

1970 Supplement for EASTMAIN RIVER  
including section of Rupert west of Mesgouez Rapids, Freight  
Route from Rupert to Nasacauso, and Lac Pivert bypass of  
Great Bend

Cabin at Obaska -- One two miles up road is owned by father of woman who runs Lake Tiblemont cabins. He had no power, running water or toilet this time, but it worked.

Mistassini Post --

Road to Post is now cut through. Leaves about mile 42 and is about 8 miles into Post. There is a cut off to the water just before the Post, but is pretty steep. Next turn leads down to rear of HBC store. Road continues over to Indian village, but approach to water is not as good.

Village has more houses and only a couple dozen tents now.

Abatagush Bay --

Indian tent site on a narrow point that sticks out on east side about 4 miles from start of narrows. Faces north. Makes a good lunch site, but nothing seen up to there, and it is a little far up if start from Post is late.

At narrows --

1st site on right has space enough for 5 tents pretty close together. Water is shallow in front, otherwise ok.

New Indian fishing camp on southeast side of island previously used as a campsite.

1st Abatagush site at narrows on right is much better than 2nd which is unused and on a sand point.

There is also an Indian site about 1/2 to 1 mile above narrows on left. Spots in narrows are better, however.

Big Crossing --

'68 report says there is a campsite on southeast corner of 1st island of chain (says it looks like a cabin). There is no such place. There is one on southwest side of single island opposite, about 1/2 to 1 mile up island. It's an Indian fishing camp, fairly large.

We made a site on southwest corner of 1st island up on a plateau. It is no good except that you can see lake pretty well.

Andy Smyth made a site on northwest corner of same island -- pretty rough -- about like our's on southwest corner. Poor for dry wood.

Took 1 1/2 hours actual paddle to cross on a perfectly calm lake. Add break in middle for actual time.

Rupert Split to Esker Portage --

After split and large rapid and 2 little ones below, about 1/2 mile farther on left there is a picnic table with a wooden roof over it built by the tourist trade. Must be trout in the area.

We got a couple in a pool off our lunch site. There is also a very large Indian campground about 1/2 mile past table on left.

Last two rapids before Esker do not really need to be looked over.

Capichinatun --

Campsites listed in '67 report are all poor. Andy Smyth checked them.

### Woollett Falls --

Campsite best reached by people carrying packs by a cutoff to right just after starting down slope at end. One tent site right next to water at foot. Ice cave on north side of rocks across river -- very good view of falls from top of rock. Land to north of rock and then approach by walking behind rock and coming up from rear.

### Below Portage after Woollett --

After 2 miles of horse races, wide stretch, and long island there is an old Indian site on right. Andy Smyth reported it was level and spacious. We had lunch there in '68 and did not like it.

At turn to west, my map shows 3 rapids. Report talks of 2; report is right.

We used same campsite as in '68 on left shore. Tent sites still poor. Otherwise not as bad as before.

### Bellinger --

Before 200 yard portage out of Bellinger there is a very large Indian fishing camp on right just before a branch of the river enters.

Andy Smyth cut a campsite at the foot of the portage, but it is neither very good nor large.

Rapids 4 miles below Bellinger -- Foot of 3-path rapid is sort of S-shaped and can be run just by looking at while running.

Rapid 2 miles below is one marked R on map and is powerful.

There is another one about a mile below that.

### West Channel around large island --

Coming into west branch ('68 used current; wind conditions made current hard to read in '70). Turn north is made as soon as land on left starts to swing southwest. There is an island at start of turn with a stand of birch and a one tent Indian site with 2 racks on a tree and another tent site 50 yards farther west with a pair of bear skulls on a tree at a sand beach. Neither could be used as a campsite.

Rapid below campsite of west branch come in two sections really. 1st run on left reading from top. Catch eddy at calm and foot can be read standing on a large rock on left shore.

There is an Indian portage that comes in on the south corner of the bay below the river. Looks fairly well used and would start in bay at east side of island and cut all these rapids.

### Rapids before Mountain Peninsula --

1st rapid run just past a little drop on right into an eddy.

Walked rest and then took canoes up in eddy, across river (easily) and ran fairly close to 1st island out from right shore.

Good lunch site on large rocks below 2nd rapid.

### Mountain Peninsula to Bardeliere --

Campsite just before large rapid 4 miles above Bardeliere in a little indentation just north of deep bay where there is no portage. Three tent sites up on hill to east of site on beach. Old Indian campsite; also used by Temagami. Andy Smyth claims to have met an Indian who says there is an old burned over trail leading over the hill from this site that bypasses 1st

and 2nd rapid below. But no trace could be found of it. '68 route followed through these rapids. Andy Smyth reported that in '69 water was so high he let down right shore and then had trouble on the cross over to left shore. Run for 1st rapid has to be inside swells, but outside a rock fairly close to shore. We got some canoes out too far. Cross over in '70 was relatively easy. 1st portage on left is now fairly well walked and clear. 2nd is not so well defined.

Rapid 2 miles above Bardeliere has a ledge on left side and is run next to right shore. Rocks on right make a good lunch site and trout in rapids.

Temagami campsite on Bardeliere on a small island to west of northwest corner of large island just before narrows out of lake. Kitchen on rock ledge facing north is good, but exposed and tent sites are very poor.

#### Bardeliere to Mesgouez --

Campsite reported in '68 before rapids out of Bardeliere was not observed in '70.

Andy Smyth reported a little swift before 1st rapid; none exists. 1st rapid run just like '68 report says. Andy let down right shore and ran run off. Would have been very difficult in '68 or '70 water conditions. There is a section of rocky shallows at crucial part of let down.

2nd rapid -- Andy ran right of center. Looks rougher than left of center where we ran again.

In wide stretch below -- maybe turn north before long island?

At 2nd narrows after turn to north there is a very shallow rocky rapid. Run carefully.

Indian campsite just before turn to portage is quite large.

Andy Smyth reports several campsites just after portage -- we did not really see any.

There was a site on south side of one of the islands after turn to west is made -- slightly back in bush.

In deep bay on left just before turn to north is made there is a large camp of some sort -- either mining or sports?

Just before turn to north there is a very narrow, rocky shallows with current that must be taken slowly.

Temagami campsite on opposite shore, just opposite these shallows on rocky ledge -- just south of largest rock area on that shore. Kitchen on rock. Tent sites back on moss covered rock -- not bad. Water in front fairly shallow but could be used for bathing.

#### Mesgouez to Campsite below 1st rapid --

Leaving Mesgouez campsites mentioned as possibles in '68 were not observed, but once turn to west is made, shore is attractive Temagami-like rock in places and might have possibilities.

Narrows 2 miles above rapid had some white water showing.

We ran 1st part of rapid to left of center in major part of river, but to left of major swells. There are swells off a rock on left shore, however, and run is outside of them. It is fully as big as big as anything these canoes can take -- we each took an inch of water. Cut out to left as soon as possible into 1st bay. Rest of this rapid as in '68

Temagami used a campsite at our 2nd lift over -- claiming it was better than ours. Maybe ours was under water -- ours is still

trout up river from site, best at head of entire rapid. Wood has to be drawn from hill back of site.

Mesgouez Rapids to just below Misticawassee Creek --

About half way down island just below 1st rapid is a fly-in fisherman's campsite. Steep bank at landing and tent pitched fairly far up hill.

Right side of island -- run is on left tight to a pile of rock and inside swells -- not much if you hit run correctly, but swells are bad if you get into them.

Falls just below -- trail bears just gradually left over boulders not sharply as '68 report would indicate.

Rest of rapids as '68 report.

Campsite to north of large island just after Misticawassee Creek in a stand of jackpine up on a sand cliff about 7-8 feet above water just past a small creek entrance. Excellent tent sites but little else of real value -- lots of dry wood.

Misticawassee Creek to Pond south of Rupert Gorge --

1st Rapid below campsite -- about 3-4 miles. Carried on left starting on smooth rock, well used trail, about 75 yards puts in on smooth rock with swells off rapid.

Slip down left shore in bay; no problems to 2nd rapid at end of bay. Carried 200 yards on left on poor trail starting in bush on west side of bay before rapid. Puts in on broken rock with swells of rapid.

Follow left shore to wide bay -- there is an old surveyor's camp with a couple docks on east side of bay. Maybe used as a fishing camp now.

Narrows follow with good current; follow left shore.

After narrows gorge starts soon afterwards; follow left shore into bay at head of gorge. For view of river walk shore almost to end of bay and then follow rock working finally onto a bald rock point right over river.

Portage leaves south side of bay and carries 600 yards to a little pond off river. Well used trail.

Paddle to far right corner of pond to next portage. Landing is just in low land and rises up a slight hill on right immediately. 1600 yards, well used to another pond. Trail slopes downward for a good bit of last 1/3 of carry. Indian campsite at end of trail on pond. Pretty good tent sites, but water in front is very shallow.

Pond to turn to Freight Route Creek --

First pond is paddled to an earthen beaver dam. Lifted over, 5 feet.

Second pond is paddled to small outlet in southwest corner and narrows poled through to lake.

Small stream leaves lake on north. Portage 300 yards on left of stream back to river just below rapid. Good trail.

Next rapid is a falls -- very attractive with island in center of large cascade-like falls. Portage starts on smooth rock on left almost at start of falls. Follows smooth rock and shore and then goes into woods. 400 yards. Good trail. Puts in on smooth rock in bay at foot. No real campsite at foot, but a pretty good one could be made. Trout at foot of falls.

Next rapid just below may have been rougher because of wind, but

we lifted over a rocky island -- with trees on it -- on left side and then ran rest on left shore. There is a run on left side but has to go outside of a ledge off rock islands. Also might be possible to run right side, but river has to be crossed.

At Freight Creek at turn to north there is a campsite on north-west edge of turn -- we did not look.

A Nemiscau Indian winter camp on left side just into creek. Trail out back of camp must go to lake from which high mountain can be climbed -- view is supposed to be quite good according to Glen Speers at Mistassini and mountain has an Indian name and seems well known to them.

We camped on left 1/2 mile above in a stand of jackpine 3-4 feet above water and a slightly sand beach. Excellent tent sites, otherwise not a great deal there.

#### Freight Creek to 6th Portage --

Almost immediately above campsite starts a pull-up--paddle series which is quite time consuming. One very shallow series just after passing a pair of islands is particularly difficult and almost impossible not to wade.

At first real heavy white water, portage takes out in bay before rapid is really reached. 400 yards. Trail originally cut very wide. Carries to pond on north side of creek (pond is not on map).

Indian campsite on north side of pond.

On east side of pond there are two bays. Southern one has next portage. 1 mile back to river above all but last rapid marked on map at this point. 1st half of trail is very good; 2nd half is overgrown with recent growth and has boulders and is wet in spots. Puts in at a bay above rapids -- next falls can be seen to left. Poor one tent campsite at upper end of trail.

Next carry at falls starts in a bay to left of falls on smooth rock. 75 yards. 1st part on rock and last through obvious cut in bush. Falls are very attractive. Trout above falls.

Indian winter site on left half way up next smooth stretch.

At top of this stretch a cascade makes a C turn coming down in rocks -- some places through her fjord-like. Portage on right of cascade just up a little side stream. Landings at both ends very poor on rock. 50 yards.

After smooth pond next carry on right in a bay before a cascade; goes behind a prominent knoll. 300 yards. 1 tent site at upper end, but very poor.

6th carry on left at another attractive falls. Starts on smooth rock and ends in a bushy trail at top. We made a campsite. Not very good, but useable.

#### 6th Carry to Portage before Lemare --

1/2 mile above 6th portage is 7th -- on left, good trail. 400 yards around long stretch of rapids.

Next long narrow stretch has high rock cliffs on left a good way up.

Indian campsite on left just after creek leads off to right.

Indian at Mistassini said to portage through a series of lakes to Lemare -- we found no trace of such a portage.

Creek leaves on right in pretty much low land and flows northeast for 2-3 miles to a rapid; pulled up on left. Indian lunch site

on right shore at top of pull up.  
Lunch site on left in stand of jackpine about 2-3 miles farther up about a 7 foot bank.  
Indian campground on left just before sort of round lake-like section -- cache built on small island in center of pond.  
Just above at narrows a rapid too swift to be paddled or lined -- portaged on small rocks on right. 25 yards.  
Then turn to east -- one to north and next rapid portaged 100 yards on left starting well before rapid on excellent trail.  
Next rapid 1/2 mile above lined up on left side of island in middle of rapid (more water left of island than to right).  
Indian campsite on point in lake above where turn is made to west.  
After turn to north a stiff rapid paddled up on left.  
Then a long stretch of rapids at head, portaged on right 400 yards to pond. Excellent trail. We made a campground at head, but was very poor.

Pond before Lemare to Portage before Pond above Des Champs --  
At head of pond after previous campsite portage 300 yards on left at foot of a bay before the rapids -- deep left corner of pond. Puts in on a sand beach; trail good except for last 50 yards which is quite grown up. Surveyor's campsite just to left of trail at end.  
Map alone would be hard to follow on Lemare where turn from west to east is made around peninsula.  
At narrows before Des Champs there is a portage, 100 yards on left, fairly far to left of rapid. Puts in below a swift that must be lined up left shore. Poor Indian site at end of carry.  
One more swift to paddle to Des Champs proper.  
After narrows at southeast corner of Des Champs there is an Indian site about a mile farther on left -- looks to be a fall bird shooting site. Another at narrows about a mile farther on. Adorned with sexy picture carved on tree. Another on left just at start of creek.  
Stay left at all possible forks of creek -- there are two possible wrong turns to right.  
Shortly after second of these there is a small rapid to line on left and just above a 50 yard portage on left. We camped at portage -- not bad at all, but no fish.

Pond above Des Champs to Second pond above round lake --  
We tried north lake-like area for portage into next lake and found two blazes but no trail -- it probably is in this area and should be tried again.  
Instead we paddled back and took creek out of east side of pond. Good going until close to top and we then had to carry 2 rapids on right mostly through jackpine and so needed no cutting.  
Then one was pulled up on left and two more carried on right on trails that had to be cut. No single portage was more than 75 yards, but were time consuming.  
Then 3 sections of narrow lake were paddled.  
At end of 3rd we portaged a rapid into round lake on left of rapid through burned area starting well to left of rapid. 75 yards. No real trail, but one had been there at one time.  
At north end of round lake stream coming down from above has 4 rapids in it. We portaged all four at once over burn starting

in sand beach to east of stream on our own trail. 1/2 mile, no cutting done. Looked like traces of the old trail were there faintly in spots, but could not be sure. Indian campsite to left of creek on small point -- fairly old -- couple years?

On creek above to next pond there was one short pull up; others were paddled.

We camped on point at north edge of pond in a tiny stand of spruce and jackpine with burn behind. Fine in the emergency.

2nd Pond above Round Lake to Beaver Dam before + shaped water -- Just above campsite a rapid portaged on left (?) 50 yards; reasonable trail.

Above next pond portage on right 100 yards; reasonable trail but end gets hard to follow.

Creek after this body of water into oval lake can all be paddled though shallow in spots and current occasionally good.

After oval lake; carry to right of stream -- fairly far right -- about 500 yards. Reasonable trail, but boulders soon after start make it hard to find rest of trail.

After a little pond, carry over what looks to be an island 300 yards. Landing on smooth rock; top of trail hard to follow.

Next narrows can be paddled.

Next comes a narrows to a pond; paddled part way with one line up near top.

All through here paddling in narrows is hard with lots of rocks and often just one channel.

Next narrows from pond carried on right 200 yards, reasonable trail.

Then at next narrows, lower part is paddled, but at top carry on right 150 yards right along shore. Partially burned and very hard to follow.

Paddle northeast to next lake to northeast corner. 1st narrows is paddled and 2nd is carried about 75 yards left of creek across thin neck of land. 30 yards; excellent trail. Could probably be used as a campsite.

We paddled southeast and up through narrow lake to beaver dam and camped in desperation in a burn on left.

Few Indian campsites at any of the portages -- one tent site at start of portage out of oval lake. Another on left during long narrow stretch after the oval lake. Several spots where lunch fires have been laid, but no other real sign of use.

At beaver pond where we camped old Indian trail goes through burn and bypasses pond and goes by next rapid in one carry; about 400 yards.

Beaver Pond to Reoutfitting Island --

Portage on trail at beaver pond about 25 yards and then cut to right to water at top of dam.

Paddle pond about 200 yards and portage again on left at a grassy landing perpendicular to pond and into arm of next water. 75 yards.

Next narrows can all be paddled to height of land portage. Trail partially through burn and hard to follow. End is very vague and easier to slide a little to right and up on smooth rock. 250 yards.

Narrows can then all be paddled to circular bay above Nasacauso.

Portage takes out of 2nd bay on right at end of bay. 150 yards fair trail.

Water was way down in Nasacauso. A high hill is passed on left about 1/3 of way down. Then C-shaped island has a round hill on southeast end. From there cliffs that lead down to Ross can be seen. At end of Nasacauso in low water there are rocky shallows and a devious deep water channel.

Creek to Ross portage very hard to get up in low water. The pond too shallow to do anything with. Land on north side and carry along grass to start of Indian trail.

At foot of Ross in low water channel out is easy to follow to main river, but very shallow.

#### Reoutfitting --

Water level at reoutfitting about 4-6 feet down from '69.

#### Reoutfitting to Prosper --

Took east side of island. A couple small swifts to watch on way down to falls about 1 - 1 1/2 miles below campsite.

Falls has an island in center. Left side is almost a straight drop. Right side a cascade. Portage 200 yards on right, reasonably far above cascade and puts into bay after cascade. Not very well traveled but clearly defined trail. Some clearing has now been done. If west side first rapid would have to be carried, this route has less carrying and is probably easier.

In low water, bay in which carry ends is quite shallow.

About 1/4 - 1/2 mile below is a rapid. Left side is probably the run under any conditions. Our run was very shallow and rock filled. There is almost a ledge across rest of rapid, but there might be a run in center under certain conditions.

River then narrows quite appreciably. There was only good current and a few boils in our water conditions.

Just before end of large island there is a final rapid. There is a small island in middle. We ran to right of this island -- no trouble. If rapid on both sides ever looked too large, there is a back channel to right around a large island that might be used. It would have been too shallow in low water.

Rapid on right side of next island -- left side where falls should have been was dry. Run was on right side, but this time close to island. Right shore would have been too shallow.

No dry wood at all at Prosper campsite!

#### Prosper to Bauerman --

Low water -- little rapid right below eddy off falls run just left of center. Left shore looked a little shallow and right side had too many swells -- but could have been run.

1st of large rapids run pretty much as in high water, but easier. Left of center by a fair bit, but out to right of left shore.

Then cross to right during run off from 1st rapid. Run was pretty straight about 25 yards out from right shore, but pretty shallow. Right side would definitely be much better in high water on this one.

Rapid below falls in gorge has to be carried in low water also.

Water does not boil through channel as in high, but rapid approaches being a 5-6 foot falls in low water. '69 trail quite satisfactory.

Rapids below in low water are pretty much just fast current with

a few rocks to avoid.

1st rapid below Prosper portage landing has a good lunch site at rock on right shore in low water. Rapid is run on left as usual, but runs out at foot and must be finished in center. Approach to Bauerman. 1st rapid before rock used to look over was run on left and then crossed to eddy on right

Approach to sand beach was difficult on left shore at the two points. We slipped down left shore as far as possible and then lined around both points. It would have been possible to run outside rock off 1st of these points, but not inside it as usual. Last point had a run outside it, but was quite rocky so we did not try it.

In low water final approach could be made by whole section in line and 3 or 4 canoes could unload at once if desired.

Bauerman to below Village Lakes --

Horse race rapid below Bauerman still run on right, farther out from shore for part of it, but still following shore. There is a calm stretch in middle in low water.

Next rapid 4 miles below run next to right shore.

Below Village Lakes to Surveyor's Site just before southern end of Great Bend -

River banks swampy and low down to large island.

In low water take south side of island. There was a let down needed at west end of island in low water.

River is now very attractive with lots of rock outcroppings from here to just past rapid marked on map. Then runs in low land after that.

Rapid a couple miles below large island was run on right of a boulder island and then down a very tiny channel in low water. Left run was too shallow.

Best rocky part of river now to rapid marked on map.

Lunch site at rapid on rocky island that is used as a portage is excellent, especially in low water. Left side of island is a steep falls or chute. Far right could not be run under any conditions -- also a falls or chute. Portage about 40 yards on right side of island after landing on tip or left side of tip. Run off is then taken, moving to right to stay out of power of left cascade.

Run to next rapid is a little shallow in low water.

Next rapid can be run on left in high water, but in low we had to lift over final rock point to avoid a 2-3 foot falls.

Final run was down center in low water.

In low water stay north of large island above. We had to lift canoes over at western end of the south channel.

We passed up '67 site for the night.

Indian site on left below could be used, but was looked over and rejected.

'67 lunch site below with Indian storage rack would make a camp-site, but surveyor's site is only 100 yards below and is more open and probably better -- used as an Indian site since then so some of the available space has been taken. Water shallow in front, but swimming not too bad, but drawing water is a problem.

Surveyor's Site to 2nd Portage on creek to Lake Pivert --

Moses' house only a couple miles below surveyor's site on right

just off a sand beach just before little island before long island at southeast corner of Great Bend. Could be used as a campsite if desired.

Big river horse races below were slightly changed in low water. 2nd in particular was run pretty much left rather than right. River then turns west and then north. After turn to north on left there are a couple islands. Ahead on right can be seen a channel behind an island. On left there is then a small island, channel to Pivert leaves just south of that island. If small island is passed, there is another long island coming up with a channel behind it. Also if too far along, ahead can be seen an island in the center of the river with a sand beach point on the southern end ('67 campsite).

Even in low water channel is perfectly navigable although there are extensive flats on either side. Reasonably soon after start there is a fork in stream. Take left turn -- straight ahead will lead back to main river. Stream turns back on itself occasionally, but continues to place where a cascade falls into it. Just before cascade there is a pull up needed on a little narrow spot -- very short and easy.

Portage is to right of cascade, maybe 75 yards to right on a grassy landing. Reasonable Indian campground just into bush -- had stacks of poles when we came through. 1/2 mile to stream. Good trail.

After only 1/4 mile of stream there is a pull up on left -- very easy, but water is swift.

Then stream is reasonably wide to a small cascade. There is a short portage trail of 20 yards on right that goes to an impossible creek.

To left of cascade there is a narrow bay. Paddle as far in as possible. Trail leaves on left. 300 yards, puts back in stream again. Good trail.

We camped at upper end of portage. There was once one Indian tent there -- terrible. Blaze on tree at head of portage is dated 1951.

2nd Portage to L-shaped water after Pivert --

Little pull up just above campsite.

Then a short paddle on a small pond-like area and 100 yard portage on left around a cascade into larger pond.

Creek leaves left side of pond after paddling only 300 yards or so. Opening appears sort of diagonally behind a little bar-like area.

Creek is paddled all the way to next pond with many twists and turns. 2 pull-ups along the way toward the upper end. Both short. Water reasonably deep most of the time and relatively easy paddling. On all possible forks in stream -- there are 3 - take right branch.

Next pond is paddled its length with creek leaving in upper left corner. Now creek is shallow; lots of sand bars. One pull-up about 1/2 - 3/4 of way up.

Then a 50-yard portage on right of a cascade up over a knoll and back down to water. Area perhaps partially burned, but no problem finding trail.

After that pond, a short steep pull-up and into Pivert.

On Pivert, we followed right shore, but not close, dodging through islands at top. A coffee pail on one of them marked the route.

Hard to follow with just map -- easy with aerial photos. Indian sod house on south end of point where turn is made to north. Then we were probably not on Indian route. He probably lines small rapid in left corner of bay and goes into next long pond and portages from there to next lake. We went into right corner of bay, portaged 300 yards through burn to a pond -- very shallow loading at upper end, and then portaged 300 yards out of north end of pond into next lake, again through burn. Hard at start because of wind falls. At northern left corner of lake, a beaver dam has raised level of next water. Lift over dam or near it into L-shaped water. Very high hill on left as water is paddled. We camped in desperation on right just before foot of L-shaped water on a knoll in partially burned area. Tent sites possible, but exposed. Terrible.

#### L-Shaped water to Creek to Eastmain River --

Portage takes out right at previous campsite. Landing in a small depression in shore with a relatively high hill on west and a smaller knoll on east. Our fireplace right at start of trail. Goes through small cut over a slight rise and into burn. Stays left of swampy part of burn and down a narrow valley with an underground stream to left of trail. Then keeps slight downward trend staying in valley all the way to foot. Most of area is burned and trail a little hard to follow, though now all recut and blazed -- no back blazes however. About 800 yards; not bad walking now.

Around point to right after portage and into bay at end of lake-like area, on left just before a small rapid is an old Eastmain earth house.

Small rapid to next pond was run.

On left just at end of pond and before next rapid looked possibly to be the start of portage trail, but we could find nothing through the burn nor back along shore of lake-like area. (Note: Willie Moses at Eastmain was very definite that trail did start here and carried west side of creek putting into sandy stream to Eastmain. Also indicated that in very low water if small rapid above was not run a branch of trail started in bay where earth house is located. If traveled again, find the portage.) There is an ancient circular rock fireplace for a tepee where trail should start.

We followed creek letting down the various small rapids between ponds. The narrow ones are reasonable, but the wide ones are really too shallow.

When stream swung north a long, violent series started. We cut a portage on right up a little knoll, across a beaver meadow, across a small brook near its origin, and then north along a hill of birch, and finally across what was once a flat stand of jackpine to the sand creek. In the process we bypassed a pretty cascade-falls on the water we were traveling. Cannot be seen from our trail. About 800 yards, obviously not very good.

Creek runs with good current, but a multitude of turns, and almost as many wind falls. We were on it 2 hours because of wind falls before stopping for the night in a jackpine stand on left. Not bad considering the emergency.

Creek to Eastmain to Below 1st Sod House --

Windfalls become less frequent and bends become less abrupt, but creek is still very narrow and twisty.

Short portage around a beaver dam and rocky rapid on left over trail we made, though there was a beaver trail already there. 40 yards.

Soon another similar problem with beaver dam and rapid. Portaged 50 yards on right over a knoll through mostly burn. We had to do a lot of cutting, but the Indian had been there. An ancient storage rack on shore.

Creek enters Eastmain shortly afterwards -- took us 1 1/2 hours from campsite to river -- just before sudden, quick rapid. Still run the same in low water.

Dock on left shore on north side of a point just before '67 campsite. Could see nothing on shore. '67 campsite would be quite poor. Use surveyor's site just beyond if needed.

4 Part Rapid -- 1st part on left could not be run in low water because of shallows. Run on right around a corner into a bay. Then 2nd part on right could be run next to shore, but foot on right looked poor from that distance, so middle was run to left shore. 3rd and 4th sections taken together on left as in '69 starting with outside path on ledges!

Portage around falls -- whole portage had to be taken since rapid below short portage has ledges in very low water. Right trail comes out on rocks and carries along shore to very foot, so if in doubt probably easier to take left trail, load, run little horse race on right, look at foot, and then carry along rocks if necessary. Put in as far out on left point at foot of carry as possible -- shallow farther to right.

Rapid below 1st Sod House run on left around corner in very low water; run on right was not available.

Below 1st Sod House to First Chute --

Prospector has camp on right about a mile below our campsite. Prospector's site at mouth of Wabamisk is pretty dirty and not useable.

Wabamisk has a rapid right at entrance into bay and another just above. Perhaps there was an ancient portage trail on right, but no real path shows. Blazes there now belong to prospector's claim line. Proposed route to Opinaca does not look very feasible if dependent on Indian travel. (Note: Willie Moses at Eastmain indicated there was a portage trail here, but not adjacent to the rapid, but over more to the right in the bay; perhaps half way around to prospector's site. He claimed it went around a series of rapids here at foot -- although aerial photograph does not seem to indicate they are very large. Willie said there was then one more short portage to one that jumps to stream leading to Little Opinaca. Portage between streams he seemed to feel was swampy. He had another route to Little Opinaca starting from the Clearwater and taking the stream north just after the long portage around the S-shaped water and going north to a carry to LeCaron. He was somewhat vague after that, but indicated that little creeks that leave LeCaron on northwest could be paddled, eventually reaching the Little Opinaca.)

Harry Moses' sod house is just north of relatively large island after turn to south is made. Not at Wabistan River as '68 report says. Site is now pretty dirty -- interior of house has been further messed up and porch is beginning to fall and wood

supply is pretty rotten.  
Campsite at 1st chute pretty good in jackpine back from river.  
Pretty good tent sites.

#### 1st Chute to Indian Site on Conglomerate --

Watch little rapid before 3rd chute in low water -- there is an obvious V, but rocks to both sides of the V.

Lunch site at 5th chute very good. Indian has done a good bit of cutting behind rocks, but no obvious campsite, though one could be made easily inside alder.

Temagami camped at start of Conglomerate portage and then went through using short cut and ran left side of run off.

From 2nd Indian site, little creek used for water goes down to falls and can be used as a means of getting to see the gorge, but cut off from short cut trail is probably better. Camping here worked quite well.

#### Conglomerate to Clouston --

Left side of run off using short cut looked rough. Top part past rock on long trail from which pictures are taken could probably have been run tight to left shore, but right below it would have been impossible to stay near shore and the second drop would have angled out to center leaving major swells to left. But would have had to have been looked over carefully.

We took right side and had to let down first section because of shallows that would just float the canoe but was not practical on a paddle. Then second section run easily near right shore. Under most conditions this side looks much the better of the two -- unless there were much lower water.

Rapid coming into Clouston -- last section had to be run to right of center -- there was a stone in center -- and then angles left to stay out of major swells. Much easier in higher water when it is possible to stay on left shore.

#### Clouston to Island --

Cloth bag is still on spruce tree at start of trail into woods on far side of beaver meadow. Worst spot now for losing trail is 2nd black bog where it would appear trail ought to work left onto higher ground and into spruce -- it stays parallel to trees and in bog -- which is black, but not very wet. There are now a good set of blazes through it with one misplaced blaze on a tree on a little bit of rocky ground to left of bog.

Rapids below Clouston -- little rapid after eddy; still run on left, but could be run next to island if preferred. After turn south; 1st heavy rapid comes very soon and still in very low water we got by on left, but just barely. At second; we had to pull up behind the huge stone and scout the path to left of stone. There were two ledges between the rock and shore, both in the center of the area between rock and shore. We ran left of the first and right of the second with no trouble.

#### Island to Talking --

Rapid coming out of Island easily run on right again.  
We caught rocky island below for view of whole falls, actually best view comes crossing to right shore.

Rapids start before bend in river actually. No real problem until just before start of portage. One spot above had to be walked. Rocks just before trail could have been rounded as in '69, but

eddy at portage was shallow and looked hard to catch so we portaged from bay above rocks adding about 40 yards to carry. At foot, run off was very shallow and rock dodging on way out. Rapid before Talking had ledges and rocks in run on left shore -- there is a line of rock right straight across river here with bare rock way above water in center. We lifted over twice to get by on rocks on right shore, maybe 20 yards each one. It might be possible to run, but would have been very dangerous and tricky.

Campsite at Talking much improved by Temagami. One excellent tent site on left just at edge of rocks on his trail to kitchen on rocks on left. Very attractive kitchen, but much exposed of course. One or two more good tent sites should be bushed if site is to be really good.

We carried around bay at foot, although run could have been made on right next to shore through one small cellar and then through small horse races.

#### Talking to Foot of Basil --

No change.

From campsite at foot of Basil there is a faint trail that looks to go around bay staying on high ground at least as far as it was followed. Instead of going right at our fireplace, go straight ahead and follow curve of high land. Trail is blazed and can be followed, etched in ground, without much trouble.

#### Foot of Basil to Eastmain --

After cross to right, if going to look at Basil, walk left side of island -- quicker than right.

Run into grassy bay -- stay close to right shore.

Run almost to cliffs -- go outside 2 sections of white water off ledges and then almost straight staying as close to right shore as possible, but outside three or four stones.

Short run on right shore into sand-clay cliffs

Then another run along cliffs again close to shore and just around curve of next point.

Run should then finish curving around point and ending by running between large curl to left and a gravel bar on right. We had to portage; gravel bar was all exposed and no room between it and curl. Portage cuts across point through alders, or can be done by walking shore on small rocks. Ledge of '67 tip-over is just before this.

Then a deep bay follows of calm water to next bend. This should be run close to right shore, but was too shallow and foot too choked with rock, so we let down.

This is last real rapid. Comes into a fairly wide bay. On left are rocks for campsite purposes. Just ahead through one more narrows is the island marked on map.

Probably depends on water level, but approaching Post when coming down to left of islands, stay close to islands. It can be quite shallow coming past 1st island and just before 2nd.