About 1/2 mile of calm water farther on a long rapid starts and is carried on left, 1/2 mile, to bay of Misticawassee Lake just to south of creek's mouth. Indian campground about 2/3 of way across. At start trail has a left and right branch; take right; left is very wet. Small Indian campsite at head of

carry, but not good. This trail and one before in particular were once cut like highways -- although now scraggly bush and small spruce have now grown up. Still well used.

Bay of Misticawassee is shallow but afterwards lake is fine. lots of stands of jack pine on levels maybe 15 feet above water -- only problem is getting to them.

About 3 miles above bay on left is an Indian grave up in one of the jack pine stands with 4 or 5 large trees on shore well blazed.

We camped on left just past a sand beach in a jack pine stand about 5-7 feet above water. Turned out to be quite good.

#### Misticawassee Lake to Second narrow pond --

Creek leaves on left side of lake about 1/2 - 3/4 mile from foot -- small point sticks out on north side of entrance accentuating entrance.

Creek passes through a small pond and a burn starts and about 1/2 mile farther is a steep rapid too tough to paddle or pull. Carry on left in unlikely area before rapid and is much longer than looks necessary -- 75 yards or so and dips down in a steep valley about 2/3 of way through. Hard to follow because of burn. Right would be much shorter, but land is poor.

The pond is paddled and creek after pond into wide area. We went to south end of pond and carried or rather hauled canoes up and over a steep hill into a triangular shaped body of water that is emerald green colored and has no inlet or outlet. We carried about 75 yards over top of ridge on east to pond back on stream. Indian does not come this way though there was a faint trail on first carry.

Map does not show it, but instead of turning south at pond at head of creek, creek goes north, makes a swing and comes south into our second pond. Whether it is passable is questionable. Indian may have a 1/4 mile portage here.

Creek enters pond about 50 yards east of foot of our carry in a section of fast water that could be pulled up except for alder on both sides. Creek then turns east and probably has other rapids -- there is not one at the turn at least.

We carried out of east end of pond through a burn on what used to be a good trail about 600 yards to pond above creek -- about 200 yards above start of creek. Trail is hard to follow because of burn, but is easy walking. Heads east along gentle upward slope and then parallels a high rock cliff and rounds rock cliff and heads south to water. It is longer than a straight course, but easier walking.

Narrow pond has bald white rock on north and high rock hill on south.

Paddle into second pond is through a creek, easy.

We camped on left in a flat stand of jack pine in a large Indian campsite -- good except for lack of good water in front.

#### Second Pond to Neoskweskau -

At end of narrow pond portage about 75 yards over island sort of in center of a pair of falls that are not much to look at but can not be touched. Before that there are several swifts to paddle which are fairly hard.

Portage out of pond across the way into long thin body of water -- about 100 yards.

Start of long thin water looks like a Norwegian fiord with high hills on both sides -- especially south and occasionally small waterfalls coming in; afterwards campsites would be easy in jack pine stands.

At end of stretch -- there is a left turn and then run parallel to a T of land and back to the right again and then another left into a small pond and portage out of it. About 100 yards over a neck of land where stream cannot be easily followed because of small beaver dams.

Then take a right over a beaver dam and follow water to northern end and carry about 500 yards across burn to next pond.

We did not follow this route on last one, but should have. We portaged out of north side of pond about 300 yards short of foot and up and over a very steep ridge -- there was a sort of trail here -- and then paddled small water to northern end and portaged 200 yards through burn. First route would be easier.

Then take a left turn in next water and paddle to end where a 200 yard portage leads to a circular pond.

Cross pond to sand landing on sloping jack pine area north of center of pond and carry gradual rise to top of ridge bearing to right until rock outcropping is reached; go left of rock and down side hill to small creek below -- 500 yards -- easy walking but no trail.

Follow creek to Tide Lake -- maybe 1 - 1½ hours with good current all the way and no real obstacles -- a few rocks and windfalls, but not many.

Delta at mouth of creek twists and turns and eventually leads to lake -- with lots of rocks to avoid.

No campsites in south part of lake, and eventually junction is made with other route to Neoskweskau used in '67.

Very few trails during day, a few blazes, but looks like modern Indian does as we did and walks through burned areas without much real trail needed.

Neoskweskau campsite was no better than before!

#### Neoskweskau to Nascauso Lake --

In low water rapid 4-5 miles out of Neoskweskau has to be run starting pretty much down the middle and angling to the left as much as possible, but throw of water will not allow canoe to miss last swells -- it's rough!

After Point au Bouleau river has a lot of sand ledges in it with sharp drop offs every so often.

Rapid where you cross back and forth across river comes just before last split of river starts, pretty much on left and angles back to right at foot.

Little swift on right just below.

Indian campsite just before turn to Ross Gorge on left is pretty good -- dock out in water this year about six feet above water when we came through -- not much for swimming.

#### Nascauso Lake to Reoutfitting on east end of large island 1/2 day from Prosper Gorge --

Used campsite on right at split of river in stand of birch and spruce -- reasonably good. Site on left is not there and second one on island is smaller and plane could not get in.

Reoutfitting Area --

Plane landed easily and taxied right to shore and tied to alder. Pilot said place was fine, though maybe trouble in high wind. Right branch around island explored for perhaps a mile. Looks like water is clear down to stream that could lead off to east bypassing Prosper Gorge, but then left turn is made afterwards and it sounds like there is a large rapid at what would be a narrows in the river on the map.

Reoutfitting to Prosper Portage --

First rapid on left branch of island after reoutfitting was run at top on left -- there is a ledge in center and another possible run on right, but left looked better. Then catch eddy on left shore. In 1967 we ran all the way down on left, but in '68 we would have had to go out in center of stream, and so lifted over rock point on left and ran rest on left shore. Someone had done the same before us. Right looks too rocky. After lift over, there is a rock to go outside of about 25 yards below and then rapid was run out on left -- watch rocks and ledge just left of center at foot.

In approaching gorge, we ran right of large island before gorge since it looked shorter. Current is in wrong direction between it and small island just south of it.

On right side there is a rapid at top of island at narrows in river. There is a rock island in center. Left side of island is a small falls. Run is way to right, fairly close to right shore with no problems.

At foot of large island watch opening to keep on downstream. We followed island too far and started going back upstream.

If desired, a reasonably good campsite could be cut at the top of Prosper Falls, just back from the shore where landing is made to look at the falls. Tent sites would be in a stand of spruce and some alder would have to be cut on the river side. Kitchen could go out on the rocks overlooking the falls, although it would be quite exposed if the weather turned dirty.

Prosper Portage to Bauerman Falls --

Second rapid after carry is about 4 miles farther east than marked on map in '67.

There is a rapid just above approach to Bauerman River, either right or left shore -- we ran right into a large eddy to look over the approach to falls! From these rocks sand beach can not be seen -- it is back in a bay behind third point on left shore. In '67 we ran right shore all the way to island and then had to paddle back up -- unnecessary -- but sand beach can be seen this way.

Approach falls with caution as previous notes say.

Bauerman Falls to Campsite past Village Lakes Portage --

No change; maybe more current in river than noted before.

Portage before Village Lakes to Portage before Lichteneger --

Portage out of bay to right side of falls -- as on other report -- goes up a hill at start -- 250 yards, well used and good walker. At top, take right branch of trail for last approach to water -- (split is only 15 yards from water).

After pond, creek runs in in a narrow stream that could be lined

up, but there is a steep cascade about 100 yards ahead. Indian portages starting in bay on left of little riffle -- about 50 yards past stream entrance. 600 yards, well used and good walking -- will look to be a bit longer than necessary, but is easier than following stream that would require at least 2 line up areas and a portage with no trail available. Inconvenient to line up first rapid and then try to strike portage trail. One or two tent Indian site at head of trail, would not be very good.

Looks to be a good piece of ground for a campsite on north side of First Village Lake -- roughly opposite the end of the portage. Creek connects the two lakes and leaves in corner of bay and entrance is hard to locate -- water has a slight current, but not much. After small pond, follow left branch of stream -- right is a bay that requires a 5 yard lift over to get to second lake.

Looks to be good ground for a campsite on west side of point about two miles from start of lake paddle and a mile short of portage out -- sand cliff with what looks to be level ground on top -- cliff is not too high to be useable.

Portage in bay just before crook of land on map -- starts in a burned area with landing about 25 yards right of left corner of bay. Passes through burn for maybe 150 yards and then into new growth where trail is easier to follow. Fairly well used and easy to follow. Goes up a hill -- as advertised, and from top of hill there is a good view back on Village Lakes -- hill is flat for 200-300 yards and then a good view down on Lichteneger before drop to water -- not too steep -- Maybe 3/4 mile, but probably 700 yards. Well cleared in '68 during rest day.

Campsite at start of trail in burned area -- no shelter from a south or west wind, but otherwise ok. None at far side of portage.

#### Lichteneger Portage to Clarkie Lake --

Lichteneger is unburned with a fair number of Temagami-like outcroppings of rock -- some cliffs of rock also.

We tried stream that should lead out of western bay -- map shows no water, but aerial photo does -- pond-like area goes back farther than map would show and then stream goes through many small channels through alder. It might be possible to get a canoe through the stream areas, but it would be shallow and hard to do. A portage could be cut, probably best on left, which should not be too tough and should get into reasonable water after not too much distance, but we chickened out and took route to north as outlined by Matthew -- on reaching Eastmain, Matthew said there was a portage already cut here, but we had not been able to find it, and Matthew did not sound very interested in using it.

Small one-tent Indian site on small island on north arm of Lichteneger. Might be enlarged if necessary.

River narrows leaving Lichteneger and runs with current into pond area; then next narrows has a heavy rapid that arcs left. We carried on left on a poorly used portage trail that starts about 50 yards before rapid -- 100 yards. Rapid might be run in lower water. There are heavy swells on right shore, but if left can be cut, staying to left of swells, then a large rock

toward foot avoided, swells at foot can probably be taken on left. Look over carefully; portage trail side best. Two miles west, river narrows and runs with a couple reasonable rapids, most of which can be run pretty much in the center staying to one side or the other of the swells at the foot. None need to be walked and can be read from the top. Then river splits. On left split -- which we did not take, there is a runnable rapid at the top, and aerial photos would indicate there is a heavy short rapid at the foot which would look from the photo as though it would have to be portaged. Right branch, which we took, runs a longer distance with a fair rapid at the top; run on left (there is an island at the top, and on left side of that). Then good current and a couple small rapids to a heavy rapid that arcs left. Portage is on left; about 25 yards above start of rapid. Poorly marked and poorly used. 150 yards with an almost right angle turn to right just before the end. Puts in right at foot of rapid. Rapid could probably be run at top on right side of center of arc, but drop at foot is very steep, and there is a really terrific eddy on the right at the foot. Then river runs relatively calm to Clarkie, about 500 yards ahead. Campsite on left just out of river on a sand beach landing had an Eastmain teepee on it once, but it had fallen down. About 3 good tentsites and the other two pretty bad, but it did in the emergency.

#### Clarkie Lake to Foot of First Portage on Clearwater River --

Follow right shore leaving Clarkie campsite into long bay. Two rapids at narrows in turn to south and back to north again. Both, short, heavy pitches with runs to one side or the other of swells. Second one has a large rock more or less in the center at the foot -- we ran left of it. Another small pitch after turn to west is made. We went south into sort of square bay by mistake. Land at narrows is an old burn and rest is heavily wooded -- avoid following the more or less burned area into the bay. There will be a ridge of reasonably high hills which stay on your left, although map does not make it look like such hills exist to the south. If nothing else, watch current at all narrows and possible places. After passing square bay, follow left shore, it becomes more and more wooded. We ran a very short, steep rapid somewhere along the line, reassuring us at least we were on the right track. Land starts rising ahead, and in a V-shaped bay there is a portage to avoid outlet of river which is probably too steep to run and exists in second V on the map -- farther west than the portage -- even if map shows no outlet. Small campground at head of portage trail -- about 250 - 300 yards, not too well traveled, but marked with large blazes on trees at either end. If time permits, exit of river might be looked over, but there appears to be a heavy pitch in the center that would be trouble. Turn left after portage for about 400 - 500 yards and river then leaves on right with reasonable current. One small rapid down to falls and chutes that have to be carried. Before chutes are reached, there is a bay to the right that leads to the portage. If chutes are reached, retrace path maybe 400

yards to proper turn. Follow bay to south end and there is a very tiny, narrow opening to pass through -- we had to clear sticks out of the way and pass under a spruce windfall that was still green this year. Turn right after narrow opening and portage starts on left of second pond, not quite to end of pond -- marked with blaze and an old sled in '68.

Trail 1/2 mile to foot of chutes goes down a reasonable hill at end. Wet in places and not terribly well traveled, but passable.

Campsite at foot with small tent area into which 5 tents will just fit.

Trout in rapids -- best on far side, which can be approached and fished more easily than near side.

Folt of First Carry on Clearwater to Top of S-like series after calm stretch --

Rapid just below -- 200 yards -- was run on left side of island in a very small, narrow channel that might not be possible in normal water -- there is a trail next to it if it can not be run. Right side of island is main channel and has a much steeper pitch.

500 yards below there is a narrow island diagonally across the river with several runs through it. We ran on right side which seems to be the main channel.

500 yards below is a falls or chute -- carried 150 yards on left. Canoes are then in water only 100 yards and next series of rapids is carried 400 yards on left again. Trail around first chute actually continues and one carry of about 700 yards could be made of the two if desired, but connecting section did not look well traveled. All trails bushy and wet when we came through.

500 yards below is a spectacular falls, carried 150 yards on left on a trail that goes down a ravine behind a rocky outcropping. View from outcropping is excellent.

Leaving falls portage run-off is run on left shore with throw of water taking you against a rock cliff. Then middle of river has to be gained to hit a V at rapid just below.

200 yards below is another very heavy rapid carried on left again about 400 yards. Foot of trail is very wet and we followed high ground to right of real trail instead.

Then follows a wider stretch for about a mile until river turns slightly north and a heavy rapid is carried 250 yards on left. There is a couple-tent Indian site back up the trail at the foot, maybe 50 yards from water. Room for 3 tents and other two would be possible, but poor.

Run-off after portage was run on right side. Paddle back up from landing a little before crossing river -- left can probably be run too, but there are more stones. Rapids continue for maybe a mile with nothing serious really.

Then wide area is reached that has current through it, however. There is a tepee Indian site on right about 1/2 mile into wide stretch. Some burn on left shore just at start of stretch, but does not continue far.

After 2-plus miles of wide area, river narrows and a heavy rapid splits around an island. We figured we could run either, but ran left where a blaze before rapid would say Indian also runs. Run is on left side, staying left of swells at foot. Eddy on left very powerful, so should be caught carefully. There is

another rapid just below with run on left too. If right is run, start is down the center and then running out on right of swells. Crossing to hit next rapid can still be made. Top of right looks more powerful, however. Best view of both runs is from island.

Rapids continue for about a half mile.

Just below there is a pudding tent frame on right.

We missed portage trail start for carry around S like chutes. Should take out in a bay on right before river turns north. And should be about 800 yards.

Just as river turns north there is a rapid, run just left of center, staying out of swells, and below river runs very swiftly.

We caught good eddy on right and then ran right shore staying very close to shore into bay on right at top of chutes. Could be very dangerous and might not be possible in normal water. There is one stone at foot that has to be passed to inside and normally this may not be possible. Also several stones farther up which might be trouble.

We camped at bay -- poor -- all wet moss covering of rock that has to be covered with boughs to stay dry. Arrival was late, but trout in the bay just before the fast water. To intersect real trail, bear right up over a small hill. Tent area to right corner of bay anyway.

#### S shaped Chutes to Foot of Great Bend --

Real trail on S shaped chute ends up almost at intersection of creek and river -- about 30 yards up creek. Portage is actually a little shorter and easier to hit creek farther back and paddle creek. Trail from our campsite bends to right slightly from water and hits old trail just over a little knoll. After bay at foot of S shaped chutes there is a long straight rapid with really fast moving water. We dropped down right side, caught an eddy 50 yards before a ledge, cut a portage of 100 yards, and then ran the rest. Run at foot has very good swells. Right side is run easily almost to foot where there is a ledge sticking out, and finish of run has to be pretty much down the center, trying to stay to right or left of major swells. Either way we took water.

A mile below is a heavy falls that is carried on right 100 yards. Landing is back in bush and we had to drive canoes through bush to reach land. Trail goes up onto a knoll of sandy soil with jackpine, and right down other side 25 yards. One-tent Indian site on knoll. Might be enlarged, but tough.

Across bay there was an Indian tepee under water and on the verge of collapse.

2 miles below is a heavy rapid with a red shack on right -- weather station -- and portage trail starts just before shack and canoes have to be driven into bush to find start of trail -- about 50 yards -- puts into eddy at foot of rapid which was so powerful we could not paddle out of it without getting into run-off of rapid and crossing over.

Also possible to run rapid tight to right shore being careful to stay out of swells in center -- or with high water tight to left shore inside a stand of alder that forms a small island. Right was run by the staff successfully.

Just below are 2-3 more rapids all run by looking from top -- mostly on left.

Just at foot of last rapid, cross to right at top of last chute and take portage around last falls or ledge. 100 yards; best trail on river. Puts in in a small eddy and mouth of river can be seen ahead.

We cut a campground at foot of Great Bend on rocks on right as you come up river. Unloading was one canoe at a time just before heavy water. Tentsites on wet moss that had to be covered with spruce. Kitchen on rock area -- excellent if it does not rain. Trout and walleye in water in front of site. Trout also at falls about 300 yards up river -- if walking, climb to ridge behind site and then walk ridge and drop down to falls -- not easy, but better than trying to follow shore. '67 campsite would be another 400 yards up above falls, but we did not have time to go up.

Foot of Great Bend to '67 campsite 6 miles above Akautago River -- Wickiup frame on island about 2-3 miles below foot of Great Bend. Cache and other old wickiup frame below that.

Rapid with 3 sections really has 4 -- First a run around an island into an eddy below. Second, a run outside a ledge and into an eddy. Third, the same -- swells on all three are large; and fourth, a run right along left shore. Good lunch site on rock point just at foot of run-off from rapid.

We cleared trail on portage from Indian site to foot -- top still needs a little care.

Indian sod house just before campsite well worth stopping to look at. Very clean and very well built.

6 miles above Akautago to Akautago Rapid --

Right side of rapid below campsite investigated and rejected -- you slip easily past a small island, but 50 yards below there is a ledge that starts on shore and runs out perpendicular to the river maybe 50-75 yards. There is a possible run outside the ledge, angling to the right behind the ledge, and into a bay. Then there appears to be white water at the foot that might be trouble.

Left was run again -- water higher than in '67. You can slip down left shore and into ill-used portage landing just on lip of final drop. Portage, if used, would be only 25 yards. Run had higher water this year and there is a rock at top of run near shore that everyone hit. Look carefully. Foot was easier in the high water, however.

Akautago rapid would be tougher in higher water, particularly at foot -- look over carefully if running. It is easier and safer to portage if planning to camp anyway. Trail has several landings -- the higher the water, the sooner the take out should be. We took out just before a small chute with a V run in it since it would be hard to catch lower landing. One trout taken from pool about 1/3 of way down trail from head of carry.

Akautago Rapid to Third Chute --

Indiana cache not seen.

Looks to be an Indian campsite just into the mouth of the Wabamisk River, but we did not investigate.

Prospector's campsite much more attractive looking than previously supposed, but not preferable to that at end of portage just used.

Moses' log-sod house at Wabistan River is very much worth a visit. We went north of all islands at Kausabiskau Rapid this time very successfully. In '67 we cut down to main river one island earlier.

Current going up islands is better than previously reported. We missed surveyor's site this time.

All portages as previously reported. Run leading into 3rd Chute is around a bend and into a bay or eddy and then along shore. We must have gone over bench mark again, but it was way under water this time.

Do not try for runs on right at any of them -- it would be a waste of time.

#### Third Chute to foot of Conglomerate --

No change on 4th or 5th Chutes

At start of Conglomerate portage it is only necessary to drag canoes up the first 10 yards or so. The sternsmen can then flip and climb the rest of the hill with reasonable ease.

On portage -- second Indian site makes a good lunchsite, but is only about 1/2 way across.

Portage trail to foot of cascade reaches water after a steep downhill trail of about 1/4 mile. Now reasonably well cleared, but eddy at foot of gorge on this side was far too much for our canoes to take and water crashes against rock side about half way between end of this trail and end of long one and our canoes would not have made it. Maybe in very low water this route is practical, but not in high. Perhaps for photographing it might be worthwhile to go down trail and then follow shore up until cascade can be seen. Otherwise only photographing spot is on rock ledge half way along to campsite and it is really too far away for a normal lens camera.

#### Foot of Conglomerate to Clouston --

No canoe cached this time below campsite.

Current a little better than imagined on the way down. Lunch site reached in 3 1/2 hours

Lunchsite opposite east end of long island at bend of river --

Indian tepee just barely out of water -- fireplace made in middle of it. Very small, particularly on a wet, cold day.

Rapid before Clouston portage run easily on left. One run around a large rock to an eddy, and a second at foot below eddy; both as close to left shore as possible.

Clouston portage so well bushed at start in '67 that canoes can be flipped easily and carried up trail.

#### Clouston to Island Falls --

Portage trail leaves campsite jackpine stand and heads directly for north edge of trees just 500 yards ahead. Trail follows edge of trees, without going down bank. When tree line starts curving south, trail angles across the V to pass about 25 yards north of next group of trees maybe 200 yards ahead. Trail then angles ever so slightly to the right to hit for line of trees and goes in on an old trail where poles were once laid, but they do nothing really now but indicate the direction of trail. Takes about 20 minutes to cross the beaver swamp. Trail becomes hard to follow in spots thereafter when in low ground. At next sort of black bog about half way is reached. Indian

tepee is about 2/3 of way across -- 15 or 20 minutes from the water.

Eddy at foot of Clouston was hard to get out of in higher water. Stay on left shore all the way through rapids around the bend to south after Clouston. There is one heavy pitch shortly after bend, but a good route on left shore.

Trail at top of Island still choked with alder. We put kitchen this time on rock area about 40 yards in from water -- point used in '67 was pretty well flooded. Two tents pitched this time on moss covered rock near kitchen.

There is an Indian grave to right of trail about 20 yards into bush just short of Indian campsite -- small green cross and 4 spruce well blazed with some blazes reasonably recent.

#### Island to Basil --

Below Island cross to right shore well before bend in river where river turns south.

Run right shore carefully to start of portage -- there are two possible landings, both on rock shelf, one maybe 10 yards below other. There is a good strong eddy running up beside them -- catch sideways without catching bow first.

Trail still hard to follow at start. Secret is to stay left at every fork in trail to stay on course and also stay as dry as possible. There are some pretty wet spots in first section between rock areas and after drop toward water through the poplar is pretty wet also.

Go around point before Talking. There is nothing there, and running between main land and tip of point -- which is really an island -- is a little steep.

Take right shore to landing at Talking -- no problem really.

Campsite at top of Basil is ok, but nothing exceptional.

Portage trail starts with some laurel for a while, drops down into a creek, and then rises up onto sandy area. Indian campsite just past creek on sandy area. Toward foot of carry -- maybe 1 3/4 miles out there are some pretty large windfalls that could use some attention.

Indian campsite at foot is just past creek and might be better for drawing water than going all the way to drop to water as we did both times.

#### Basil to Eastmain --

Left side leaving Basil eddy at foot of portage probably should not be tried again. Rocks in low water become a ledge in high. Crossing river as in '67 is better, if possible.

Right hand side can probably be run all the way down, though swells at times are pretty good.

On left there are two rough spots -- but run was done that way in '68. One run went behind an island that probably is not an island in normal water.

Matthew at Eastmain said run right side after Basil in low water, and left side in high, which would seem to make sense from our experiences.

About 2-3 miles below all fast water on left there is an Indian site with an old tepee -- not too bad for lunch if that early getting down. Otherwise rocks on left shore at foot of rapids probably make best site.

Little rapid at islands just before Post was drowned out in '68

Eastmain --

Hydro dock in '68 was drowned out and corresponding dock moved opposite Catholic Church.

Anglican Church was being moved to position at head of village, and a resident minister will probably remain at Post.

Minister in '68 was George Daly. George Brown was still managing Post.