

1975 MISTASSINI to EASTMAIN via
LICHTENEGER LAKE route to LITTLE OPINACA RIVER

Mistassini, Rupert River, Wollett Lake, Neoskweskau, Bauerman Lake, Lichteneger Lake, Ell Lake, Opinaca Lake, Low Lake, Little Opinaca River, Opinaca River, Eastmain Post

Maps Required from Map Distribution Office
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
615 Booth Street
Ottawa K1A 0E9

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

1 : 250,000 Series
Mistassini River North 32 I
Lac Baudeau 32 P
Lac Mesgouez 32 O
Lichteneger Lake 33 B
Lac Opinaca 33 C
Eastmain 33 D

1 : 50,000 Series Sheets are now printed for entire route. If traveling territory for first time, they are very useful and should be carried. Otherwise are probably unnecessary. Used this time were:
33 B/7
Lichteneger Lake 33 B/6
Lac Le Caron 33 B/5
Gladman Lake 33 B/12
Lac Opinaca 33 C/9

Note: Trip was originally planned to go north out of Opinaca Lake through Boyd Lake and pick up 1974 route via Old Factory River

Travel Permit for Mistassini Park obtained from Minister of Tourisme of Fish and Game, Director General of Parks, Hotel du Government, Quebec. \$50 fee. 1975 permit was issued by Chief of District from Roberval. Fishing licenses also obtained at same time. \$10.50 for adult. \$4.25 per camper.

Transportation to Mistassini via bus from Temagami to Chibougamau for personnel via Kirkland Lake, Val d'Or, Senneterre. Left Temagami about 8 am, arriving Chibougamau about 10 pm. Equipment via Hertz truck rented in North Bay. Driving time about same as for bus party. Bus party spent night in Hotel Monoco; person in charge of bus party should engage rooms without waiting for truck. Truck personnel used motel south of town -- too expensive still. Transportation to Mistassini done in back of truck, changing personnel in cab every 8 miles.

Re-outfitting done by Direquair Airways from Chibougamau (right next door to Fecteau base). Dispatcher not too happy about dealing with a camp group, but service was satisfactory.

Outfit stored in their warehouse at base. Second leg bacon and mail sent up via bus about 5 days before scheduled plane. Bacon traveled well as a result.

Previous reports to be consulted in particular:

1967 for Mistassini to Neoskweskau
Neoskweskau to Bauerman River on '67, '68, '69, '70, '73
Bauerman River to Lichteneger Lake -- 1973
Little Opinaca River -- 1973
Opinaca River -- 1972, 1973
Basil to Eastmain -- best is 1973

Chibougamau -- Hotel Monoco was cheapest best bet on rooms. Have man in charge of bus party go ahead and engage rooms if truck is late.

Mistassini Post -- Post now has much more building than in 1970 with almost all Indians in well built houses mostly inland behind the HBC store. Large new school. Band Office is across road from school. Not much more to see in the way of old customs.

Mistassini Post to Crossing Island -- no real change
Only one campsite on right just before narrows of Abatagush Bay, at south end of start of narrows $73^{\circ} 48' 50'' 37'$ Sand beach at narrows was a good lunch site, but not big enough for a campsite.
Campsite on Crossing Island $73^{\circ} 51' 50'' 42'$ was quite grown up, but useable.

Crossing Island to Rupert Portage --
Looked to be an Indian campsite just below where small stream comes in from lake about 2 miles above group of campsites after crossing -- basically a smooth rock landing. $73^{\circ} 55' 50'' 48'$
Campsite on 1st large island as islands are entered was very small and dirty as we went through. $73^{\circ} 49' 50'' 53'$ We used it for lunch, but too small to camp on.

Rupert Portage to Esker Portage --
Notes from other years this route was used should be put with '67 notes -- '68, '70
Indian portage at Esker takes out on left side of Esker rather than river side at end of a fairly deep bay. $73^{\circ} 48' 51'' 13'$ Would be considerably shorter than carrying from first landing which we took not wanting to risk running outside island this time. Would be a shade shorter than using lower landing and rise to esker would be better. Fishing poor; only a couple keepers taken out of foot of falls on campsite side.

Esker Portage to Woollett Lake --
Stopped at Government camp on Capichinatun for lunch. $73^{\circ} 44' 51'' 22'$ One log cabin with four tent frames. Now unoccupied, but was used in spring.
At Woollett campsite. $73^{\circ} 43' 51'' 22'$ View from very top of hill across from campsite supposed to be great and take

about 10 minutes to climb.

On our side of the river there is now a well used fisherman's trail paralleling the river. Also on large island in falls, there is a well used trail across the island. Two aluminum boats left at the campsite this time. Otherwise no change.

Woollett to End of 2nd Portage through Ponds above Woollett ---

Cigar shaped island campsite not very large or good. 73° 46' 51° 25' Had a strange looking small sleeping frame on it this time hardly big enough for a man.

Point at top of lake opposite creek investigated in '67 had no remains of an Indian camp, but could be used. 73° 47' 51° 30'

Campsite at start of half mile 73° 48' 51° 29' would be poor and one at foot better but for shallow water in front.

Rest same to portage out of 2nd pond 73° 52' 51° 29' We camped at end of 500 yard portage mainly because of threat of rain. Worked, but nothing but a place for the night.

Portage out of 2nd Pond to Lake 59 (½ day) --

Portage trail at 200 yarder overgrown compared to '67, but no problem. 73° 53' 51° 34' Campsite overgrown, but useable.

Portage trail at rapid that follows looked quite overgrown. 73° 55' 51° 34' Rapid run as in '67 after scraping in shallows on right at top to get to run.

Lake 59 campsite overgrown, but ok -- not as nice as before, however. 73° 57' 51° 33' Only 2 small trout taken out of fast water in narrows -- pike at end of narrows off rock shore on left.

Lake 59 to Two Lakes before Height of Land --

300 yard portage around 2nd rapid after Lake 59 is 75 yards to right of stream, not 25. 73° 55' 51° 36'

We carried 3rd rapid with 100 yard portage. 73° 55' 51° 36' Ledge in 2nd part can't be seen from top as a result of curve of rapid and we figured to be just as far ahead carrying.

Beaver dam going into Esker portage was not there. 73° 53' 51° 37'

Campsite at far end of Esker portage quite overgrown. 73° 55' 51° 38' Near side is much better.

Leaving Esker portage, campsite noted in '67, ½ mile on left did not look useable this time. 73° 55' 51° 38'

But there was a large clearing on point on right just after lake proper is entered that looked possible. 73° 55' 51° 39'

As suspected portage to avoid area where Indian was lost in '67 leaves on west shore just before a tiny rapid that can easily be paddled. 73° 55' 51° 40' Large campground at start of portage with lots of tent sites, lard pails, etc. Somewhat overgrown. Portage goes up a gentle hill and down on far side. 400 yards. Very well traveled. No useable campsite on far side.

Log sided site noted in '67 would make a poor site. 73° 55' 51° 41'

We camped about ½ mile farther on south side of long point at exit from lake in a traveling camp off the western end of

the sand beach. Good for a sand beach campsite. Winter site to east of the one we used with several caches. Site on north side of point is larger, but has little cover and is quite overgrown.

Second Lake before Height of Land to Exit from Clearwater Lake --

About a mile or less past last night's campsite there was a log framed winter camp with a small log house, not well built compared to others we've seen. 73° 55' 51° 42'

Otherwise no change to exit from Clearwater (Cawachagamite) except trails and campgrounds quite overgrown since '67

At small rapid at exit from Clearwater we made a campsite at head of portage with tents up on reindeer moss on hill in jackpine and kitchen at shore level maybe 20 yards in from water. 74° 07' 51° 43' No fish found in rapids. Swimming in pool at top of rapids very shallow. Would be great if there were fish -- otherwise not very interesting. Rapid was carried this time; 100 yards. Water seemed higher and was throwing left at large rock out of water where ledge-like drop occurs.

Exit from Clearwater to Round Lake --

No real change. Water was higher than '67. Sand beach at '67 campsite 74° 08' 51° 47' was pretty much under water. Cellar rapid just ahead run as before. It's rough.

Lunch site at rapid 2 miles before Round Lake is on rocks on upper side of rapid -- have lunch before running. 74° 11' 51° 47' Run is on left channel as far left as possible.

Campsite at end of portage out of Round Lake very good, but open. 74° 13' 51° 49' No trout taken out of rapids and only one taken at lunch site before.

Round Lake to Neoskweskau --

No change in creek. 1st rapid marked on map is run from top, but needs a little care. 74° 14' 51° 49'

Creek to what is supposed to be the Fishing Lakes is deep enough to paddle at least for a couple hundred yards and looks passable. 74° 17' 51° 49'

Neoskweskau Post 74° 17' 51° 53' is impossible as a campsite and there is nothing to see now but a couple graves in the grave yard. No real point in stopping now.

We camped at the weather station before the post. 74° 18' 51° 52' Has a log helicopter pad and recording instruments were working. Campsite is terrible though. Area just out of creek until main lake is reached looks better for cutting sites. 74° 18' 51° 50' After lake is reached there is a burned area on left with an Indian tent frame in the area, but probably is not a good campsite.

Neoskweskau to Ross Gorge --

Indian campsite on tip of point on which Neoskweskau is located. 74° 16' 51° 53'

One on left two miles from post is just before next narrows after little rapid and looks pretty good. 74° 16' 51° 54'

Water too high to try Buckshot Rapid. 74° 14' 51° 56' Could not even get to river to look at it; alder was flooded.

Portage had some windfalls at foot that had to be cleared.

Small Indian site at top of portage. Wabun used foot of portage in '73. Looks perfectly good.
Recent cache on small island before Pte au Bouleau 74° 15' 51° 57'
High water let us paddle right up to campsite at Ross portage. 74° 26' 52° 2' Campground perfectly good and not too buggy in what is seemingly a non-buggy year.

Ross Gorge to Walt's Place --

Walt's campground overgrown, but much better than the scapula one just below. 74° 25' 52° 4' We paddled right up easily; maybe not possible in lower water. Not much left but a couple skulls, room for plenty of tents though.

On opposite side of creek at Walt's Place there is an ancient lightly blazed trail that follows a ridge of jackpine. Indian has done lots of cutting of large trees, but no sign of a camp or a fire. There's a small tear-drop lake along the way between trail and river and it looks like trail hits a bay off the river. Maybe ½ mile or less long. Maybe drawing his wood for our campground?

Walt's Place to Prosper -- No real change

Reoutfitting Island 74° 30' 52° 7' water was up a good two feet from ever before. Sunbathing island was just barely out of water.

Rapid below 74° 32' 52° 7' was much too heavy to tackle. Indian had a one tent camp at foot of trail about 50 yards from water. Several other reasonable looking tent sites, but would be tight for a section. Cooking area would probably have to be inland of water also. Might be possible to find better at start of trail by scattering tents around on high ground.

All rapids heavier than usual except difficult one with scouting stone in center that was flattened out somewhat more than usual if run correctly. 74° 34' 52° 7'

Approach to Prosper as normal, just rush of water greater than usual. 74° 35' 52° 10' River too heavy below to go through gorge.

Prosper to 4 Miles east of Bauerman --

Paddle up to creek from Prosper proved much easier than expected. No lining necessary; all done on a paddle. 74° 35' 52° 9'

Creek to pond 74° 38' 52° 9' had one small log jam near start and beaver had built a dam that was pulled over at rocky area.

Caches between pond and lake were all vacant. 74° 39' 52° 9'
Portage to Eastmain 74° 42' 52° 9' has an inordinate number of step-over windfalls. We had to clear 6-10 from the trail after it started dropping to water. Campsite at foot now terrible as noted in '69.

We finally made a campsite in an old burn on left just before a creek at the start of the rocky area. 74° 58' 52° 8'
Tent sites pretty good. Kitchen up on plateau above river. Landing and water drawing area poor, but we could find nothing else at the time.

4 Miles east of Bauerman to Bauerman Lake Falls --

Approach to mouth of Bauerman same as '73. 74° 58' 52° 9'

Portage on rocks to left and loading just below heavy chute. After turn to Bauerman is made, go to far shore and climb up on high hill for a good view of Bauerman Falls. On east side of hill there is a faint trace of what seems to be an Indian trail around Bauerman Falls, but we did not follow it. '73 notes say crossing from Bauerman Falls campsite could be done below island if started from sand beach -- would be risky in our water.

1st portage trail 74° 57' 52° 9' could be made into a campsite if necessary. Windfalls would have to be cleared for tent sites. Would be poor, but possible.

No change to falls at foot of lake.

Campsite made on rocks at falls with kitchen on approximately highest ground overlooking lake and tent sites behind. 74° 53' 52° 12' Most pitched south of the trail behind rock. No fish caught. Very attractive site although tent sites are rough. An old Indian tepee now fallen down about 75 yards south of portage landing.

Bauerman Lake Falls to First Pond above Bauerman -- No change in route.

Indian site at north end of sand beach 74° 49' 52° 14' seemed to have been reused. Cache still there, but sled and tobaggan on under section of rack were probably new. Tent sites seem to have been reused.

Sod House at north end of lake completely rebuilt in winter of '74-'75. Very well done. 74° 49' 52° 15'

Campsite as in '73 -- 74° 49' 52° 15'

First Pond out of Bauerman to Lichteneger --

Portage into Round Lake needed some windfalls cleared again. 74° 50' 52° 16'

Indian site seen in '73 on north shore of Round Lake proved to be an Indian winter site with three houses. 74° 53' 52° 17' now in a state of disrepair. We should have visited in '73.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to west was a fall or spring camp with a smoking frame. Area here would make a better campsite for us than the winter camp.

Route to Lichteneger the same. If necessary a campsite could be made on the middle portage of the three to Lichteneger. 74° 57' 52° 16'

On pond just west of deep bay 75° 9' 52° 16' was a fall or spring camp; would not make a good site.

At 75° 11' 52° 16' was another winter camp with an octagonal house used in winter '73-'74.

Just west was a tent campsite maybe used while building this one.

Indian site in first small bay past deep bay and point we used for reoutfitting. 75° 11' 52° 16' Quite messy to start with, but we got it somewhat cleaned up. No other sites seen on point. Small sand beach for plane and swimming.

Lichteneger to Top of 3rd Lake above Lichteneger --

Creek out of northeast corner 75° 12' 52° 17' of middle section

of Lichteneger was easily paddled until very end -- narrows on 1:50,000 map -- where a 3-4 foot waterfall in creek makes it impossible to line. Portage on right just at foot of narrow stream. 100 yards on an old trail with some clearing necessary. Room for only 1-2 canoes at top.

We went up creek at north end of next lake or pond and lost the Indian $75^{\circ} 11' 52'' 17'$. He probably takes water route through creeks and ponds on west side of this lake. Maybe some of the narrows can be paddled or lined. The last one looked like it could. Most of our creek could be paddled, but just before the end was a cascade-like series that might be lined except for ancient large windfalls across the creek. We took out on right at what looked like it might be a landing well before the cascades. 100 yards on a trail we blazed; no real cutting necessary; walking was pretty open.

At north end $75^{\circ} 12' 52'' 18'$ we went into crescent shaped bay with narrow opening and cut a portage starting left of center of the bay and up over the hill in front, trying to follow the easiest walking without cutting too many windfalls. Rise from south side was pretty gradual; drop on north side quite steep. 600 yards, a little bit through burn on top of hill. Drop to water is through scraggly bush, but rest of walking was fairly good. Trail has to be followed by blazes.

Just out onto next pond or lake a burn starts.

Portage out of 2nd lake $75^{\circ} 13' 52'' 19'$ on left of creek about 150 yards in corner of bay. Creek is a cascade that can't be handled. 100 yards through burn on ancient trail most of the way except where necessary to go around windfalls. Indian had a lunch fire at start and there was once a campsite at top.

Portage to 3rd lake starts just to left of creek. $75^{\circ} 14' 52'' 20'$ Might be lined, but not worth the effort by any right. Ancient trail that can be followed faintly. Puts in in bay of 3rd lake way to left of creek. 150 yards.

Burn ceases about half way up 3rd lake.

We camped on west side of narrows leading to north end of lake in a jackpine stand. $75^{\circ} 15' 52'' 22'$ Several possible esker areas in the neighborhood, but esker on point just east of our site is a hogback. Reasonable tent sites, but kitchen poor and water in front not much good.

Explorations to portage from 3rd Lake --

No Indian portage trail out of northeast end of bay above campsite. $75^{\circ} 16' 52'' 23'$ Walking would be ok for a while but about half way over the jackpine and rock runs out and last half would be in swampy scraggly bush.

Bay below campsite tried $75^{\circ} 15' 52'' 23'$ and eventually trail blazed up over hill. About a mile. Jackpine part of way and then a section that is not so good to top of hill where walking is better on an old burn. At top of hill lakes can be seen in both directions and view north in particular is quite good. Drop to water is steep, but quite easy, though it would be a tough climb coming up.

Also tried pair of ponds to south that show on 1:50,000 map. If used would involve three portages. 1st should be left creek to 1st pond -- about 100 yards. 2nd should take out

half way across pond on rocky area and skirt spruce in valley to 2nd pond on right. About 1/2 to 3/4 mile. 3rd would be needed to get from 2nd pond to lake and was not scouted.

3rd Lake to Lake just before Ell River --

Blazed portage worked well.

At west end of lake 75° 16' 52° 23' creek leaving in north corner was too rock choked to be worth trying. We paddled toward west end, but since land there looked low and covered with scraggly bush and spruce, we cut or rather blazed a trail about 200 yards before end of lake on right where walking was up over a slight ridge of jackpine. 300 yards, pretty good walking.

In northeast corner of next lake 75° 16' 52° 25' the stream out cannot be used either. We carried on left on a hillside of burn and small jackpine to large pond below; 200 yards. Easy after getting out of water. Starts about 40 yards left of creek entrance.

At end of pond a very short rapid let down easily on right side 75° 16' 52° 25'

At western end of next lake 1:50,000 map says there is no water exit. There is one on the 1:250,000 maps. Creek has too many stones to be worth trying. 75° 18' 52° 26' There's a pond in the middle, but it's not worth putting into it. Carry on left starting 50 yards left of creek up on side hill staying above creek and out of alder, through jackpine and burn. Puts in about 100 yards left of creek entrance -- water too shallow at creek mouth and hard to get to through brush. 500 yards.

At north end of C-shaped lake creek looks like it might be run judging from top, but it makes a left turn at foot that could not be made and then has a short falls at end that is out of the question. 75° 19' 52° 27' Water very shallow near creek entrance and bush thick along creek. We found our first real trail since Lichteneger about 150 yards left of creek -- poorly marked from water -- goes up over a ridge of mostly jackpine farther left of creek than maybe expected. Puts in 50 yards left of creek exit. Needed a lot of wind-falls taken out, but trail was just slightly inferior to those up Bauerman to Lichteneger. 300 yards.

We camped on left just at island at north end of small lake off a small sand beach with nice jackpine tent sites behind. 75° 19' 52° 27' Rapid on left side of island to be run in morning. No trout in rapids. Campsite ok for the night, but nothing else other than a sand beach to swim off of.

Lake before River to Ell River Cascades and back to Sand Beach -- Rapid at campsite run on right shore easily staying just right of large stone out of water 2/3 of way to right shore and then run out toward left.

Shortly after entering river at esker we found an old cache and soon afterwards an old tepee site that had used a stove.

At narrows about 4 miles down river 75° 26' 52° 28' portage on left behind an island and just before a thin point of land. 150 yards. Well used Indian trail with a fallen tepee near start with a stone fireplace and one still standing with

pegs for a stove just before end --- last tepee was quite small. Puts into bay to left of rapids. Rapids consist of a pair of cascades with an island in middle.

A couple miles down on right shore was a prospectors or surveyors frame.

Just before going off Lichteneger map $75^{\circ} 32' 52^{\circ} 30'$ a rapid run looking from top pretty much on left shore. Portage for Indian route around gorge in Ell River starts in a shallow bay on left just before this rapid, see report for next day.

REMAINDER OF THIS DAY IS A SIDE TRIP TERMINATED BY RETURNING HERE

Just onto next map after a bay a rapid at a narrows that curves left. $75^{\circ} 32' 52^{\circ} 31'$ Run starting left of center, to right around a stone, and then to left to stay out of eddy on right and rocks on right. Needs to be looked over. Just below a small rapid run left of center with a stone more or less in center that has to be avoided.

Then no obstacles to river rapids $75^{\circ} 41' 52^{\circ} 33'$ First two rapids can't be touched and Indian never had a trail on either side. Walking on both sides poor on high ground above river for most part. In very low water might be possible to slip down right side, carry 1st one, slip down right side, and carry 2nd one, but very chancy.

We decided Indian probably followed route to south of river and paddled back to C-shaped bay $75^{\circ} 38' 52^{\circ} 32'$ and looked for portage to lake to west and found nothing but an Arpentage marker.

Then started back to rapid run earlier in the day to check that route. Camped on sand beach about 2 miles from the rapid on east side. $75^{\circ} 35' 52^{\circ} 31'$ Terrible, but it was very late by then. Tents could have gone on reindeer moss, but three of them elected to pitch on the beach.

Sand Beach Back to Small Pond Portage off River --

Sand beaches east of the one we used would have been better campsites.

1st little rapid paddled on right

Curving rapid run the day before lined up on left coming up without much trouble.

Rapid above bay run first yesterday was paddled on right at foot and then lined on right at top.

INDIAN ROUTE RESUMES

Indian route around river rapids leaves on right (coming back up) on left (coming down) via a very narrow opening to a small pond. $75^{\circ} 32' 52^{\circ} 31'$ Trail starts on west side of pond and basically follows a valley between two high hills going over a bald rock area close to the start. 200 yards, reasonably well used to a finger off small lake to west. One tent Indian site at start of trail turned into a campsite for us. Not good, but possible.

Pond Portage to Head of Portage back to River --

Slightly southwest into bay on next pond stream leaves that can't be paddled. $75^{\circ} 32' 52^{\circ} 30'$ Portage on right of stream. 500 yards. Needed a lot of clearing, but not hard afterwards.

Just where route leaves map to go onto Gladman map $75^{\circ} 37' 52^{\circ}$

- 30' on a point facing south was a sod house in good repair though old. Grounds around quite clean. Eastmain cache inside
- At bay at western end of lake 75° 42' 52° 31' portage a creek again that cannot be paddled. 400 yards. Needed some clearing, but easier than previous one.
- We checked bay at north where maybe Indian might carry back to river 75° 44' 52° 32' and found a couple old axe cuts, but no trail. Very active beaver colony in area with lots of beaver trails to water.
- At western end, creek leaves in a cascade that starts right at edge of lake. 75° 47' 52° 31' Portage, however, is about 400 yards southwest of creek between two hills. 300 yards, last 2/3 of which is downhill, but gentle. Wetter than any other trail.
- At north end of lake a very shallow rock path leads successfully into the larger of two ponds. Area just after narrows has a nice looking jackpine area. A slightly easier path on right leads to 2nd and smaller pond.
- Cascade starts out of this pond. 75° 46' 52° 32' Trail to river starts 75 yards left of creek exit. We made a very respectable campsite at head of portage. Portage trail was very vague, faint, and hard to follow. A lot of windfalls on it and it took an hour and a half with four axes to clear it. Walking not very good in many spots, but it could have been worse located in different areas. Puts in bay at foot of creek. 3/4 mile.

Head of Portage to River to Falls on Ell River --

- Wickiup frame on right shore shortly after end of portage to river
- River flows easily until narrows before single marked rapid on Gladman map or turn north on 1:250,000 map 75° 50' 52° 34' Rapid starts before marked one. Basically run down center, but should be scouted on right shore easiest. Run to large bay or eddy at foot on left.
- We then crossed and slipped down right shore staying as close to shore as possible to head of steep drop marked on map that can't be run. We portaged 100 yards on rocks along right shore. We found no trail on either side. Left is full of windfalls, so only reasonable side to cut is right, but rocks are easy.
- After bay below a smooth rock sticks out from right shore. We landed on it and followed a series of old blazes and then cut back to river below drops. Rapid is not very steep most of the way, but can't be run. 500 yards. Trail is terrible. Scraggly bush most of the way with cut to water over broken rock. If doing again would be much better to cut on left side. Portage would be shorter and walking has got to be better.
- Just below river splits around an island. We portaged left side on rocks. 100 yards. Left side could be run except for line of stone at the bottom. Right side can't be. Trail would be best on right or maybe across island, though island looks pretty rough walking. Rocks on right don't look as easy to carry.
- River flows smoothly till narrows before turn to north 75° 53'

52° 34' A heavy, long rapid maybe a half mile long. We had to scout on left shore -- right is easier, but at bay on right rapid goes into bay across shallows and foot can't be seen, and no way to run into bay. We ran left shore until river turned slightly right and then crossed through swells and ran out on right staying outside rocks off a peninsula like rock shoal. Then run out in center. Foot has to be looked over, however.

At next turn to north a heavy rapid or cascade 75° 56' 52° 36' portaged on left on reasonable Indian trail. 400 yards. Needed some clearing, but not bad.

After bay below portage a high rock appears on left. River narrows and flows swiftly around tip of rock and down to falls below. Look over first from high rock.

Portage at falls on right in a sort of corner between rock barrier for falls and wooded shore. 100 yards up and over rock. Indian had made a few cuts, but portage is basically on bald rock. Put in is right of a rock point at foot. We made a campsite at falls with fire on rocky point at foot and tents anywhere a little moss could be found on the rock hill. Indian had one tent on a small area just up from landing at start of carry. Tent sites poor, but scenery great. Some climbed high rock hill to east for the view. Claimed there was a nice clearing up the hill part way, but would be a long way from the water. Falls is really a very heavy cascade coming down a very narrow rock chute. Some trout in rapids and falls.

Falls on Ell River to Opinaca Lake --

About a mile below falls 75° 58' 52° 37' where river swings west after a jog to north a small rapid run by looking from top

Just before creek from round pond just before turn to southwest 75° 59' 52° 37' was an Indian tepee on right with a yellow fiberglass freighter on shore in front.

Nothing from there to mouth of river. Another tepee on right just before end of river. 76° 3' 52° 37'

Ell Lake seemed shallow with wind creating chop.

Just north of start of river leaving Ell Lake 76° 7' 52° 40' was another yellow freighter on shore; we did not investigate

At narrows at start of river 76° 8' 52° 40' a small rapid run by looking at top.

At next narrows 76° 9' 52° 39' another rapid; this one should be looked at. There is a ledge in center. There is a run on right with fairly heavy water and a run on left with much less violent water. In either event there is a large stone in center of river at foot of either run that needs to be avoided. In our water part of it was above water, but there is more below and to either side. Either run should end left of this stone.

As river is about to enter large bay 76° 12' 52° 39' a very heavy, wide cascade with a portage 400 yards on right. There is a water flow reading station on left just before it in a small red shack. Carry starts well above rapid on a small rock landing -- was marked with a winter sled in '75. Trail well used; a couple wet spots at start. Puts in on a sand beach to right of cascade a couple hundred

yards. One tent Indian sites at both ends, but neither would be good for a section.

At narrows out of pond like area $76^{\circ} 13' 52'' 40'$ a last rapid, run pretty much in center staying just right of power swells -- staying too far right will run into a couple rocks just below surface.

Shore to west of river mouth very poor for camping. We had to go all the way to southeast corner of large island $76^{\circ} 18' 52'' 42'$ before turn to south where there was an Indian campsite just behind beach and an Indian tepee back up trail slightly west of beach site into a good stand of jackpine with good tent sites. In better weather kitchen should be just off a rock at west end of beach under a jackpine.

Opinaca Lake to Low Lake --

Nothing exceptional down Opinaca Lake until sod house on right shore $76^{\circ} 24' 52'' 37'$ roughly on south end of round point just before string of islands out from left shore that guard approach to Low Lake. Site was quite clean in something of a jackpine stand and could be used for a campsite if desired. Approach is from south.

Indian at Eastmain had told us we could paddle through connector to Low Lake -- impossible in our water and probably impossible in summer any time.

We carried first narrows $76^{\circ} 24' 52'' 36'$ out of Opinaca Lake on right side of rock stream bed to start with and then up rocks of stream bed. Terrible walking. Might be worth the effort to make a real portage -- longer, but a lot easier. 40 yards the way we went.

Then $3/4$ of the creek-pond area can be paddled easily with deep water to an ancient beaver dam with water going through it in several places $76^{\circ} 23' 52'' 36'$ Might be possible to get canoes through and over beaver work, but water below is very shallow and creek turns left and then has a little rocky thin rapid which would be impossible. Someone had cut a portage on left side around the complex. We had to recut the whole thing. Terrible walking particularly at the start over very difficult rock. Likely work of someone not an Indian since rarely do they pick such ground to walk on.

Rest of creek easily paddled to Low.

Very little recent Indian sign seen on Low to our campsite. Some axe cuts in places and one very, very ancient tepee found while looking for campsite. Shore is spruce most of the way with few places to get out easily without having trouble with alder.

We camped about three miles south of last narrows on right shore $76^{\circ} 20' 52'' 31'$ in a jackpine area that is hard to identify from the water. Tent sites good, but getting up the bank was quite hard -- about a four foot vertical bank to climb. Otherwise good for a night at least and infinitely better than anything seen thus far on the lake.

Low Lake to 1st Portage on Little Opinaca --

About 2 miles north of creek draining Low $76^{\circ} 27' 52'' 28'$ there was a large mining camp (or maybe Hydro) equipped

with plane and helicopter. Hillside around it had been cut pretty bare.

Portage out of Low 76° 28' 52° 27' is in bay south of creek just before larger of two islands. 700 yards to bay like area below. No good campsites on either end although Indian had an ancient one tent camp at each end. Needed a lot of clearing. Is cut by a Hydro or mining survey line about 1/3 of way across. Wet in several spots.

Next portage to eastern part of Little Opinaca Lake 76° 31' 52° 26' is found by following east shore into a bay at southern end rather than following bay to west that leads to creek. 1/2 mile. Some good walking through jackpine, but some wet spots. Needed a lot of clearing, but not as bad as one before. Indian camp at start about 75 yards up trail, could probably be used; there is a stand of jackpine after it. One at foot of trail had a very large Indian tepee and could probably be used too. One at start probably better, but farther from water.

Another Hydro or mining camp on east side of very large island in eastern section of Little Opinaca Lake 76° 33' 52° 23' North shore looked better for campsites than south, but we did not check.

Narrows to western section of Little Opinaca Lake easily paddled 76° 37' 52° 23'

North and west shore of Little Opinaca Lake looked much more attractive than south. Both sections of Little Opinaca Lake very shallow and choppy in a wind. Heading crossing Little Opinaca is due west guided by sun.

Both rapids leading to portage 76° 47' 52° 21' run pretty much down center with reasonable swells in both.

Portage just below had to be recut and reblazed. Overgrown since '73 and a survey line cuts it but does little damage. Campsite as in '73.

First Portage on Little Opinaca to Little Opinaca Falls --

Second portage needed some recutting 76° 48' 52° 22' as a result of new windfalls and work of Hydro crew -- trail goes just left of their open pit.

Top of 3rd rapid just below run on left shore as before; foot was not really looked at, but probably can't be run with any safety. Portage easy to follow until broken rock area at foot -- goes straight ahead.

Jackpine stand just below on right 76° 48' 52° 23' still a good campground, but Hydro has stakes running through it for their survey work, but unless they do something else to it, it could still be used.

Just below on left and just before pond was a large Hydro camp with maybe 20 small prefabricated buildings. Area looks like a terrible place for a camp. Just as pond starts Hydro had a cable across river just over bowmen's heads -- there was a flag on it as we passed under. Does not look permanent.

At top of pond where we saw a white tent in '73 76° 51' 52° 24' there is a large gasoline storage area.

Just after second pond narrows and begins to look like a river 76° 56' 52° 25' there are two wide parallel cuts not quite perpendicular to the river. Maybe lines for

power transmission from LG 2?
Indian portage on rapid out of pond and before falls $76^{\circ} 58' 52'' 26'$ is on left as noted in '73 report. Takes out after a shallows of fast water on left shore. Room for 2 canoes at a time. There is another shallows just below. Perhaps best to stop in bay before shallows and walk down to start of trail to know where it goes. Marked with a rectangular red gallon stove fuel can at the moment. Trail parallels river for a while and then cuts across point as expected. Well cleared by the prospector of '73, but at end he cut his trail to water that leaves Indian trail on right -- did not bother to cut through some windfalls. Puts in with two little pitches to be run next to left shore. If not running, Indian trail at foot is very close to prospector's landing and could be cut through easily. 1st is between a pair of rocks with small haystacks at foot that lead almost directly into next channel that is between two shallows. Stay on left side of channel and watch a rock directly ahead after all the rapid has been run.

Cross to '73 campsite if wanted and come up to landing which is just before a small curve with white water on it. Campsite and falls the same as '73.

Little Opinaca Falls to Prospector's Site 4 miles below 3rd Carry --

Beaver meadow on portage around falls $77^{\circ} 0' 52'' 26'$ a little damp this time. Given time, alder at foot should be cut. There is a good stretch of calm before next portage $77^{\circ} 1' 52'' 26'$ Run off from carry taken out to center and then run center and left of center for a long straight stretch to top of last rapid. One tent Indian site on left of trail at foot of carry -- might be enlarged, but poor. At last rapid there is an old Indian trail on left that would just go around top pitch. Run as in '73 although we had lots more water and probably could have run right side at foot.

For about an hour after last rapid there are stands of jackpine in various places on both shores where campsites could be made. A couple places with Indian blazes where he seems to have made camps inland of the shore. After that as lake is approached land gets lower and less suitable with mostly spruce, tamarack, and alder.

Hydro camp on right on lake $77^{\circ} 12' 52'' 24'$ now has nothing left.

Approach to Frog Falls and portage unchanged $77^{\circ} 13' 52'' 23'$ though they have taken a lot of fill and bulldozed a lot just to right of walk through jackpine.

Portage at falls $77^{\circ} 14' 52'' 23'$ Take out at bridge on left and walk up to road. At end of guard rail angle just slightly to left and pick up blazes for trail on spruce when trees are reached. Goes across a short area where cuttings have been made and slash thrown and then hits old trail. Alder at foot of trail could use some clearing.

Third portage the same $77^{\circ} 15' 52'' 22'$ There's a U in trail just at end of jackpine at drop to water.

Prospector's site $77^{\circ} 20' 52'' 21'$ quite good for a campground.

Stands of jackpine on three sides with tent sites basically on hill behind and slightly above where his tents were. Only drawback is a sand beach and lack of a suitable view.

Prospector's Camp to Opinaca Falls --

4th portage had some windfalls to clear 77° 27' 52° 20'

5th landing on rock now messed up by a new Hydro tree felling project 77° 29' 52° 19' that just affected the point leaving the trail alone.

6th portage 77° 32' 52° 18' has a few alder growing back in that might be cleared.

Approach to '73 landing on rock at falls 77° 37' 52° 17' had to be done carefully in high water, but no problem coming in one at a time. Water much higher than '73 and probably higher than '72. Would be difficult, but possible, to walk gorge as in '73. Trail still ok; a few alder growing in particularly at start. Andy camped at start of trail with tents pitched on boughs on rock.

Campsite no different, but at least a stick of drift wood was found.

Opinaca Falls to Last Falls on River --

Run off from falls was taken on left -- right looked pretty rough.

Lift over on rock area the same 77° 44' 52° 16' though maybe shorter in high water.

Approach to 400 yard portage just below easier. There was plenty of water behind the normal point that has to be turned to run canoes through -- had to be looked at first. Then just at bay there was a little ledge with an opening through which we handed canoes. Portage needs clearing at foot and through any patches of alder -- there are several. Run off easy in high water.

100 yard portage just across river needed clearing badly at both top and bottom.

Next portage out of bay 77° 44' 52° 16' needed clearing to poplar and was then ok to rock. Rock area much reduced and one spot a small cut had to be made through the bush to avoid walking right next to the river. 2nd part needed clearing at start and foot was recut to a much better loading area to right of old one. Makes portage perhaps 25 yards longer, but much better walking.

Small rapids below were not so small and one stop was made on left shore to check.

Rock carry 77° 45' 52° 15' was not good in our water. To get to normal unloading area we had to slip by rock one at a time to lodge bow of canoe in a narrow semi-water fall, unload, reload and let canoe hand over hand to next rock point, unload, lift over, reload, and paddle to next point. From here we carried left shore to normal end of trail and ran last piece as usual -- although a lot higher water -- through 2 V's on left. Andy had a campsite about 75-100 yards short of end of carry. We don't want to use it except in an emergency.

After rock carry river ran with good current and a few rocks to a small turn about 300 yards farther on. From there to 15 foot falls nothing of major import.

At 15 foot falls 77° 48' 52" 14' we cut a new portage on left starting just below a Hydro clearing for the helicopter. 400 yards, not bad walking. Comes down off hill and onto rock at a fairly steep spot. Would be very poor in wet weather. We camped on portage with excellent kitchen on rocks and tent sites in a jackpine stand about 75-100 yards back up trail on hill. Safer than right side carry -- if possible to get canoes out of eddy at foot.

15 Foot Falls to Basil --

Run off from falls taken by loading at only spot where slope of rock was gradual enough and then going backwards in eddy as far as possible and then paddling hard toward middle of river, running middle rather than either shore. Rest of river was as '73 notes would have it even in higher water. We ran left of rocky island at foot this time with no problem. 77° 59' 52" 14' Water very choppy and fast almost all the way down.

Basil could use considerable axe work 78° 5' 52" 14' We cleared entrance to campsite at top again and guide did some cutting through windfall area, but more is needed all along the trail.

Basil to Eastmain --

'73 report is quite good. We could not safely cross to north shore out of bay at foot of portage. Went to west shore of bay and portaged steep pitch on rocks from behind a sand point. Good view of Basil from start of carry. Put in just below pitch and went down to next point to look at left side that did not look good. Water was lower than in '68, but higher than in every other trip. From foot of pitch we ran with current and crossed easily to grassy bay normally caught.

Next chute that is taken outside in low water and inside in high was too much and we portaged after slipping down left shore from grassy bay a short distance -- 40 yards.

We then ran to sand-clay cliffs on shore runs making two stops along the way to scout.

We ran next section as usual to an eddy on right shore before Surprise -- swells quite good.

Surprise run as usual to right of curl.

Then bay paddled and we stopped at top of shallows, scouted again, and ran to eddy behind a reasonably large white round boulder and let down next section with a couple difficult places toward top, but really quite easy to foot. Rapid could have been run except for trying to thread a needle at the foot. Water has to be a little higher to run this one.

Bay at foot has an eddy emptying into it and necessary to paddle to get out of it.

Rest of trip to post as in '73. Water behind islands was a little more shallow than usual 78° 28' 52" 14' but no problems.

Campsite at Mission getting smaller with a cleared area now in front of Mission. Tent sites mostly now to east of house.

Eastmain --

New store going up just inland of old one, will be slightly larger. More Indian housing in village continuing to southwest of current village. Radio telephone located somewhere in village.

Eastmain to Moose to Temagami --

Plane arrangements with Austin as usual.

We were not allowed on evening train. Polar Bear supposedly now has reserved seats and no baggage car. Back to old arrangement for transportation south. Train goes down in morning every other day -- Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, leaving Moose at 9:00. Arriving Cochrane about 2:30. Camping in Moose on either side of creek southwest of station -- we used near side.

Polar Bear also does not make connections with train south any more. Train leave Cochrane at 7:30, scheduled arrival Temagami shortly after midnight.