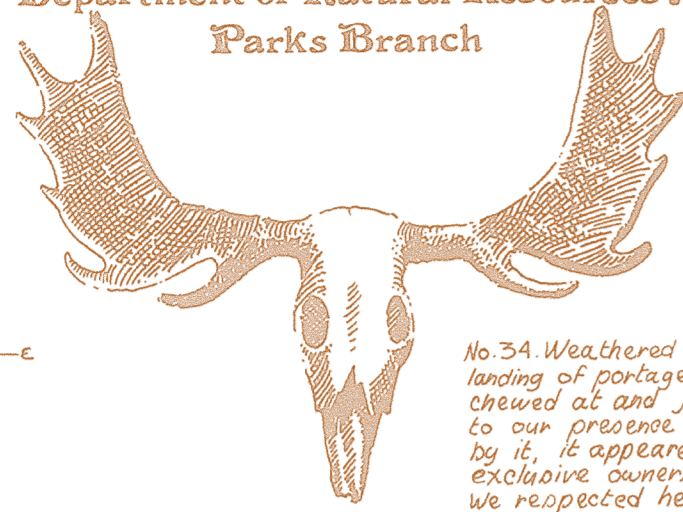
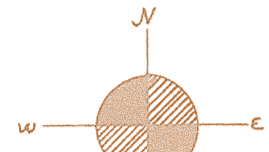


MISTIK CREEK CANOE ROUTE

Manitoba
Department of Natural Resources
Parks Branch



No. 34. Weathered bull moose skull at east landing of portage. The antlers had been chewed at and judging by the reaction to our presence of a red squirrel standing by it, it appeared that she had acquired exclusive ownership of the old buck skull. We respected her will.



Scale 0 1 2 3 Miles



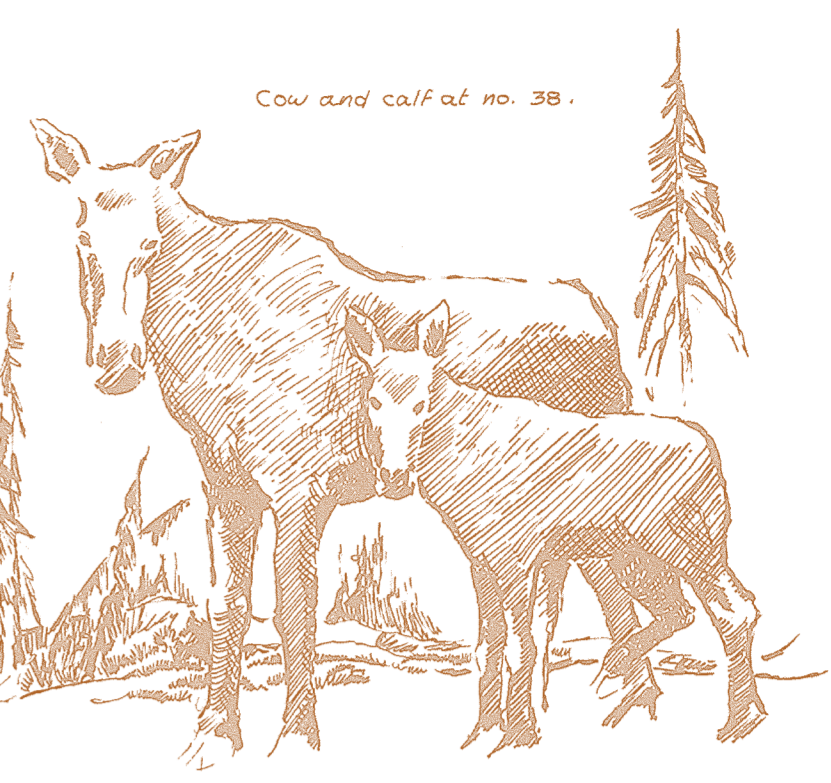
Moose tracks 13 CM.

Common sight along the trail.

Yellow water lily
Najas variegatum L.

Another sign of moose activity in an area are the uprooted water lily roots to be found in shallow ponds, the stems & roots of this aquatic plant being the "monarchs" favorite summer feed.

Rootstock - dark yellow colour



Cow and calf at no. 38.



Whistling Jack Owl - Fr. *Nyctaleus Canadensis L.*

The Mistik Creek Route - a fifty mile stretch of north country streams, lakes and ponds lying between the 54th & 55th parallels. The route can be canoed in four days but we recommend about a week to take the odd side trip here and there. We did the trip in the second half of October. Most of the birds had left except for a few waterfowl who didn't seem to mind a taste of the first snow and the hard ever present Whistling Jack & Raven. Synonymous with the north, these feathered "partners" are always present at meal time looking you straight into the eye, but you can be pretty sure that there are ulterior motives behind their friendliness. Beavers were numerous throughout the area and we saw the occasional muskrat busy haying for the winter. There was often a thin crust of ice along the stream edge during the morning and one of the good things seldom mentioned about travel is that it is the best mosquito repellent yet invented. At Naosap Lake winter gave it a try, showing us we drank our evening tea by the small campfire. The north east wind died down, silence, except in, and you could hear the snow flakes falling on pine needles. The following morning while crossing the lake we hummed a whistled old carol, one of which we dedicated slightly to "A Partridge in a Spruce Tree". At the water edge, standing sound asleep in their winter garb were multitudes of Chippewa trees, some with their heads bowed almost to their chest. At midday a westerly breeze came to awake them. The last day brought with it another treat as on a portage trail we had the good fortune of meeting a couple of moose often referred to as "Les Monarcho de la Forêt Canadienne". They appeared to have spent a luxurious summer roaming the country between Alberto & Thompson Lakes. These are some of the things that really make a trip worth while.

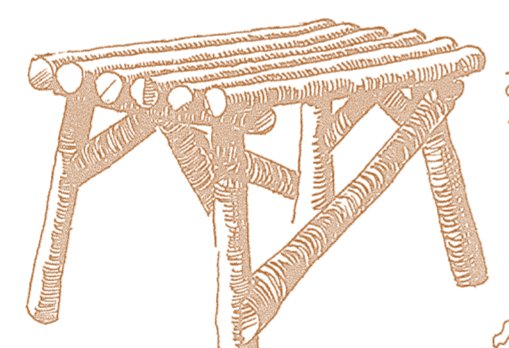


Grouse in a Spruce Tree at Naosap Lake.



Black Spruce - Cone and leaves. *Picea mariana - L.*
Epinette noire - Fr.

Baker's Narrows Campsite
Flin Flon Airport



No. 36. A rustic stool destined to return to the land from which it came.

Note - It is possible to make a complete circuit trip by passing through Mistik Narrows and Payuk Lake to the south of no. 10 ferry.

- 34 - Moose skull Portage, - 700 paces; west part of trail is rocky, steep and difficult.
- 35 - Portage - 900 paces on bombardier trail, both ends of portage are swampy.
- 36 - Hunter or fisherman campsite; spent the night here to dry clothing.
- 37 - Creek draining out Alberto Lake with high rock ridges on north side. Beaver dam is holding the lake level a meter or so above normal with a dry cut of rapids below. Even if the stream were flowing, it would be difficult to travel.
- 38 - Portage - 900 paces on bombardier trail. Here is a real "portageurs" delight, a flat sandy trail through jackpine country with numerous flat openings (sprats) along the way. Half way across we met a cow and calf face to face; we glared at each other for a moment and since none of us had anything to say, we continued our journey, minding our own affairs.
- 39 - Portage - 1500 paces - fine trail through a mixed stand. Many ups and downs with rock ridges in places and signs of prospecting having been done. Remains of old camps on the west landing.
- 40 - Rapids - portage on north side - 65 paces. A passage from lake to creek was blasted moons ago.
- 41 - Beaver dam - Canoe was slid over.
- 42 - Bridge & rapids, portage west side - 60 paces.
- 43 - Rapids - shot - portage on north side when going upstream.
- 44 - Beaver dam - Canoe was slid over.

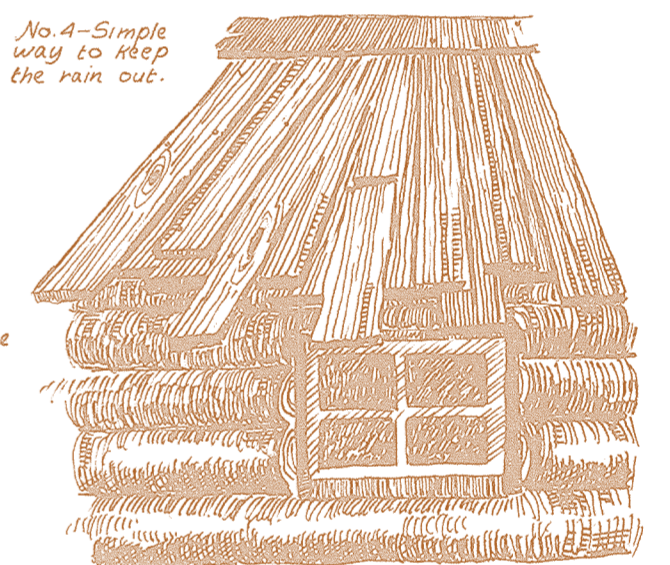
- 30 - Crooked stream, searching its way out of Naosap Lake through a marsh. Many unmaintained beaver dams.
- 29 - Shallow places.
- 28 - portage on southwest side - 75 paces.
- 27 - Shallow water.
- 26 - Rapids, portage on south side - 30 paces.
- 25 - Series of rapids, portage on east side - 650 paces. Part of the trail goes through boggy ground, the landing on Tapukok Lake being a black spruce and Labrador tea patch.
- 24 - Junction of Mistik and Vamp creeks.
- 23 - Rapids, portage on north side - 100 paces.
- 22 - Rapids, portage on east side - 100 paces. This set of rapids is roughly 300 meters from no. 21.
- 21 - Rapids, portage on east side - 95 paces. Note: portage trail begins at the tall Jackpine, when going upstream.

TRANSLATION

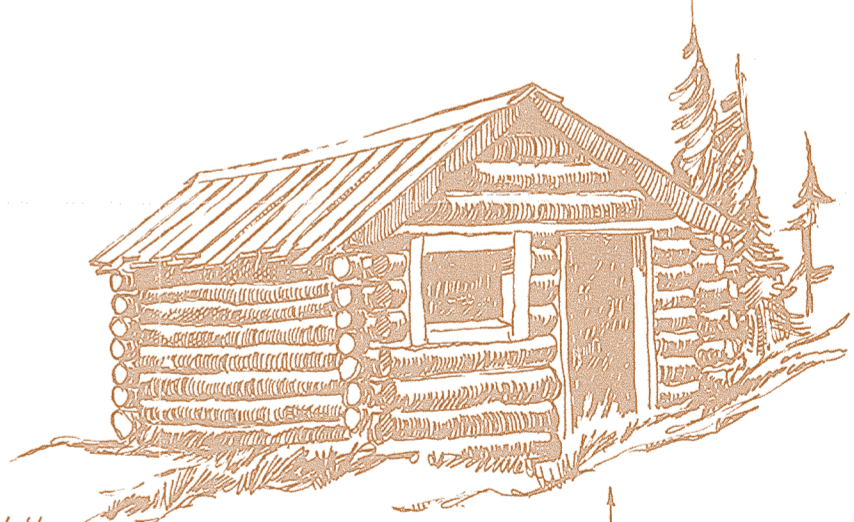
| Cree | English |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Mistik | Tree |
| Payuk | One |
| Nedo | Two |
| Nito | Three |
| Nao | Four |
| Niyarun | Five |
| Nitowask | Six |
| Tapukok | Seven |
| Uyenanano | Eight |
| Kakak | Nine |
| Mitakut | Ten |
| Payukooap | Eleven |
| Nedoosap | Twelve |
| Nitacoosap | Thirteen |
| Naoosap | Fourteen |
| Alkapawitow | "rock on both sides" |
| Papawitow | Ruffed Grouse |
| Naoow | Woodchuck |
| Kakakew | Raven |
| Umkak | Beaver |
| Muskwa | Bear |
| Wapooos | Rabbit |
| Ookakukaw | Jack Pine |
| Kakakewap | Crow Owl |



No. 4 - Peek through the window opening of a long abandoned log cabin.



No. 4 - Simple way to keep the rain out.



At no. 4



Sawhorse and shack at no. 15



1 - Mistik Creek way out - portage 150 paces from top of rapids. Note: the rapid marks were made here, but the rapids marks were made elsewhere.

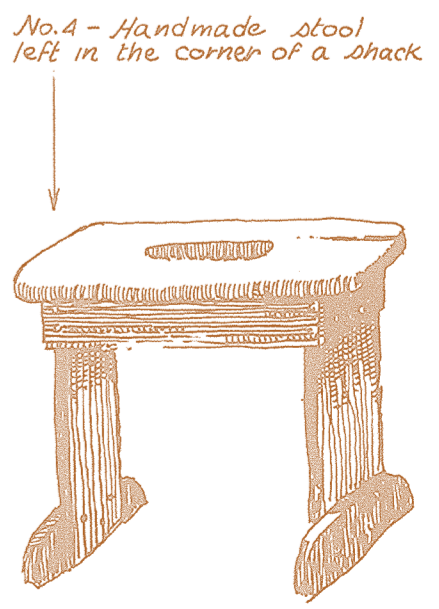
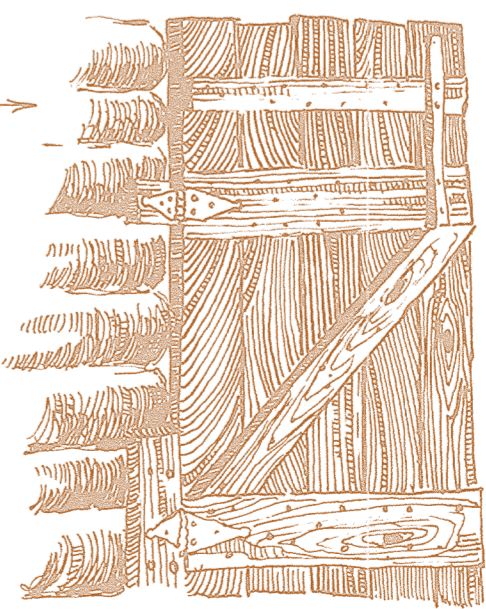
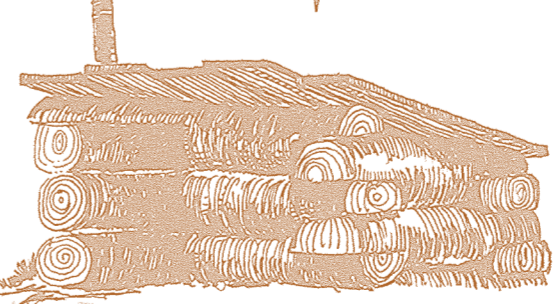
- 20 - Rapids shallow water, could be shot.
- 19 - Rapids, portage on north side.
- 18 - Rapids, portage on north side.
- 17 - Rapids, portage on north side - 100 paces.
- 16 - Rapids, portage on north side - 20 paces.
- 15 - Trappers outfit on island - 30 paces.
- 14 - Shallow water.
- 13 - Rapids, portage on north side - 100 paces.
- 12 - Rapids, portage on north side - 100 paces. Note: there are two trails, a low one and a high one. The high one is a guide across about half way to a limestone boiler spring, one meter across rising to granite bedrock.
- 11 - Rapids, portage on north side - 100 paces. Note: there are two trails, a low one and a high one. The high one is a guide across about half way to a limestone boiler spring, one meter across rising to granite bedrock.
- 10 - Rapids, portage on north side - 175 paces.
- 9 - Rapids, portage on south side - 100 paces.
- 8 - Rapids, portage on south side - 70 paces. Note: there are two trails, a low one and a high one. The high one is a guide across about half way to a limestone boiler spring, one meter across rising to granite bedrock.
- 7 - Rapids, portage on north side - 175 paces. Good trail in thick spruce island.
- 6 - Rapids, portage on south side - 500 paces. Note: there are two trails, a low one and a high one. The high one is a guide across about half way to a limestone boiler spring, one meter across rising to granite bedrock.
- 5 - Four beaver lodges together at one creek entrance.
- 4 - Dike made by log building (spring camp) & trap line (spring camp) on top of hill.
- 3 - Spring point and remains of log pile.
- 2 - Wide clear channel.
- 1 - Mistik Creek way out - portage 150 paces from top of rapids. Note: the rapid marks were made here, but the rapids marks were made elsewhere.



The Aurora Borealis known as "Ed Thin" among the Chipewyan is explained in one of their legends. They held the belief that far up in the northern sky the fur of a celestial deer was stroked by a mythical hand activating sparks and creating the wondrous phenomenon they observed. The Chipewyan country begins more or less at the Churchill River, extending northward.

No. 4 - A door that had withstood the ravages of gusty blows. Like a page from an old book, it too could tell tales of bygone days.

No. 4 - Doghouse



No. 4 - Handmade stool left in the corner of a shack

CAUTION: This Canoe Route is to be used for general information; it is not a navigational chart. It was prepared in Mid October of 1971 and the information recorded, including information with respect to the volume and velocity of water, reflects only the conditions which existed at that time. Because of the constantly changing nature of the waterway, this Canoe Route should be referred to with extreme caution, and only in conjunction with topographical maps and other available data.