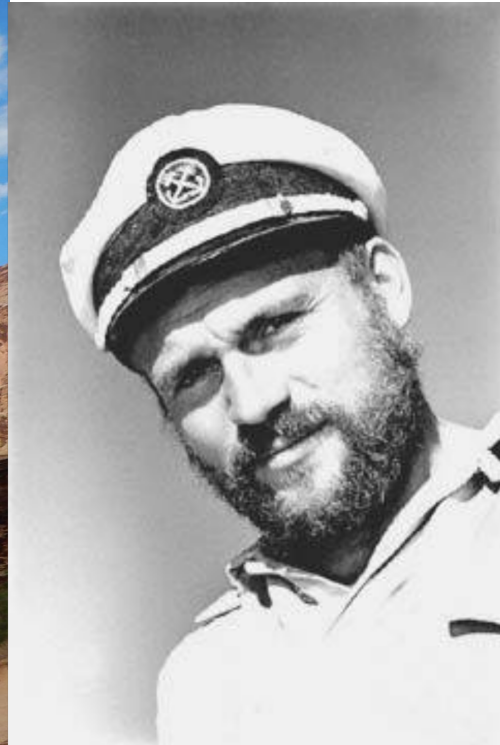


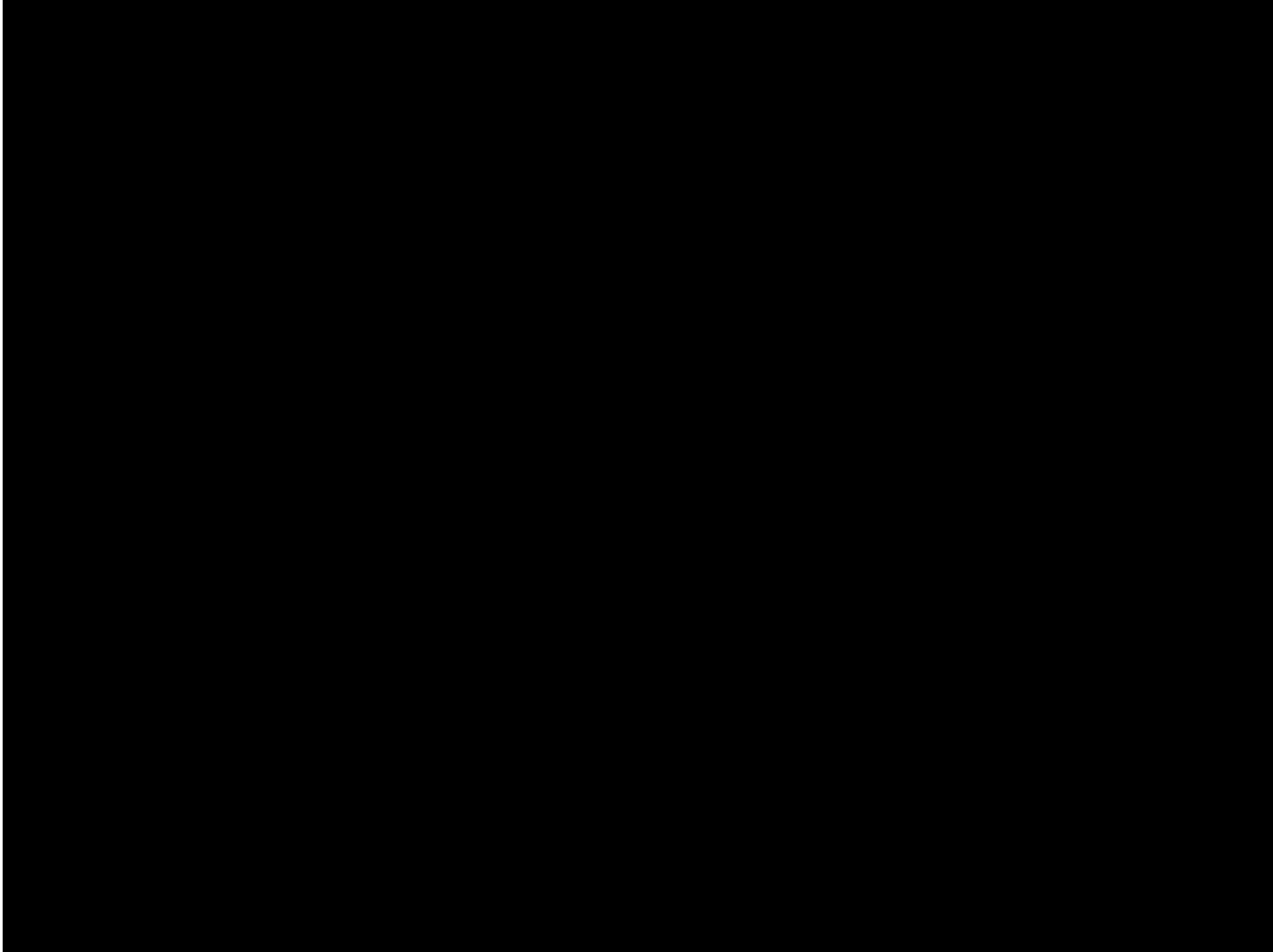


**Buzz Holmstrom &  
the doing of the  
thing**

# Conquering the Colorado

*Photographed by Amos Burg  
Arranged by Russ Shields  
Described by Lew Lehr*

An epic picture of a hero,  
"Buzz" Holmstrom, the only  
man ever to navigate alone,  
in a homemade boat, eleven  
hundred miles through the  
thousand roaring rapids of  
the Colorado River — from  
Green River Lakes to  
Boulder Dam





# Or did he?

“The river & Canyons have been kind to me - I think my greatest danger is ahead - that I might get swellheaded over this thing - I am going to try to keep my mouth shut about it - go back to work in the old way & have it only for a memory for myself - I have done no one any good & caused a few people great worry & suffering I know.”



“Some people have said "I conquered the Colorado River" - I don't say so - It has never been conquered - & never will I think - anyone who it allows to go through its canyons & see its wonders should feel thankful &



- 1934 Rogue River (solo, 4 days)
- 1935 Rogue River (with friend, 4 days)
- 1936 turned down by Frank Dodge for Grand Canyon expedition
- 1936 Snake River (solo, 9 days)



In re to a lone trip in a 15 ft boat through the canyons, I would advise against it, especially from Lees Ferry down through Marble and Grand Canyons for there are places miles and miles long, that if one should loose their boat, he would be lost... please don't try the lower canyons alone. It's almost sure to be fatal -- Frank Dodge

boat: \$35

- found the perfect cedar log
- driftwood stump for decking
- built in mom's basement
- widen the door to get it out

car: \$10

- no roof
- doors held closed with baling wire
- tow a boat 1,000 miles

film: \$15

cash for trip: \$100



Right in middle of storm -  
thunder, lightning - huddled  
under rock with water streaming  
down all round - can't keep me  
dry above hips though -  
wouldn't have missed this for  
anything - creeks falling over  
the cliffs all around.

For supper last nite

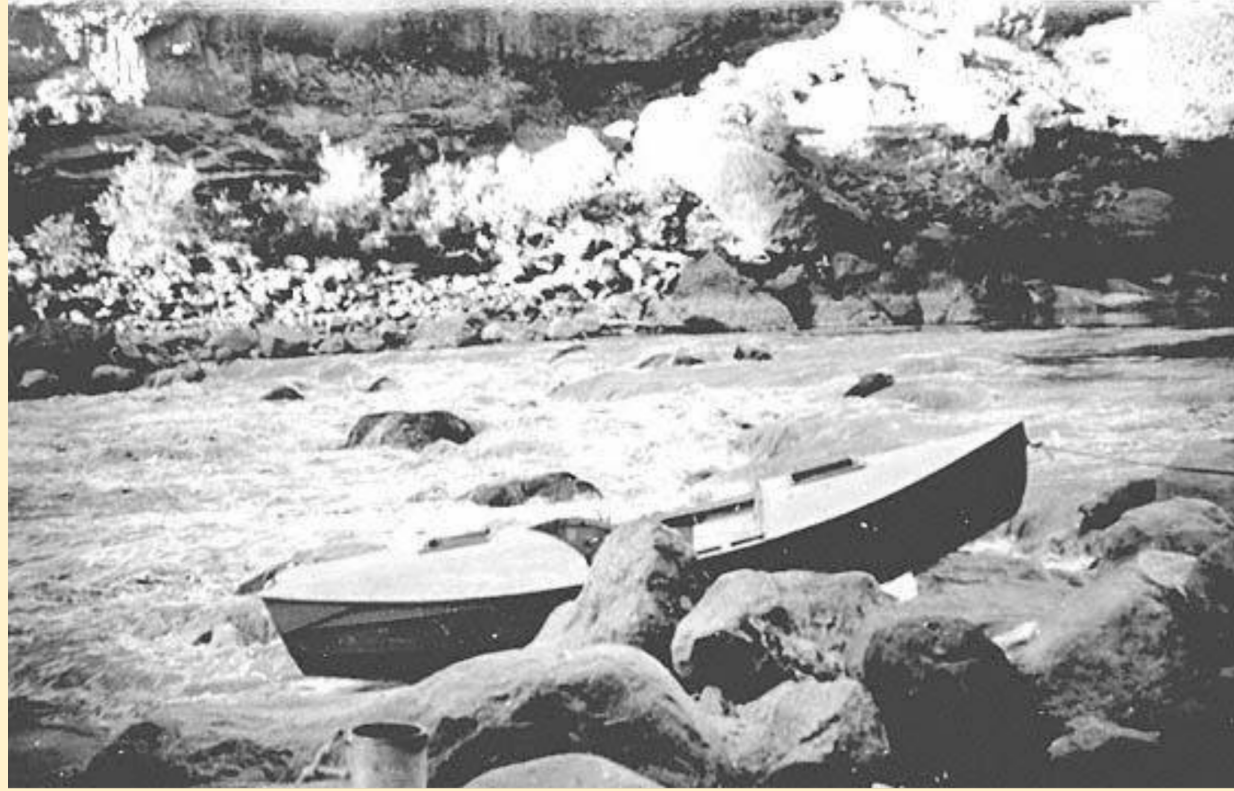
- 1 can pork & beans
- 1 can Vienna  
sausage
- 1 can condensed  
milk
- 4 slices bread
- butter & jam
- some grape nuts

October 5: launch from Green River, Wyoming





unloaded boat & at 1:00 started it down over the rock bar, got it in the water just at dark - awful job - will carry down things in AM - Hands very sore from handles on boat - big job carrying logs and poles to slide on



lining the boat through Lava Falls

## Historic meeting at Diamond Creek

Something shone  
out of his eyes,  
something of  
wonderment and  
relief that the  
worst lay behind  
him and that we  
was with friends  
and only a little  
more to go... we all  
loved Buzz from  
that moment on.  
- Frank Dodge





away from Cliff & the OK -  
about 39 miles - Canyon  
R. at Lower end Rap. mi 247  
with the last boat one above  
me - The Red Rapail - Lava Cliff -  
that I have been looking for -  
nearly a thousand miles  
I feel that - Once past  
there - my reward will begin -  
but now - everything ahead  
seems kind of empty & I  
find I have already had  
my reward - in the doing  
of the thing - the steep &  
Cliffs & Canyons. The roar of  
the rapids - the moon - the  
uncertainty - worry -



# SAFE AT BOULDER DAM

