

1973 EASTMAIN RIVER

Lake Albanel, Wabassinon River, Lake Baudeau, Shigami River (East), Route to Nitchequon to Upper Eastmain, Upper Eastmain, Bauerman River, Bauerman Lake to Lichteneger Lake, Clearwater River, Wabamisk, Little Opinaca Lake, Little Opinaca, Opinaca River, Basil, Eastmain House

Maps Required: Map Distribution Office
615 Booth Street
Ottawa

1 : 8 mile to inch series (1:500,000) Used for overall picture
Mistassini 32 NE
La Grande 33 SE
Eastmain 33 SW

1 : 250,000 Series
Lac Baudeau 32 P
Lac Rossignol 33 A
Lac Mesgouez 32 O
Lichteneger Lake 33 B
Opinaca Lake 33 C
Eastmain 33 D

1 : 50,000 Series
Ile Bohier (East and West Sheets) 33 A/8 E and W
Hecla Lake (East and West Sheets) 33 A/9 E and W

Travel Permit for Mistassini Park obtained from Minister of Tourisme of Fish and Game, Director General of Parks, Hotel du Gouvernement, Quebec. Andy Smyth did better on expenses by paying as he went along. Our fee was \$50. Fishing licenses must be obtained for the entire party -- \$10.50 for guide and staff and \$4.25 for campers.

Transportation to Lake Albanel via 2 station wagons and rented Hertz enclosed truck from North Bay. Night on way spent at cabin on Lake Tiblemont (See previous Eastmain reports). Bugs are terrible, try for a new location.

Re-Outfitting done by Fecteau Airways base at Temiscamie River, just off road prior to Lake Albanel. Arrangements made with Chibougamau base. Final shipment from camp sent by bus to Chibougamau 10 days prior to re-outfit and then flown by Fecteau to Temiscamie. Re-outfitting at island before Prosper Gorge used in '68, '69, and '70

SEE 1972 REPORT for MATERIAL to WABASSINON RIVER MOUTH

Road from Senneterre to Chapais --
No has some paving farther out from Chapais

Fecteau Air Base at Temiscamie located on right just before bridge over river. Small office, a warehouse, and 2 planes based there.

Albanel to Middle of Mistassini Crossing --
Lac Albanel -- we rented a tent with log sides and plywood floor for \$3 for the night in the campground at end of road.

Lac Albanel --

There is an Indian site almost directly across bay up on a high bank and in a stand of mostly poplar that might be used $73^{\circ} 3' 51^{\circ} 3'$

Head from point to south of large island off point and just north of closest small island -- this is the northern one of three tiny dots on the map $73^{\circ} 5' 51^{\circ} 3'$. Then keep looking back so this island is just north of point you left for heading to river. South of the islands that block river. There will be some current here. There is an Indian site on southern end of island when turn slightly north is made. $73^{\circ} 7' 51^{\circ} 6'$. Then follow shore of large peninsula to left and into narrows -- again some current. There is an Indian site on south point of large island north of here. $73^{\circ} 7' 51^{\circ} 7'$ Then follow island's south shore to river.

At Albanel Rapids there is a well used portage of 75 yards on left around rapids. $73^{\circ} 13' 51^{\circ} 8'$. The Indian runs his boat up next to south shore, but not good for us. There is a run just south of island in middle of rapid, but swells off south shore would be tough to stay out of. We ran as in '72 on north shore and crossed as soon as possible to portage with no real problem.

Last part of first portage to pond had a lot of windfalls across trail that $73^{\circ} 8' 51^{\circ} 8'$ Andy had cut out with an axe and portage was therefore basically the same as in '72.

Mistassini was up three feet from normal covering much of what had been beaches in '72.

Crossing from point of bay to shelter of islands was made in about 50 minutes.

Island Campsite in Middle of Mistassini to 3rd Portage on Wabassinon
There is a Government lunch site with covered picnic table on the southeast side of the island we camped on, $73^{\circ} 12' 51^{\circ} 13'$, but the land is not cleared for camping.

No change from previous years although water was quite a bit higher. Best landing at 1st portage at mouth of river is to right of point about 10 yards from end of point. $73^{\circ} 18' 51^{\circ} 15'$ Trail is less swampy from there and unloading easier.

3rd Portage to Stream to Baudeau --

Not much change from '69 or '72

There are two pull ups after river turns north after split around island -- both on left. $73^{\circ} 18' 51^{\circ} 26'$

Stream to Baudeau has a shallow rock dodging area just after leaving pond and then not much except the occasional rock and shallows until just before portage when there is a small rapid with an island in the middle -- either side is ok, but left looks a little easier -- although we ran right. $73^{\circ} 11' 51^{\circ} 32'$

Stream to Baudeau to Head of 1200 yard portage --

Rapid lined in '72, just before 30 yard portage, $73^{\circ} 10' 51^{\circ} 33'$ was run easily without getting out of canoe.

At 1200 yarder, $73^{\circ} 8' 51^{\circ} 34'$, look on left side of creek to see if maybe there is a well used trail there so that Indian might portage to pond and then portage again on lower river. Doubtful it would help much if lower river is rapids choked. No obvious portage ending in pond at end of 1200 yarder near creek entrance, but there are several branches of the creek.

Campsite at head of 1200 yarder just big enough for the section. Tent sites a little rough, but otherwise acceptable. Walleye in area just below the falls.

Head of 1200 Yarder to Top of Baudeau --

Watch running rapid after 1200-yarder $73^{\circ} 8' 51'' 35'$ -- water throws over rocks on right that are difficult to avoid.

About 1 mile up Baudeau on left there is a large Indian winter camp $73^{\circ} 6' 51'' 36'$ built in '72-'73 back above the lake. One tent house with porch still standing complete. Two others taken down. Complete with a Christmas wreath on one of the trees!

At top of Baudeau Indian site on left in jackpine just short of last point on lake before river and just north of tip of largest island $73^{\circ} 6' 51'' 49'$. Good tent sites and plenty of room -- water shallow in front -- but lots of bugs probably due to swamp just over ridge to rear of site. Dry wood hard to come by, growth is all young. Best bet is on edge of swamp.

Baudeau to 2nd Portage on Shigami --

First Indian winter site after leaving lake is only a log siding frame for a tent and well grown over and not worth a stop. $73^{\circ} 5' 51'' 49'$

Second site would be much better -- it is right next door, but there is a new site almost directly across from it on south shore on narrowest piece of land between river and lake. Main camp actually faces lake, but can be reached from river. There is a wet marsh that has to be crossed, however, best done by taking some of the Indian poles from the river side and making a walk. House was covered with canvas, was not dug down and was smaller than the one at south end of Baudeau. Porch in front still had canvas on top and was log sided instead of brush as one at south of Baudeau. Lots of beaver stretchers and the usual plus a strange mallet head on a long pole with a notch in head and a small piece of wood like an airplane propeller tacked to it. Use difficult to imagine.

Current a little stronger than in '69 report this time -- water slightly higher.

Above 1st portage just at a little tiny point that sticks north there was a small rapid we could not paddle this time. $72^{\circ} 57' 51'' 56'$ We pulled up on right, but it was not good right next to shore and maybe left would have been better.

At 2nd portage we carried old trail on right, but it looks like rapid could be lined or carried on left. Right side is longer and more alder choked. $72^{\circ} 51' 51'' 58'$

Campsite at top pretty poor. We cut a kitchen near water and wannigan line on a hill. One tent site at kitchen, rest in burn behind. Mosquitoes terrible and no swimming at top at least. Canoes have to stay at bottom.

2nd Portage to Start of Portages around Shigami Rapids --

Campsite at next portage $72^{\circ} 50' 51'' 58'$ would be poor -- as bad as pervious one.

Campsite at top of last portage before Shigami turn would be best in area. $72^{\circ} 47' 51'' 58'$

Rapid between Indian sites was paddled easily. $72^{\circ} 44' 52'' 2'$
After Indian camps heading north $72^{\circ} 44' 52'' 2'$ first section

had to be walked up; river was too shallow near shore to track. We went left side around island -- maybe coming up along grassy island would be better or right side here. Left was tough on canvas and wet for everyone. Very little tracking as in '69 and travel was much worse. Portage around falls 72° 43' 52° 2' starts at foot of what looks like an impossible set of shallows and a heavy rapid can be seen ahead coming around the bend. Trail relatively obvious going up bank, but if not on left shore might be missed. Paddle above falls is maybe 2 miles to last pull up. 72° 42' 52° 3' Stream enters left side of pond. Campsite at start of portages good but not worth rave notices -- one at falls might be more fun with fishing potential. One we used very shallow water not very good for bathing or fishing.

Start of Portages to Top of last 400 yarder on river -- Bay off river this time was extremely shallow and had to be poled across numerous sand bars to get to river. 72° 41' 52° 4' In first large water on river 72° 40' 52° 4' there is a relatively deep bay on left -- or west side -- with an Indian grave just back of sand beach with green and red picket fence around. Several very old blazes marking it plus some new ones. Path then became confusing but was marked by current and relatively frequent Indian sign in the form of camps, blazes, and cans hanging on trees. We paddled up swift that was lined in '69 which comes fairly soon in this region. Short portage 72° 36' 52° 7' goes around two rapids with a pool between. Better landing is about 10 yards short of going up next to rapid as far as possible. Campsite at top of 400 yard portage 72° 32' 52° 7' was fine except for no swimming in shallow water in front. One small pike from rapids. Campsite at start of portage was certainly adequate also if wanted.

Top of 400 Yard Portage to Height of Land Lake -- Portage from stream leaves after 2nd point following little stream that falls into river. 72° 31' 52° 8' Paddle to right to second portage is fairly long 72° 31' 52° 8' and like through three ponds. Indian campsite on the 800 yarder is half way across. If aerial photograph is carried of water before Height of Land Lake 72° 32' 52° 10' narrow opening to lead to last water is the second opening -- the first one that looks possible on the photo is blocked. Approach to Height of Land portage is only 200 - 300 yards long not 600 -- rocks block further paddling.

Height of Land Lake to About 4 miles up stream to Nitchequon -- After Indian camp of lunch site of '69, 72° 33' 52° 13', creek headed northeast is shallow. After turn to right almost immediately a rapid with portage on left. 50 yards. Stream then runs smooth and shallow for a while followed by a succession of relatively easy pull ups. At a small bend to right 72° 31' 52° 13' a rapid steeper than

any others. Just before this is a shallow pull up and in bay on left before that pull up is a blaze. A thin spit of land separates stream from pond just north of it. Best bet is to portage across this thin neck of land into pond, paddle pond to eastern end and find portage back to stream. Last trail is there and very well used. Should be about a 300 yard portage and will avoid a succession of pull ups -- most are easy but time consuming and rough on canoes. One just after short carry to pond -- there are about three trails for the short carry -- is rough and one later on about half way up is rough. There is a well used Indian camp at top of long portage.

Other possible Indian route might be to portage on left branch of stream before the 1st carry which is on right branch, and into western end of pond.

After portage we should have taken $72^{\circ} 32' 52^{\circ} 13'$ stream has a large number of rocks to avoid so going is quite slow and a succession of small pull ups and swifts. None particularly hard, but stream is quite shallow and more poling than paddling is done in the swifts. Aerial photograph helps in following the route, although current would do it also.

We camped on a 1-tent Indian site on right just before end of wide stretch on 4 to inch map on a small beach that faces west. $72^{\circ} 27' 52^{\circ} 14'$ Site was quite good for tent sites. Water in front quite shallow, but it probably would be anyway. Only pike found in water.

4 Miles up Stream to 2nd Lake at Top of Stream --

Leaving campsite stream flows fairly deep. Last circular bay on left has an Indian site just at entrance to bay. $72^{\circ} 27' 52^{\circ} 15'$

Stream is paddlable for another mile or so with one Indian site on left. Then starts breaking into small swifts and pull ups again.

After esker starts on left there is an especially long straight series of pull ups or tracking done on right. $72^{\circ} 26' 52^{\circ} 15'$ Foot was very shallow, but after that going was fairly steady.

At top of this stretch was an especially steep rapid portaged on good trail on left. Indian campsite at portage. About 75 yards. Goes past a couple short rapids on a curve to left.

A mile above another portage $72^{\circ} 24' 52^{\circ} 16'$ on left on good trail. 75 yards. Indian campsite again. All along numerous pull ups and shallows. This portage goes through spruce for a short distance and then follows river for last part to bypass a final swift.

Another mile above or more after a reasonably long paddle there is a quick waterfall of a couple feet. $72^{\circ} 24' 52^{\circ} 16'$ Trail on left about 20 yards or lift over rocks at falls. Very large Indian site with maybe a half dozen tent sites.

It then becomes possible to paddle more and pull up less watching for shallows, rocks, and sand or gravel bars.

About $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 miles above a portage on right around a steep rapid $72^{\circ} 23' 52^{\circ} 17'$ 50 yards. Indian campsite. Located at narrows that can be seen on 1:50,000 map.

At next narrows $72^{\circ} 23' 52^{\circ} 17'$ portage on left up and over tip of esker. 50 yards. Indian site at top of carry, not very large this time.

Then large lake is paddled. Entrance to it is shallow, but resi

is fine, water deep enough to paddle easily as opposed to river below.
Beaver dam had to be pulled apart leaving lake -- only real sign of beaver so far.
At next narrows $72^{\circ} 19' 52''$ $18'$ portage 40 yards on right around steep rapid. Indian site.
Final approach to last lake was extremely shallow, sand bottom, and canoes had to be walked 40 - 50 yards scraping bottom.
Would be possible to portage along left shore easily.
Lake is easily paddled to left corner of last bay $72^{\circ} 17' 52''$ $18'$ on right where portage takes out. Indian campsite about 50 yards up trail from water. In an open stand of small spruce. Quite good except for distance from water and shallow water in front.

Second Lake to First Rapid at Ile Bohier --

Portage goes straight to long thin pond higher up on stream. 1 mile. Excellent walk through jackpine and young spruce. Indian campsite about $7/8$ way over with water probably drawn from creek to left. Indian site at end of carry nowhere near as good, ground is rough and loading area is shallow and grassy.

Thin lake is paddled to end and very narrow creek is entered. $72^{\circ} 16' 52''$ $19'$ Creek twists and turns but water is reasonably deep. Indian trail parallels the creek on north side so there are various possible take out areas. We went up creek maybe 300 yards, trail seemed to leave creek and angle off there, but apparently there is a second, better used trail that starts farther up creek and at least looking at it from other end does not climb as many hills.

Our trail about 1000 yards, wet in a few places, less well used than others on the route -- other trail is better used. Climbs up hills toward end and just before water is reached there is a very high hill which is highest point on our route and is over 1600 feet. Puts in behind a hooked point about $1/4$ mile from west end of lake. Indian campsite at end of trail not great but would do.

Indian route then must turn east to reach Eastmain well to the east of Ile Bohier.

We turned west and promptly lost the Indian. Small rapid on creek out was run. We then let down a rapid we should not have let down -- too shallow and too many stones.

After ponds we cut a portage trail on right about 150 yards around last part of creek before larger pond. $72^{\circ} 17' 52''$ $20'$ (Aerial photo helps identify ponds along creek) Start poor walking, but rest followed a ridge and was not too tough.

Then all narrows up until one before last lake-like area were either taken slowly on a paddle or let down easily, mostly because there was a stone in the foot of what would have been the run or there was a turn too tight to make on a paddle.

In narrows between last and next to last lake-like areas there was a semi-falls or chute that we carried on left 30 yards. $72^{\circ} 17' 52''$ $21'$ Rock area on left just before was a good lunch site and carry could be made from there, but walking is not too good.

After last lake-like area very little of stream can be paddled and most of that has rocks and current.

We portaged three times to pond $72^{\circ} 17' 52''$ $22'$ First on left

and last two on right. The first two by angling up from the river to more open ground and the last next to stream through an area of low alder-like bushes. Each of the first two about 150 yards. Last about 50 yards.

From pond area we portaged in a straight line on right through fairly open country right to river. About 400 yards.

First rapid on Eastmain cannot be touched. $72^{\circ} 18' 52'' 23'$
Old Indian site on left in burn about 50 yards above any swift water. Trail used to start here and go to bay after rapids -- there is a second one on turn to west of river that is portaged also. Campsite at head ok. Good view from high open hill just north of site. Trout in rapids.

First Rapid at Ile Bohier to Bend to west in Hecla Lake --

Trail from campsite goes left of first knoll -- old Indian trail also went left of next two, but easier in burn to go right of second two in a relatively straight path to bay. Final approach to river pretty brushy.

About 2 - 3 miles north $72^{\circ} 19' 52'' 24'$ river starts to bend east and there is a bay straight ahead. About 50 yards to right of left corner of bay a portage trail starts to a small lake-pond. 300 yards, excellent trail, well used. Large Indian campsite at start of trail.

At northwest corner of lake next portage leads back to river, 600 yards -- longer than expected because it skirts stream and its rapids. Large Indian campsite at start. Poor shallow loading area at end.

About a mile ahead on river there is an island that almost bridges river. $72^{\circ} 16' 52'' 25'$ Right side is much too steep to try. Left side could probably be run straight down center in some conditions. Foot is poor with a circular rock area that has a few breaks in it. There is a portage trail on left, 150 yards, that we used. Takes out in a bay at head of rapid in an area that will hold only two canoes. Trail well used, but not as good as previous two.

Just ahead, about 400 yards, is a bay on left. Portage trail around next series leaves on right side of the bay and climbs a small rise in a stand of jackpine. Trail follows a ridge for the most part and is a very good trail except maybe for slippery rocks toward end. Rapids being carried can be partially seen about $3/4$ of the way over. Large Indian campsite at start of trail. 800 yards.

Country following is mostly tight spruce stands.

About four miles ahead on left of large thin island there is a small rapid at the top of the island. $72^{\circ} 12' 52'' 29'$

Just before river turns west there are two islands across river. $72^{\circ} 10' 52'' 31'$ We ran rapid between the islands. The right side looked much steeper.

Old surveyor's camp on sand beach to right just after rapids. Indian cache on shore. Would make a terrible campsite.

Due north of rapid, about $1/2$ mile, there is an Indian campsite, quite good, off a small sand beach. Tents all together, but plenty of rood.

Hecla Lake to End of 1000 yard portage --

River flows with current until bend to south is made about 3 miles down. $72^{\circ} 14' 52'' 31'$ Not really a rapid at turn, but current quickens appreciably.

About two miles farther river swings northwest and a heavy cascade-falls rapid appears. 72° 17' 52° 30' Portage on left out of a small bay before any serious white water comes up, but current is swift from a point on left into bay. Trail takes out on a swmi-grassy, alder landing and is hard to locate and very poorly used now. Start is vague, but fairly easy to follow after that. About 900 yards, puts in down a steep bank of scraggly bush. Ancient Indian campsite at start of trail would be poor. Trail hard to follow in two places -- 1st where a rocky stream bed appears on left and it looks as though trail will go into it, instead trail curves right and follows side hill of a small hill to right. 2nd stream bed is crossed just about straight ahead.

Around next bend is a heavy rapid as river swings north. 72° 18' 52° 30' There is supposed to be a channel to left of some islands, but is too narrow and shallow. We ran tight to right shore around curve. Must be looked over, would differ in other water conditions.

Just ahead we ran south side of next marked rapid, 72° 18' 52° 30' running south shore easily just scouting from canoe after a slow approach.

Two miles ahead at large island south shore is followed. 72° 22' 52° 29' A small rapid at top of channel. Then stream narrows and Meat Portage is on left. Trail very hard to get to across shallows and boulders. Starts at last possible landing on left and goes over boulders and grassy area into bush. Once through alder starts paralleling river mostly in jackpine and then through a swampy area to river. About 300 yards. Very poor Indian site at foot. Poorly used trail.

Just below channel has a last rapid starting right and run out toward left watching stones in the process. Final drop splits two stones.

Just around bend a heavy pair of rapids one on either side of a point. 72° 23' 52° 30' Trail is on left behind an island and in last relatively calm bay before rapid. Trail cuts across point missing both rapids. 1000 yards. After vague beginning goes up an incline in a stand of jackpine and runs this way for 3/4 of the distance. Then hits a wet place and a creek bed before final approach to river. Campsite at foot was fine but sheltered from river by trees and had not been used for a long time. Several small trout from rapids, but no keepers.

1000 Yard Portage to 4th Rapid below Misask River --

From foot of 1000 yard portage river is crossed to north channel around large island 72° 24' 52° 31' Portage takes out on flat rock area just at head of falls on right side.

Approach is made down swift water following shore, but is easy Cascade is spectacular. No campsite at either top or bottom of trail. Trail goes up an incline and then flat for a while to drop to river. Low says drop is down 100 feet of hill, but is wrong. 800 yards. Poorly used. Puts in just at foot of drop.

Rest of north channel is a succession of rapid areas and was run on right side with one stop to look over a place where it was necessary to move out from shore.

At foot of island it can be seen that left side of island would have been impossible.

Misask River enters from north just below with an island of till

separating the two parts of the river. Just after bend to south a rapid starts. $72^{\circ} 27' 52^{\circ} 30'$ We followed left shore and then to north end of rocky island where we went right and lifted over a small waterfall and then ran left shore, crossed river, and ran out on right. At next rapid about 1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles below $72^{\circ} 28' 52^{\circ} 29'$ we ran right side down to a rocky point and then around point and tight to shore and ran out along shore. Ahead 1 mile below is an unmarked rapid $72^{\circ} 29' 52^{\circ} 29'$ also run on right with one steep place to look over. From here river flows shallow with good current through islands of till. No real rapid, but fast water all the way through islands. About 1 - 2 miles below islands $72^{\circ} 37' 52^{\circ} 24'$ is a heavy rapid which can be heard from afar, but is difficult to see. We ran right shore to head of island, scouted and ran right shore behind island to first heavy water on that side. Portage trail starts here on right -- rest of right shore cannot be run. Trail goes through a burn but can still be followed. 300 yards. Reasonable walking except for the landings where alder has grown up. Put in off a huge flat rock area, best in bay to right rather than main river. Indian had tent sites about 40 yards before rock. Rock would make a great kitchen in good weather. Campsite ok. Only small trout taken from rapids.

4th Rapid to Top of Channel Portage --

About 1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles below campsite an unmarked rapid $72^{\circ} 38' 52^{\circ} 24'$ run on right.

2 miles below another unmarked rapid $72^{\circ} 41' 52^{\circ} 22'$ run on right (?)

Marked rapid west of south end of Lac Cadieux $72^{\circ} 43' 52^{\circ} 21'$ was run to right side of island on right shore to curving shore before major white water, but with good current. Canoes stopped above white water, lined down shore and around a small point into a small bay and lifted over a small point and then run out on right shore. There was a ledge just below point lifted over that could not be avoided on a paddle.

Just below river swings west and gets fairly wide. Old surveyor's campground on right just after turn.

Reasonable current, but not much else down to next marked rapid. $72^{\circ} 50' 52^{\circ} 18'$ We pulled into large white rock island in center and portaged over rock island 25 yards and ran foot. Channels on either side of rock we went over are falls and impossible. There is also a left side on the far side of a wooded island that might be run perhaps tight to island, but we did not look, and falls were worth a stop.

Rapids after turn to east were run on right channel, quite shallow, next to right shore. $72^{\circ} 50' 52^{\circ} 15'$ More water goes to left of island and maybe this approach is better in lower water.

River to Channel Portage quite wide with numerous sand bars. Right rocky shore is followed to Channel Portage passing two islands at top. $72^{\circ} 53' 52^{\circ} 13'$ West channel is crossed to head of rocky island in middle of river. Island is quite high and a good view of left or major side is had from top of hill. Old portage trail around top rapid starts at tip of island and basically follows ridge of rock to put in below

rapid. Rapid might be run, but is full of rock and quite steep. 200 yards. Trail is there but hard to follow and vague and most of it goes across rock.

Right channel is followed to top of a pair of falls that drop back into main river on left. Just before falls a narrow stream on right leads to a small pond and portage takes out at end of pond. 800 yards, excellent walker through jackpine. Puts in below all action of rapid.

There was also an old trail that went down to river over rock between the falls. If desired river could probably be followed on right shore with maybe a lift over or two across a rocky point. This might be preferable to long carry if water were low or reasonably so. We did not take the chance and carried.

No Indian campsites on any of the portages. We made one at top of 800 yard trail with tent sites up on a rock ridge between pond and main river. Kitchen in old Indian fire area just back from water. Tent sites poor and kitchen small and poor. Trout found at base of falls.

Channel Portage to Two Miles past Mountain 1801 --

After run off from Channel, river swings right and a long down hill glide of good current follows until river widens.

At chute above Mink Portage $72^{\circ} 58' 52'' 11'$ -- first rapid line marked on map -- there is an impossible chute of fierce white water. Portaged on rock on left with unloading area in bay at very top of chute. 50 yards. Spectacular chute.

Mink Portage is just below several hundred yards. $72^{\circ} 59' 52'' 10'$ Canoes brought into bay at top in what would be a very small falls in higher water, lifted over rock, reloaded, paddled 15 yards across bay and unloaded at a landing next to left shore. Carried 50 yards straight ahead along a rock ridge on right of a sort of valley that would be a stream bed maybe in the spring. Garrying the whole business right from the first lift over could be done on rock on left if alder were cleared back so canoes could be carried by. Mink is even more spectacular.

Run off from Mink ends in a small swift about $3/4$ mile below best taken on left.

FROM HERE TO BIRCH POINT north of NEOSKWESKAU 1969 and a little section of 1972 NOTES SHOULD BE CONSULTED. ADDITIONS:

In narrows about 1 mile before first portage after Vick Crick current picks up appreciably. $73^{\circ} 7' 52'' 8'$ No rapid, but a good downhill glide. Several Indian campsites between Vick Crick and 1st portage.

At Sharp Rock Portage $73^{\circ} 10' 52'' 5'$ we thought better of running top corner as in 1969 and lined the top, otherwise as in 1969 except everyone carried to foot of cascade.

We used an old Indian campsite on right 2 miles after Mountain 1801 $73^{\circ} 21' 52'' 5'$ and just before short cut of river turns south. Not very good, but ok for a night. Sand beach in front and tents on moss in jackpine, could have been better.

Two Miles Past Mountain 1801 to Sunday Portage --

Rapid before branches join $73^{\circ} 23' 52'' 2'$ is quite close to junction rather than where previously marked on map.

Camping area after sections join $73^{\circ} 22' 52'' 2'$ on left side had

at least one orange canoe cached.
Sunday Portage made into a campsite at head of trail with kitchen just above landing. Not great, but serviceable. Rapid was hard to fish with no shore line to walk and no good looking pools for trout.

Sunday Portage to 4 Miles down Veneur --

Rapid below Sunday much farther down river than first marked on map. In high water at least there are two heavy swifts first, both run on right. Major rock dodging rapid was run out on far right where water is considerably deeper than on left where run starts. $73^{\circ} 32' 52^{\circ} 0'$

First rapid after Kawatstakau $73^{\circ} 38' 51^{\circ} 57'$ run on right as before, after rocky point at start there is a large eddy on right shore. Foot of rapid past there is the problem with stone.

Second Rapid -- marked one $73^{\circ} 41' 51^{\circ} 56'$ -- ledge is really several large white rocks map maker probably took to be a rapid. It is the easiest of the group.

Third rapid $73^{\circ} 44' 51^{\circ} 55'$ just before Shigami, run on left is fairly shallow.

Shigami rapid entering river just below $73^{\circ} 44' 51^{\circ} 55'$ has a semi-circle of rock at foot.

Sloping rock just past Shigami is an excellent lunch site, but could not be used for a good campground.

Current through island section before Veneur $73^{\circ} 47' - 51' 51^{\circ} 55'$ was pretty good with a couple swifts. There are at least two reasonably sized islands before Veneur that are not shown on map.

We camped on western point of a small bay just onto Mesgouez map $74^{\circ} 0' 51^{\circ} 56'$ off a sand beach in a jackpine area.

Nothing to recommend it but more open than surveyor's site at start of Veneur used in '69.

Veneur to Nasacauso --

No change in route. There are more islands coming down into Birch Point than shown on map, however.

Nasacauso to Reoutfitting Island --

No trace was found of Perkins trail around Ross Gorge unless it starts at a blaze about 100 yards to right of creek entrance to real portage. If so, it would be inordinately long and does not go down to get a view of gorge. To see gorge we walked shore as far as possible until we ran out of shore line and then went back into bush. There is a high bit of land just on corner where heavy water starts and best bet is to stay to left of it. Rough heading would be to keep the eastern sun just on the right shoulder -- head just left of the sun. Try to hit a circular bay just below where other branch of river enters. There is a large rock here from which view is as good as any. Gorge is really a heavy cascade here. Prior to that gorge is only heavy rapids, below high land. There is a final section below that is very difficult to get to, but looks to be just a very heavy rapid. Walking is pretty good through bush, usual windfalls, but moss is reasonably firm and scraggly bush not too bad. The '67 site is mismarked on map. $74^{\circ} 27' 52^{\circ} 4\frac{1}{2}'$ is on the right shore almost at the end of the last large island and

Can be found by just following the river working right when logically possible. We went all the way across to the right shore immediately which is unnecessary and longer than needed. The Indian seems to have re-used the site just above this back up a side creek -- new poles could be seen.

Reoutfitting Island to Prosper --

Rapid just below reoutfitting on left branch was carried. Probably should not be run unless ledges on left shore at slight turn to left are out of water and can be lifted over. This will probably not be the case unless water at reoutfitting area is well below bank level and plane scrapes pontoons in water.

Several more swifts on left side than noted on map but none particularly difficult, but they have to be watched. Before coming into Prosper we knocked down dry wood on left just below cigar shaped island $74^{\circ} 37' 52'' 9'$ -- there is a good landing just at end of burn where river makes a slight left turn.

Prosper campsite has been used by others making trail much more obvious. They all seem to portage across rocks -- easier to go straight ahead on little used KKK trail. This time only whitefish and walleye out of foot of Prosper falls

Prosper to Foot of KKK Portage across peninsula below Prosper -- Stop at corner of eddy for a final picture of Prosper $74^{\circ} 35' 52'' 10'$ Right shore can be followed reasonably easily below eddy, best to look over, but a few rocks out from shore have to be rounded. Then a relatively calm stretch follows to a point out from right shore. Some distance below point there is a large bald rock area sticking out into river. Running outside of this would be impossible, but would probably be possible to lift over the rock into a bay-like eddy below. At foot of this eddy is another rock jutting into river. Again this one probably would have to be lifted over if right side is followed although in low water maybe a course could be found outside it. After second lift over right side can be run close to shore in high water at least until close to foot where a series of rocks have to be rounded to the outside. Then back to the inside course going inside a large rock and outside a series of rocks out from right shore that almost make a ledge. Crossing to portage on left is easy through chop.

With our high water we went down right shore to looked down at first rock that would have to be lifted over, went back up along right shore a fair distance and crossed easily to left shore, came down left shore a fair distance to an eddy, climbed back in burn to walk first drop -- best to walk to a rock area that takes you right down to river at major problem and then ran to outside of a rock off left shore into a fairly large eddy below. If there is a suspicion that next rapid cannot be taken, walk from here, catching next eddy and lining back up is very hard and tricky -- which we did. There is no good way to portage from here around next falls without climbing very large hills or walking through large areas of scraggly bush or both. If next rapid cannot be run because of swells, cross river here -- it was difficult but not impossible, and take right shore.

If water at Prosper is inordinately high, best to follow right shore all the way. In our water we could make the crossing. Campsite made at foot of 150 yard portage across peninsula $74^{\circ} 35' 52'' 12'$ with good kitchen on rock area at landing, but poor tent sites up on top of hill to left of portage trail. Nothing great, but it worked.

Foot of 150 Yarder to Second Portage on Bauerman River --

Rapids pretty well drowned out in high water all the way down to Bauerman. Where rocks might have to be dodged or rounded this time there was practically no problem.

To get up Bauerman River best approach is to run right shore to a rocky point -- '67 report says an island, but it is really a peninsula -- island shown on map is farther left. $74^{\circ} 57' 52'' 9'$ If water is low Dunmore claims chute right next to peninsula can be run, otherwise, as we did, portage along rock 30 yards to bypass chute. Rock at beginning of portage makes an excellent lunch site. Then run past peninsula and start up Bauerman River. If desired there is room to cross below island if Baureman Falls on main river were visited first -- crossing ought to start back at sand beach, however.

Shortly up river there are two falls in succession. $74^{\circ} 57' 52'' 10'$ Dunmore solution was to carry right side of rocky island on first, cross to right shore, and lift over second. Only possible in lower water. They must have walked rock to portage on island, path was under water in '73. Then crossing to right shore would have been dangerous in '73.

Better course in high water is to portage both falls at once on right. Landing is a gravel beach and trail goes up a steep rise to a plateau which is burned so only traces of old trail can be seen. Follow a valley parallel to river until hill to left drops off and water can be seen, angle toward water, but staying above alder and landing is just on lip of top falls. Real trail probably goes a little farther up but would be on side hill to landing. 150 yards. Walking through burn ok except for last 20 yards to river.

Current in river above is swift but can be paddled to a small rapid about at bottom of next bend to south. $74^{\circ} 56' 52'' 9'$ We lined right side, too steep to paddle.

At first marked rapid $74^{\circ} 54' 52'' 9'$ portage starts on a sand beach about 50 yards right of rapid. Trail mostly through burn, except last 25 yards. Was blazed and recut by Matthew of Dunmore in '72. 350 yards.

We looked for a Dunmore campsite at portage, but now guess it was on right short of portage. We made a campsite at start of portage -- terrible.

Head of Second Portage on Bauerman to Start of Portage from 2nd Pond above Bauerman Lake --

About 1 mile above campsite there is a series of three heavy rapids. $74^{\circ} 53' 52'' 10'$ First carried on right on an old Indian trail that had to be recut through windfalls. 150 yards. 2nd lined on left. Has a steep drop, but lining was fairly easy with no real problem areas. 3rd lined on left also. Drop not as great, but water more shallow and lining was harder.

Soon above river turns left -- $74^{\circ} 52' 52'' 11'$ there is a deep

narrow bay on right that would lead nowhere.
1/4 mile above river splits around a large island. Left side looks to contain more water, but route is much longer. We took right side that seemed shallow in spots -- one very small narrow swift to paddle. Maybe in lower water it would be too dry.

Then river widens. After a round island there is a sharp point out from left shore, turn left around it -- there is a long thin, narrow point out from right shore and if turn is not made the bay behind it would be an unnecessary paddle.

Straight ahead is a spectacular cascade that drops maybe 30 feet. $74^{\circ} 52' 52^{\circ} 13'$ Possible to paddle right up to foot to photograph. Portage is on left at last possible eddy. Trail is not too well used and bushy, but perfectly passable. Watch areas where it crosses rock. It leads around to a pond to left of cascade rather than over rock near cascade. 200 yards. It might be possible to make a campsite on top of cascade. An excellent lunch site at least.

About 4 miles down Bauerman on left there is a pond just off lake. Just opposite north end of pond is an Indian cache with lots of goods stored. $74^{\circ} 49' 52^{\circ} 15'$ Just above, into bay on left at top of Bauerman at south end of bay $74^{\circ} 49' 52^{\circ} 16'$ is an old sod house. Dunmore says they camped at Indian site -- land at cache is poor, but nearby might be ok. Land at sod house was not bad.

Portage to 1st pond is on left just before a sharp point -- maybe 50 yards from start of point. $74^{\circ} 48' 52^{\circ} 16'$ There is an old Indian campground just onto point making it look like trail starts there. Portage is well used but bushy now, goes up over a hill to pond. 400 yards, good walker.

Portage to next pond is 500 - 600 yards left of end of last portage and across pond. $74^{\circ} 49' 52^{\circ} 16'$ Starts to left of a small point that sticks out from north shore and goes through thin jackpine stand. Excellent walker. 400 yards. We made a campsite at start. Perfectly useable, but not good.

Second Pond above Bauerman Lake to INCO site west of Village Lakes
Portage --

Straight across pond from end of trail a tiny creek leads out. $74^{\circ} 50' 52^{\circ} 16'$ Portage 250 yards on right at start of creek -- creek is blocked with trees and could not be tackled anyway.

Paddle to northwest corner of lake that follows. $74^{\circ} 53' 52^{\circ} 17'$ Temptation is to try turning west too soon. There is a camp of some sort on north shore about half way along it. $74^{\circ} 52' 52^{\circ} 17'$ There was what looked like a large white tent there, but we did not go close. Stream leads out of northwest corner. Portage 300 yards on right around a narrow section at start.

About 1 - 2 miles on a sort of dead end or T is reached. $74^{\circ} 56' 52^{\circ} 16'$ Stream goes out to right. That to left is an entering stream. Midway between the two is a portage across a neck of land. About 50 yards left of stream being followed. 150 yard carry.

Then a widening section that finally narrows down. Dunmore supposedly had a campsite in box-like bay about 1 - 2 miles from previous portage. $74^{\circ} 58' 52^{\circ} 16'$. About a mile below $74^{\circ} 59' 52^{\circ} 16'$ stream narrows to only about 6 feet with a

very short rapid with a stone in the center of the foot. We ran just left of the stone. Dunmore lined it. Then river is narrower than before with several twists, but generally moves west. Finally narrows to a section with three quick falls. 75° 2' 52° 16' Portage 50 yards on right, puts in just below falls.

The map is followed through Lichteneger with some confusing turns. Most of shore line is burned. Some fairly recent until high land point is rounded just before turn south. 75° 15' 52° 15' There are some attractive rock areas on right as the peninsula is paddled. Otherwise no good looking campsite areas on route. Dunmore made a campsite on end of finger-like point just before largest section of lake is reached. 75° 12' 52° 17'

We camped in an INCo campsite -- occupied by 3 INCo men at the time -- in bay that faces east just past end of Village Lakes portage. 75° 17' 52° 13' Tent sites on moss and are pretty good. Otherwise site is not particularly attractive, but offers very good shelter.

INCo Site to Top of Clearwater --

No Indian site seen on island about 3 miles below portage to Clearwater as noted on '68 report. Island is too small really for us to use.

Portage trail to Clearwater much better used than report says now. 75° 23' 52° 17' Dunmore is supposed to have camped here. Maybe just below put in spot on left?

First rapid after portage and wide stretch run on left -- has a very powerful eddy at foot. 75° 27' 52° 17'

After second rapid and good lunch site just below we tried left channel to Clarkie. Several rapids at top run easily until a minor rapid leads to a curve to right and an obviously more powerful one follows around the bend. Eddy straight ahead is easily caught before curve has to be made. We could not touch rapid and cut a 50 yard trail on right starting just at lip of drop and ending at run off below. Unloading is difficult to get down to start of carry, but beginning it sooner would have meant carrying in swamp. Loading for only one canoe at foot. If there is a real trail here it probably starts just before the small rapid at the top which we ran. It would not be much longer in length than our route. Dunmore claimed to have made a 10 yard portage somewhere here -- but where?

The pond is paddled to Clarkie and entered through a good deep channel with minor current at best. 75° 28' 52° 16' Good lunch site on left of entrance with good swimming in current where creek enters. Drop off is sudden enough to dive in from sand beach shore.

'69 report says there is only one rapid in U-shaped area after Clarkie. There are three. 1st is on southern swing and has a fair pitch to it. 75° 31' 52° 15' Second is at bottom of U and is not very serious. Third is at top of U and has the stone in the foot that was well out of water in '73. Only one looked over; run on left was fine.

Then basically follow right shore staying out of obvious bays to chute which seems to run from west to east. It cannot be between island and mainland as map might have your think. 75° 37' 52° 16' After chute follow left shore to island

studded area and portage bay as in '69.

There are several fast sections after river turns north and one rapid to be run before river widens $75^{\circ} 37' 52'' 16'$ and bay or pond to right is taken -- there is a shallows on right just before pond entrance.

Paddle parallel to river in 1st pond. We had to portage 25 yards between 1st and 2nd pond. What trail there is is on left about 20 yards left of stream. Then turn right into 2nd pond through another shallow area.

About half way across portage Dunmore recut and rerouted the trail to get past a mass of windfalls. Job well done and blazes and trail easy to follow with a few windfalls still left.

Trout still in rapids -- best area seemed to be far side just up into pool above 1st little rapid.

Top of Clearwater to Bottom of S-shaped water --

2nd rapid leaving campsite $75^{\circ} 37' 52'' 14'$ in low water was run starting in left channel next to left shore for a very small run and then to left of both islands in a fairly narrow channel, but quite passable.

Portage below still ought to be made into one. Some portaged the first drop, put in, and then portaged the next little falls 40 yards below on right. Others kept on regular trail and then put in below this falls. In low water the next chute can be run watching eddy on left at foot and then bottom carried. If putting into water at all this is best way and cuts off about 150 yards of trail.

Wabun used campsite at 250 yarder and so it was slightly enlarged. $75^{\circ} 42' 52'' 14'$ Run off below campsite more difficult in low water, particularly section around bend that might well be looked over mainly because of shallows.

Large cleared area for a surveyor's camp -- probably INCo -- on left about $3/4$ mile before pond to south of river. $75^{\circ} 46' 52'' 14'$ Land looks good and would make an emergency site.

No Indian frames seen except ancient ones.

Rapid right of Island $75^{\circ} 47' 52'' 15'$ run on right shore at foot, staying parallel to swells and next two rapids were run in a bunch. Next one -- V is in center of river, and last one is run left of center.

Portage for S-Shaped water comes back in a bay to northwest, hidden from main stream and more or less behind a small island, $75^{\circ} 49' 52'' 15'$ Before triangular bay that goes south. Trail is now quite well traveled and easy to follow. We made an excellent campsite at foot of carry, about 75 yards from end of trail so that water is drawn from branch of river that curves near shore before final drop. Ground is fairly open and tent sites on the reindeer moss over sandy ground. Best trout fishing back at '68 site that can be reached by walking back from campsite to a blaze on a tree on high ground and following old '68 trail to right to top of major chutes. Someone else has camped on '68 tent site area unless we had a warming fire that night, but looks more recent.

S-Shaped Water to Great Bend --

Route no different. Trails better used than before. Indian site on 1st portage at falls before pond has been enlarged and used as a campground. $75^{\circ} 51' 52'' 14'$ Probably Andy.

river up to Indian route to Lac LeCaron $75^{\circ} 49' 52'' 15'$ falls into Clearwater at bend just before long rapid after S-shaped water. The rapid through which it enters has a sharp bend to left a short way up but portage trail seems to start on a point to right of river. Trail is obvious though not used recently. Has remains of an Indian fire, a couple bear skulls, and a large blaze. Location seems odd since there is a hill the trail will have to climb, rapid turns away from trail and there is a deep bay to right. (It might be interesting to look at photograph if one is available.)

Great Bend campsite beginning to look like an over used Temagami site so many people have used it. Wabun left it in a pretty dirty state. One full 45 gal. drum of gas and 1 empty left on site so Hydro has been there too. Rocks were walkable to '67 campsite above -- good trout along shore between falls above campsite and '67 site.

Great Bend to Below 1st Sod House --

Small house at top of curved rapid 4 - 5 miles below Great Bend is no longer there. $76^{\circ} 0' 52'' 12'$

Ledge on 4th part of 4 part or Birch rapid $76^{\circ} 8' 52'' 14'$ was a small problem in that we did not move soon enough to get outside it and almost clipped outside swell off it.

Portage below $76^{\circ} 14' 52'' 15'$ really should be taken on right trail except in good high water. We had to portage rocks on right again as in '70.

1st Sod House $76^{\circ} 20' 52'' 15'$ is now in very bad repair. Porch is all down and one of the support beams inside is broken.

Below 1st Sod House to Area of Compass Portage from Wabamisk --

No change to mouth of Wabamisk

1st set of rapids on Wabamisk $76^{\circ} 34' 52'' 13'$ required 3 short lines all on left. Slow going. No trail could be found, but lots of cuttings. Would probably be quicker and easier to cut a portage on higher ground to right of river that would put in well above top rapid.

Then a calm stretch follows and then several more rapids to line. Again probably better to cut a trail and portage.

Then only a couple pull ups to a small pond east of lake that is west of river $76^{\circ} 32' 52'' 15'$. A falls of about 3 feet and rapids above here. Portaged on left, right at base of cascade 150 yards to smooth water above. Faint traces of trail available, but basically reblazed with a little cutting.

No more line ups necessary, but a couple swifts and a couple minor log jams to get through to area of portage across to creek to Little Opinaca.

We camped on left shore $76^{\circ} 31' 52'' 17'$ in vicinity of portage in a thick stand of spruce and balsam in a terrible area of soft green moss with a slippery clay landing -- best land around! Now well marked with lots of camp furniture.

Compass Portage to Portage at Beaver Dam at Top of Stream to Little Opinaca --

Compass Portage is a nightmare -- considerably longer than the expected mile and a quarter and little if any sign of Indian travel. We may have taken out too low on river, but we carried across swamp to tip of stand of jackpine roughly west of our landing. Then slightly north of west across another

swamp to highest stand of jackpine in area on another point of solid land. We then took a due west magnetic compass reading and carried for a while in jackpine, across a narrow swampy area, and then through a spruce stand to a prospector's claim line that runs from southwest to northeast. We went north on line for a short distance and then turned west on his line at right angles to first and carried to northeast corner of pond, leaving line and cutting left just before pond -- line hits creek above. If this route is followed again, cross north-south claim line still on compass bearing and cut through spruce to intersect east-west line closer to pond than intersection of two lines -- there is a very wet area on east-west line just after corner that would be avoided. If Indian has a portage here at all it is probable that he takes out farther up the river than we did and carries swamp to our second point of jackpine, and it is likely this stand runs slightly south of west hitting the pond slightly below the middle of the pond. Anyway the route would still be more than a mile and a quarter. One other possibility might be checked -- there are two large blazes on left short one bend in river south of our landing and trail might start there and could use some jackpine in that area; would probably be even longer.

Pond $76^{\circ} 32' 52'' 17'$ mostly has grassy shore lines that are swampy making it difficult to get ashore to check campsites, but no good pieces of land appeared anyway. One very tiny channel just after creek starts where it was necessary to get out and slide canoe through grass.

Shortly an ancient beaver dam appears with alder growing on top that almost completely stops the river. We camped on right just short of dam in a stand of jackpine just back from river. Would have been good except that getting from river to campsite was very difficult and likely to be wet -- otherwise campground was good.

Beaver Dam on Stream to Little Opinaca Lake to First Portage after Little Opinaca Lake --

Portage around ancient beaver dam made through campsite on a poor trail we cut. After leaving jackpine goes somewhat along an old creek bed and then cuts left to river putting in on a dry walking area well below dam. Impossible to get through dam without doing a great deal of alder cutting and there are several streams trickling through the dam area. 150 yards.

Then stream runs fairly smoothly with twists and turns and the occasional beaver dam and occasional windfall.

Well after stream enters on left as shown on map $76^{\circ} 37' 52'' 18'$ there is a fairly straight stretch of maybe a half mile with lots of little frustrating rapids and shallows that cannot be run nor can they be let down on a line. Done by hopping in and out of the canoe and standing on rocks and sliding canoes through. Very slow.

Just before meanders start $76^{\circ} 39' 52'' 18'$ there was an ancient series of windfalls with rapids just around the corner. Left side of river was burned so we portaged 400 yards through burn to small pond at foot of series. Very evident signs of an Indian trail though we did not bother using it. Also several Indian tents had been pitched near foot of carry. Area is the only good camping area we saw coming down the

river though there were several other places where it appeared the Indian had been ashore.

Then there are several small fast moving areas through rocks -- tiny creek rapids, most of which can be run but the occasional one has to be done like the set before the portage. The last one a mile or so below the portage was let down on a line since it was steeper and faster than the rest.

From portage to just below here there was the occasional windfall to get by -- usually by forcing a passage through. One beaver dam in the stretch also.

The meanders start, and from here to Lake is really just a straight paddle.

Little Opinaca Lake shallow at least on south side. Look to be clay cliffs of small size on east side, but we really saw very little of the lake. No likely looking camping areas. South shore burned long ago.

As river leaves lake current picks up. $76^{\circ} 46' 52'' 21'$ Then around a bend a reasonable rapid run right of center.

Just below a steeper, quicker drop run down center.

Then a calm stretch, followed by a rapid on a left turn. To left at head of rapid is an obvious bay. Rapid can be run left of center, but to do so misses the portage trail and forces a take out below into a stand of burned timber with windfalls toppled like jackstraws and it is not worth it to run rapid as a result.

Portage takes out in right corner of bay and goes up rock and runs parallel to a cliff to left cutting an arc of the river. Area is burned but trail relatively easy to follow. Some clearing done by us, but more could be done, especially toward foot. 400 yards We camped at head of portage with nice kitchen on rock up above landing, but tent sites pretty much on rock or thinly covered rocks. Not very good, water in front is shallow and too far from kitchen.

First Portage on Little Opinaca to Little Opinaca Falls --

Below portage there is a short pond of maybe a mile. A heavy rapid leaves pond. $76^{\circ} 47' 52'' 22'$ Portage is on left through burn on a trail we cut, blazed, and invented without much regard for Indian trail. Small sections of it could be seen but were not worth tracing. Remains of an ancient campsite roughly in middle. We put in before rapid was completely finished and had a small run off to take. 400 yards. If taken again, trail has to be scouted first, it was not that well blazed.

A very small pond follows with another rapid leaving it. This one about twice as long. Indian trail used to take out in pond to left of river and carry would be about 600 yards. Instead we ran top section to a small eddy almost half way down, took out, and cut and blazed a trail to foot, again putting in before rapid was finished and having to run it out, 300 yards, again through burn and should be scouted before using again. Top run was on left side -- there is one heavy drop at top, taking drop as close to left shore as possible, and then following left shore fairly tightly to eddy at end of only stand of green spruce in area. Should be scouted first, eddy is hard to catch because of stone. In some water conditions the bottom section should well be run basically on the left.

About a half mile below rapid there is a superior jackpine area 76° 47' 52° 22' that would make an excellent campsite.

Perhaps a little difficult to store canoes since bank is steep. Narrows between ponds 76° 52' 52° 23' had only a little current.

There was a tent on right side before narrows in a small cove -- we did not investigate.

At end of narrow section after second pond 76° 57' 52° 26' a heavy rapid starts finishing after going around several bends just before the falls. The Indian trail is supposed to be on the left and would cut across a point and probably be about 600 yards. Parts of rapid are runnable and maybe whole thing in some water.

We found a newly cut trail by a prospector on right that if followed all the way will put in below the run off from the first falls. The whole trail would be a mile plus, some of it quite well cut and some through jackpine for easy walking. It cuts across point at top of rapid and then turns right and parallels the river rising up a slow, long hill to a point where river turns left and then cuts across point before falls and walks mostly through jackpine to calm below falls. Drop to water is a long hill. We cut off trail when it starts to cut point before falls and ran a trail parallel to river to end of rapid. All through jackpine. Campsite in jackpine at foot of our trail. Pretty good except for drawing water which is best done from canoe landing another 40 yards past tent area. 3/4 mile.

Best view of falls is from this side since they face a little east. It is a straight drop of 25 feet or so. Finish of prospector's trail can be followed and then work up to base of falls staying in jackpine if possible. Mist off falls blows onto cameras at foot. Or from campsite follow jackpine as much as possible toward sound of falls -- a lot shorter and quite easy.

Little Opinaca Falls to Third Falls on Opinaca --

Leaving campsite follow left shore. There is a little island on right shore and behind it a small bay, just around bay to west the falls start, but there is a little bay or eddy on right just before the fast water from which it ought to be possible to walk on east side to see falls.

Following left shore no problem gaining entrance to pond or lake west of falls. Indian portage around falls about 300 yards along shore and maybe 200 yards from obvious place where pond curves away from river. 77° 0' 52° 26' Most of shore is well wooded and trail entrance breaks the heavy growth. 1/2 mile. First half or more is across a beaver meadow that was quite dry when we went through and pretty good walking but would be wet in a high water or rainy year. Last part starts a slow gradual drop to water with alder pressing in on trail -- a miniture Clouston.

Second falls is more a cascade with a steep drop at top. Paddle back upstream 100 yards from foot of portage to photograph.

About 1 - 2 miles down 77° 1' 52° 26' is a heavy rapid starting as river swings to north. Indian trail at head of fast water on left. 150 yards. Instead of cutting point, turns right just after landing -- there are two landings, the Indian's and our prospector's. Carries almost parallel to the river

and puts in just west of tip of point. Considerable rapid and fast water after portage. 1st part run to right after loading and then roughly center to an eddy before next turn. Look over next part, foot is very shallow. Run starts on right, slide to center and then left shore at a bare rock side, then back toward left of center for foot watching stones and shallows.

This is last rapid to Frog Falls. River runs with good current to lake or pond where Opinaca joins. No land suitable for campsites was seen.

At lake, tent camp on north shore has been replaced with winter trailers. $77^{\circ} 12' 52'' 24'$ There is a bulldozed area on right and a larger one on left just as narrows start.

Supposed Indian trail on left has been bulldozed and used for fill. On right just before Frog Falls another area has been bulldozed for fill.

Campsite and portage at Frog Falls as before -- construction has left them alone. $77^{\circ} 14' 52'' 23'$

Large trailer park and camp on left shore between Frog Falls and falls themselves.

Start of portage around falls cannot be used because of slash across trail and road leading to bridge. Bridge almost completed as we went through. All will probably change when construction is done, but we took out on left just before bridge, carried up and across road to a semi-road on west side and down it until we could hit trail. Maybe made carry a bit longer, but still about 400 yards. Easiest to find by looking for old trail as it drops to river. Puts in deep in bay below falls. Possible to paddle right up to foot of falls on south side for pictures or to catch a boulder island straight in front of falls which is better.

Landing and carry on third falls unchanged. Foot of trail is better cleared now. Campsite at top of trail in jackpine is excellent except for drawing water. Cascade has less drop than the other two, but worth walking down to by cutting through jackpine to bald rock on left side of cascade. Or if not camping follow dry creek bed that ends about 10 yards north of end of carry -- leads right to bald rock.

Third Falls on Opinaca to Sixth Rapid --

Surveyor's site on right shore used for lunch in '72 is upstream farther than marked on map. $77^{\circ} 21' 52'' 22'$ Just west of creek or river that runs in from south about 4 miles from third falls.

'72 notes are in error on the 4th and 6th rapids -- both carries are on right and log says they were on left.

Trails for all three cleared much better than before and most windfalls taken out.

5th still had its second part with carry to right on rocks after isthmus. If desired might be possible to go over rocky island that juts out from isthmus and run last section more in center. Good lunch site on eastern tip of small island and nice view of rapid-cascade from island. Landing at 5th now possible to start on rock and angle to our trail just to right of windfalls.

Campsite at foot of 6th quite good as expected. $77^{\circ} 32' 52'' 18'$

6th Rapid to Foot of Opinaca Falls --

There is a shallow run off from the 6th rapid, but after that there is nothing of any concern although river narrows and rock starts showing as though some kind of fast water should be there.

We recut start to portage at falls. 77° 38' 52° 17' Slipping down shore along smooth rock below Hydro cut used in '72 to last smooth rock area before white water starts and cut a short trail perpendicular to the water to intersect the '72 trail on a rocky area eliminating all carrying on Hydro lines. Length of carry cut to a mile or a shade more as a result. At rock trail will then turn sharp left. Both ends of trail which were our work were cleared better and only poor walking now is just after rock area where new trail comes in through scraggly bush and the Indian trail needs short easy detours to avoid jackpine branches and a little alder. There is a Hydro cut shortly after entering helicopter pad that runs south to the river above the falls. Our trail crosses it and goes slightly right through some windfalls to southwest corner of pad --and is hard to locate.

Campsite at foot has an excellent kitchen at foot of trail and tent sites in grove of poplar above and to right of trail. Land is a little hard and stony, but can be cleared. Dry wood terribly hard to find. Growth locally is all young jackpine and poplar. Very little squaw wood thrown up on shore also. Rock on this side of river above falls easy to walk and very much worth the view. On other side walking is harder with more broken rock and more difficult approach to the area above the falls. A better view of the south side of island at top can be had on south side. View from both the top of the portage and walking up the rock from the foot are well worth the effort.

Opinaca Falls to East Side of U below last portage --

After run off from falls which lasts maybe 1/2 mile about two miles of relatively calm water to a couple small rapids before the Island series 77° 44' 52° 16'

30 yard rock lift over the same.

Approach to Island carry ought to be looked at from smooth rock before, turn to portage bay is slightly tricky. 400 yard portage here in reasonable condition although foot has started to grow back. Run off from end of carry short, but shallow.

100 yard portage ok.

Next carry starts in deepest penetration of rock, not part closest to river. Trail in good shape. Lunch site on rock at beginning of second section into bush ok, but dry wood difficult to locate. Second section in reasonable shape, approach to water quite steep and landing area terrible. With time a new cut ought to be made to area just past present end.

Rock carry the same 77° 45' 52° 15' There is a run off after previous carry and several rapids to be run before carry on rocks. Last little run off from rock carry more difficult in our lower water, but still possible. But time would be saved if carry went past this area.

Nothing much in river down to 15 foot falls, which is quite attractive. 77° 49' 52° 15' Trail here really ought to be cut straight ahead to water rather than turning left, last carry on rock is a little dangerous.

At top of run off we had to go outside a ledge rather than

between it and rock wall as in higher water. Then at foot had to go toward middle rather than staying with rock. Area at foot of rock area on left might be checked to see if it could be a campground, looks to be jackpine in area. Rapids start almost immediately with short ones easily run down to series of three islands $77^{\circ} 52' 52'' 14'$. We had to run right shore rather than left of 2nd island -- island is just bald rock.

Just past islands a long, shallow rocky rapid starts. Basically started on right, but had to move toward center at foot and rapid is quite steep and shallow at foot. Then a relatively calm section to start of inverted U. $77^{\circ} 55' 52'' 14'$. We checked rock at first ledge for a campsite on left but could not put tents in and used area to left of 2nd ledge just below in a poplar stand instead. Kitchen area fine on rock, but tent sites generally poor and no dry wood. First ledge is run on right shore. There is an old Indian trail back from rock above 1st ledge that would apparently carry the U. It would also be possible to carry through rock area between 1st and 2nd ledges that goes all the way across U, but loading area would be quite shallow.

East End of U to Foot of Basil --

U was run completely on right shore being able to stay inshore of all the major white water until about 100 yards from foot of U where river widens by opening behind a neck of land on right -- then ran out in middle where river shallows and rapids tends to run out.

For next two miles or so rapids continue in horserace fashion with very fast water and can be run by following throw of river going to right or left as current pushes you.

Last drop has an island made of stone with large expanse of grass on top. To right is a sand - clay high bank. We ran right side which was a mistake, drop just at cliff is very steep without enough water to run correctly. Left side is much better with a much less steep drop.

After moving ahead a little, look back at drop in river! Basil the same although windfall areas seemed easier this time

Foot of Basil to Eastmain --

Run through Basil Rapids --

1) Cross to north shore behind island or peninsula formed by boulders or large pebbles. In high water has to be caught in eddy near north shore, in low water there is a bay of island farther south that can be caught. 2) Run right shore to bay where river swings left. Problem is heavy water at top, stay next to shore. Eddy is easy to catch and easy to hold canoes. 3) Scout next section on rocks. In high water run next to shore at ledge which is first obstacle. In low water run outside it. Then stay just outside of about 5 rocks that are above water in either high or low. Course curves right slightly. Then run right shore as close as possible to sand clay cliff where river swings left again. 4) Scout again and run just outside large rock at foot of cliff and then to right shore to stay inside a heavy swell but just outside small ledge on shore. Then follow right shore which is easy to just past a gravel point that sticks out, cannot be seen from top of run easily since river curves slowly right. Ed

at sand - clay cliff is very difficult on those holding canoes. 5) Scout again, around bend is Surprise rapid. Usually run out from shore at start to stay out of shallows and then tight to right point with very heavy water to left. Run with swells and around bay which swings left. In very low water the surprise part cannot be run. There is a short portage across point through alder. 6) Stop at shallows just after bay and scout again. In very high water right side can be run to foot. In medium or low water it is necessary to slip down shore, starting out fairly far at top to stay out of shallows and stop after a large rock on right shore and before foot. Catch bow downstream, no eddy. Then let down right shore which is tough in shallow water and fairly easy in medium, and run last little tiny rapid. 7) Follow bay to right and then left and rapids are over except for a minor one at rock point on right side. Rapid is drowned out in medium or high water, but worth paying attention to in low.

North shore is much better paddling than south. Lunchsite on rock just before end of large curved bay about 3 miles above island after foot of rapids. $78^{\circ} 18' 52''$ $14'$ Tide effects amount of water in approach to rock and beaching canoes. Island about 3 miles farther up on north shore $78^{\circ} 23' 52''$ $14'$ has practically no water on north side of it.

Eastmain to KKK --

Train connections as in 1972.