

The Memoirs of

Bernard Elden Knapp

Random Short Story

First ^{pers} dies in trap.

Scene ^{speed}
Saw mill ^{speed}

2nd Cabin trap line
vigance worker etc

3rd taken into custody

4 coming home

Fixing up

speed
speed

5 Trip of ... homecoming
and result

Wharf
5/10/01

The old car ran pretty good I thought as I drove home that day. Crossing the north stretch of sledge brush flat. I soon could see the ~~billow~~ ~~rising~~ spire of pine smoke ~~issue~~ ~~from the steam engine~~ rising above the timber line ahead. As I crossed the railroad track I decided to turn in to the sawmill ~~and~~ ~~and~~ get some lumber since I could use some lumber at my cabin.

I pulled into the mill and slid to a noisy stop at the side of a newly stacked pile of lumber. An old black skid horse bolted away at the sight of my old Ford pick up. The boy that was ~~riding~~ ^{riding} him was ~~as surprised as I~~ taken by total surprise and grabbed for hance straps or most anything in his excitement to stay on. He made it alright but I couldn't help but laugh as I got out of the car. The men at the mill were getting a laugh out of it too. When he finally got the horse turned around and came back a faint smile ^{was} replacing the ~~beaked~~ look on his face.

Hello Ed. How are you? questioned Barney he was was the owner.

Pretty good. I replied.

Hello Jess I said. Each in turn passed the time of day and I went on talking to Barney I would like a little lumber. I'm fixing up around the cabin.

What did you have in mind? What are you going to build? he inquired Barney.

Just fix the cabin a little and probably a little around the mine, too. A few short two-by-4's and some inch lumber short enough to tie on the sides. About 40 ft of or stuff I guess.

You must make pretty good trapping
said Jess.

No I will never get rich as I said.
All in all I just about break even.
If it wasn't for my pension I would
probably always be in the red.

Do you get an old age pension
said the kid who was perched on
the horse listening.

No no I said you think I am
old well, I was in the World War
and that's why I get the pension.

~~I didn't know you got a pension~~
~~said Barney but I think you~~
I knew you were a veteran
but I didn't know before that you got
a pension.

Age it isn't too bad but it really helps.
Rather nervously I loosened ^{Barney} by
tie slightly. ~~I seemed rather~~

It seems quite warm I said
Age it's the bit noticed said Jess.
Well you had better go tend that
bailer Joe said Barney.

Yes I was just think the same
thing he said as he hurried off
I watched him disappear in the black
shed. A fine well built young man
I thought to myself

~~well I guess we had better figure~~
~~on getting you to get on~~

Well I had better get alone
Barney I said.

Jess give us a hand will you and
we'll load him up.

We had better tie them on the side
I supposed, said Jess.

Age it would be best I agreed.
Well it's all wired on and I think it
will ride alright said Jess.

~~Age it will~~ Ah I think so said,

Well what do I owe you Barney? After a few minutes he said about two dollars will do. Probably get you for more next time.

Age & day perhaps I said. After fumbling around in my purse I came up with the change.

Just then a shiny new car pulled up and some fishermen got out.

Well Hello said Barney to the driver aren't you out?

I hope not said the reply.

Where did you get that shiny new automobile?
Looks pretty new, said Barney.

Yeah, it's a '37 Buick Lincoln just got it. Sure got the power. Climbed Bear Gulch in high gear.

Did it easy said another fisherman.

Well maybe they'll trade your car Ed.

Hey that would be a good deal

I said. Well thanks Barney. I'll see you again one of these days. I wanted to ~~climb down through window past the lumber~~ the lumber was tied on the doors so I climbed through window and started on for home. The little boy had a broad grin on his face just as I drove ~~away~~ off.

It felt good to get out on the road again. I thought quite a bit about what had been said. I wondered if they would ever actually try to look in on my mining stuff. I hoped not. I ~~enjoyed~~ ~~enjoy~~ I enjoy their friendship but I do not care for ~~to have~~ ~~any~~ to be alone. Ah it would be too bad if they would get snoopy around my cabin I want no neighbors. I came here to be close to nature and not bothered by noisy inquisitive people. Ah they surely didn't mean anything

by what they said I thought,

The sun was getting low as I rolled into camp. I ~~thought~~ the air was fresh and ~~cool~~ it felt so good as I got out and went to the spring for a drink of water. The sun ~~seemed~~ to have what he ~~had~~ thought.

I climbed out of the car and went to the spring for a drink. It felt so good the cool drink, the cool fresh air. I looked across the river just as a young moose trotted from behind a windfall. It was joined quickly by the cow and the two trotted ungainly down the bank; I watched until they disappeared around the first bend.

||

The snow lay heavy on the pines bending the lower branches nearly to the ground. It was a heavy wet snow. ~~It~~ ~~seemed~~ ~~only~~ ~~yesterday~~ a two layer fall.

I pulled on my boots and went out, taking the shovel I moved the snow from in front of the step and around the "chopping block". I spent nearly a half hr shoveling snow from the wood piles and sheds. The snow was quite heavy so I thought I had better clear it from the car top. This year I had several times. I picked up an armful of wood as I went back to the cabin. This year I had several times enough wood cut than I would use. I sat for a while in front of the fire smoking my pipe. This soon as the snow was right I was going to start trapping. It wouldn't be long now by the looks of the weather, I could get a lot of good trapping this winter. I sat back

on the bench and thought of where I could best trap. I think I will trap pretty heavy on the other creeks this year if the winter is not too cold. I took the calendar from the wall. It was the 3rd of November quite late for the snow. Snow was here to stay now and before long it would be good to tramping.

In a couple of days I would likely be able to travel to my ^{third} camp and do a little trapping for winter. I got up put my pipe on the shelf above the stove ~~burned~~ ^{the fire with a piece} of wood and looked out at the weather. The snow flakes swirled ~~about~~ ^{around} the door and lit melting upon my face. They had a soft light texture and felt soothing to my face. I began to feel as if I could hardly wait until morning to get out in the snow and start for my ^{third} camp.

The next morning there was about four inches of very good fluffy snow. I went up the creek that day to the first bunch of old cabins. There was only one set of rabbit tracks in the two miles. The mink, and martin were not moving much until the weather cleared off a little. I set a few traps in some good spots. Every year some places were good every year but always after the animals moved about new places could be found where natural food stores and feeding spots were being used.

~~I went back down the~~ I cut across for about four ~~to~~ and a half miles to another little creek. It was really a rich trapping stream. I ran about a half mile and sank into the ground. Every year there was always plenty of fish here. I guess no one else ever bothered the stream and it carried no fish as it was not a direct tributary to any other stream.

There was one cabin here at the buff dog den that was in good shape. I picked up a little dry kindling from another cabin and soon had a warm fire burning on the dirt floor. The old bed springs were just as I had left them the winter before. A few more rat or mice nests had been made in the corner and up boards ~~since then~~ but it was still in good shape for a hind camp. It was about three o'clock when I started back for my cabin. I made it by a quarter to six. Soon had a roaring fire and sat listening to the radio as the coffee boiled and the fish and spuds cooked on the stove.

~~About the storm was~~

I awoke and put wood upon the dying ~~coals~~ embers. It was quite cold. ~~When~~ I looked out the ~~weather~~ ^{window} the sky was clear. The storm had died out and passed on. That day I packed my furs and got ready for the trip to Pond. I looked at the calendar it was the 14th of December. ~~This has been poorer trapping than I thought~~ I didn't have near as many furs as I thought I would by this time. But it had been awful stormy so far this season. Maybe there would be a couple of weeks good trapping and I could easily double this catch in a week or ten days of good weather. The next day I would take the furs down the river.

That morning the weather was good. When the sun came over the mountain I was gone. By ten o'clock I had waded within a mile of Pond.

II

scratched

more
rechecked
hammered

III

I shook the snow from my boots
and walked into the store,

Hello Ed said Mr. Pond. It sure has
been cold out hasn't it.

Aye pretty cold aaight but colder
weather is ahead I said, I have seen
a lot of geese today up by Tom's creek
and Elk creek too. I said.

Do that a sign that it will be cold
said Mr. Pond. He always liked to ~~hear~~
~~about~~ ~~thought~~ how I predicted the weather
by animals. It is the first I have seen
you many for a long time I said.

His son came in followed by his mother.
Hello Ed they both cheered, How are
things up the river?

It is ~~stocking~~ better I replied.

You had better get by the fire
I believe there is some hot coffee in the
pot there. Would you care for a cup?

Aye it would warm a cold man's
inside I said.

She poured ~~me~~ a cup, pushed the
sugar toward me over the card table
in front of the stove. I will go get your
mail I believe you have a letter or two.
She soon came back with a letter, it
was ^{the} pension ^{letter} ~~straight~~.

I soon ~~packed~~ my my furs and had them
ready to mail, after cashing my check
I had the shipping charge taken out and
left the rest in Pond's care. I

I would like you to take care of it
until I come back next week. You
coming back in a week they said.
I will it is going to be heavy trapping
weather for a while now. With a
gun or two of tobacco I left and started
back up the river for the cabin.

Ryebung Story

I was a bit tired as I came to the
cabin. It was a hard walk six
miles of swift running water. It was
just getting dark as I ~~stumbled~~ out the
scrape for the table and ~~boarded~~
the fire for the night.

The following week I wanted to go
to Pond with the furs I had ~~packed~~,
I had not had time to check my traps on
Tom's creek as I had a little of the fur
that week. I took my pack of furs and

~~I packed~~

I took off on snow shoes for Tom's Creek
about there I ran into Barney and his wife.
At first I did not recognize them but
soon I ~~stumbled~~ why it was. What are you doing
out here & hollered? They waited for
me to catch up. They were both on webbs
and carrying guns.

We are doing a little elk hunting
said Barney.

Aye too bad I'm afraid the elk have
moved out already said.

Well we haven't seen only one track
all day and it was several days old.

Aye at least that I said. Well you
will have to hurry to get home before
dark said, won't you. O

Oh I can make it she said. It's
only about a half mile to our team and
sleigh, said.

Oh that makes a difference, big difference
I remarked, which way are they. They are
at the cabins at the Tom's creek bridge
Barney said. Well I am

Well I am going that way I
will break trail for you and perhaps
that will rest your wife Barney. In a half
hour we crossed the bridge and climbed
the hill to the sleigh. They came puffing along

at right tobacco sleigh
slay chazy sleigh

Start here

Left the camp in about an hour and soon
saw tracks on my way home.

behind. My hell you take big steps said
Fameys wife. Fast ones I might say too.
Age I thought I was going slow for
you.

Well I would hate to try to follow you
then if you were going fast. she replied.
That's think were not grateful but
marvel at your tenacity & stride
on the heels. She said. W

Well I had better take off down
the Creek. I have a little work to
do before I can go home. It isn't too long
before dark can you make it at night,
she said.

Yes I can make it real easy.
I turned just before I went over the rise
and waved to them as the team started
around a bend in the road. They sat
cuddled up with a blanket across their
legs and so nearly tied in they could
hardly wiggle a hand was the wave back.

When I crossed their tracks again going
to the ~~same~~ having left the Creek
about a half mile I saw a strange
new track in the snow. It was a
big track. I stooped down and observed
it very closely. Below it there was a
kind of sickening jecting in my chest.
It was the track of the big cat.

As I went on home I couldn't figure
for the life of me what would a mountain
lion be doing here. And I said to myself
he must be just crossing through to another
range.

Two days later when I took my pack of
furs to ponds I carried my rifle with
me. I saw a couple of geese and duck
hunters on the lower end of the river as
I neared Ponds. At ponds there were
very many hunters all decked out in red

I could see to the first bend. The river was still frozen.

That night I put in the last chunk of wood and gathered smaller pieces for morning. I felt extremely hungry and craved under the quilts.

The next morning I put the rest of the wood in the stove. I tore at the floor with the ax finally I busted it back ~~and~~ so I tore one board after another and fed the seemingly hungry fire. Each day seemed longer I had to be careful not to oversleep.

Once I just about did and nearly lost the fire. After blowing on a few embers for a long time I got a piece of my coal sleeve to burn. I sat down and rested. The hoarse cough always plagued me when I exerted myself that way.

I reached for the clock the calendar. The stub of a pencil was ~~stubby~~ was like ice in my fingers. It barely made a mark as it slipped from my fingers and onto the floor.

I awoke that night, a terrible craving at my stomach. It was dark I tried to find fuel for the fire. I tore at the floor but

it wouldn't come. I finally got a piece ~~board~~ ~~board~~ and tried the fire was out. I pulled my coat tight, pulled hard on the quilts ~~slow~~ ~~there~~ ~~shaking~~ I felt a surge of pain toll through my chest.

I looked at it in unbelief just then a tiny gust of wind hit me squarely in the face. "Aye" I filled my bucket and hurried back to the cabin. It is the first time the Buffalo has ever frozen in the channel, I said. It is too cold to travel. ~~Therefore~~ I built the fire up a little more. I had enough wood to last for several more days. I would use it as lightly as I could.

The next day it was clear as a bell outside. I looked for the steel I had drag down during the blizzard. Aye it was covered completely with snow I couldn't even see where I had left it. I closed the door and kicked it shut tight.

The day seemed to drag on. All day my chest ached. A hoarse cough ~~kept me~~ ~~for~~ ~~nothing~~ ~~myself~~ ~~much~~ accompanied my ~~other~~ ~~miseries~~ soreness.

I drank the last coffee and had the last can of beans the next day. Pretty the wood was ^{nearly} gone. I decided I would have to keep a fire continually. ~~I had~~ I could go to Pond but I would be no better off. ~~But~~ ~~what~~ ~~could~~ ~~I~~ ~~do~~. It was still ^{as} cold as ever outside. I brushed the window and looked out. It was a cold as ever. ~~The~~ ~~river~~ ~~was~~ ~~still~~ ~~frozen~~ ~~over~~ ~~below~~ ~~the~~ ~~spring~~.

days a blizzard broke.

I marked these days on the calendar, ~~I started~~ ~~the~~ with a stump of a pencil. One day I had to go out in the blizzard to get wood. I felt weak I tugged and pulled hard to get the job done. It was not easy. ~~my coat was not~~ Every once in a while I felt the cold seize through my body where the top coat ~~on~~ ~~and~~ let the collar flap down. I worked very hard. Finally within a few ^{yards} of the cabin I had to cut the tip off the tree and take it inside. I made good wood.

The next day I felt a very sore spot in my breast. The blizzard was too much for me I said. I marked off another day on the calendar. I felt a rasping in my voice. After I heated some coffee I felt a little better but did not venture outside.

The next day the weather was clear. Ah! now maybe I could get to Pond. I pulled on my coat and went outside. I took a bucket down to the spring. The air was cold it seemed I had to break through it as I ~~walked~~ ^{plunged} along through the deep drifts. I got to the spring.

"Aye" ~~I felt~~ ~~my~~ face seemed to flush as I looked at the river beyond. It was ~~supernatural~~

bother to saw it. Finally I cut enough to
last a couple of days.

~~Before long~~ ^{the weather} The next two weeks ^{was} ~~was~~
so rough I could not stand to buck it.
I couldn't do much out in it. The trees
I got were not the best wood. I couldn't
~~get wood for a very long way. It~~
~~seemed as if everything was against me.~~

The best wood trees were higher up
and too much work to get down.

I got ~~enough~~ wood to hold me for
nearly ~~a week~~ out ahead by cutting
into ~~longer~~ ^{with} the lengths and joining
them. I got ^{some} ~~the~~ closer trees and
cut up into six or eight foot lengths.
With these I took ~~these~~ into the back
room where I could cut stove wood even in
the while the blizzard raged.

I began watching the ~~feet~~ ^{feet} the very close
each day & struck a mark through the
day on the calendar. Finally I had about
a week's rations left. Then one day the weather
cleared. "Oh this is really good," I said. I went
out ~~into~~ ^{to} on the trapline that day. The snow
was really bright, I was glad I had worn
my dark glasses to ease the glare. I brought
in my traps. A few were buried deep in
drift and I left them. I got in just before

That's too bad. ~~Would you care to~~ ~~I can see~~
~~if we~~ Let me see Ed lets write them
and see whats the matter.

Aye I don't know. I don't want to beg
for a hiring from anyone. I know

They probably have forgotten just might
have misplaced your name in the files or
something.

I doubt it, as I said. They think I am
not worth it. But I earned it. Say any
way where's that mechanic.

Well maybe he won't come but he
said he would.

Well I had better go.

Shall I have him back at your ear
should he come?

~~He will come tonight~~

Never mind I will see to it later
I had better go now get started for home.

It was a beautiful fall I had everything
ready to go. I set to trapping as soon
as the snow was right. The furs were
really good this year. I cut my trapping
in half. It seemed the beavers had ~~been~~
~~dammed~~ dammed up the Skinnerville spring
and raised beets with most of the good
trapping, besides the live cabin there had
been was not fit to use; the heavy snow
had pushed the roof in. I decided I
had better not trap that far away this winter,
anyway there would be plenty to trap close by
and the nearer waters hadn't been trapped
down any for several seasons.

I bent into Ponds in late ~~Dec~~
and stayed for a couple of days. No check
was there. I sent in my furs and started
back with a limited amount of ~~provisions~~
such as a little coffee, some matches
and a small sack ^{of} ~~flour~~ ^{of} flour.

I read the ~~Christmas~~ ^{Christmas} card over several
times.

feeling was over me most of the time - I didn't mind the woods but at night you can hear the game walking around and you can never see them, you don't know whether you are listening to ~~some~~ couple of deer playing tag about you or whether you are ~~the~~ in the middle of a family of between a calf moose and ~~an~~ the ugly moose ~~to~~ an enraged cow, tromping around in an ugly moose at your intrusion.

At last I came out of the long canyon and ~~as I appeared on the bank~~ pushed the wheel barrow along side the cabin, I heard the wild cry of moose down the river. An answering call came from below the cabin, so close it startled me. Then I heard the water splash and saw the shadowy reflection of ~~the~~ of an ungainly ~~to~~ figure with palmetated antlers browsing for moss at the pool near the head of the bubbling spring.

I awakened in the morning a little tired still. I got up I slipped on my pants and went outside. The sun was quite high I must have slept longer than I intended. In the morning the last thing I remember was the call of the moose as they ~~plunged~~ on the water cress and moss in front of the cabin.

That day I got the car started and drove it out to Pond. It wouldn't start again so I left it a ~~ford~~ and it wouldn't start again. For Mr. Pond came out and said, there will be a mechanic around later or I think why don't you wait and let him look at it.

I waited for quite a while, I finally pushed some of the grease off my shirt and went in. Mr. Pond. What is wrong with it and I never get my checks anymore.

You don't! You ~~know~~ I didn't notice that myself's be reflected.

Thank you when did you get your hat on? Not since I ~~have~~ ^{come} here the last time.

pretty good shape. I got plenty of traps
and other supplies, I got an old saw
from Ponds it was pretty good but not
to sharp and a hard one to keep sharp
I found out later. I loaded the car
down with all food stuffs and all
kinds of things I know I would need.

~~My~~ I made several trips to Ashton
for supplies for winter they were much
cheaper there. Before the summer was
over my car would not run. What was
wrong I couldn't find out. It just didn't
run as well as it should have done. It
was of time or something. I spent several
days coaxing it along. Finally one day
I got within a half mile of the summit
on my way to Ponds and it quit again.

~~At the~~ There was no one at the mill
except Barney's wife. She got some gas
for me. She didn't want to take any money
for it but I insisted and she finally said
all right I guess I'll ^{just} have to then.

The car started again finally.

The next time I got home it wouldn't
run again. The battery finally died and I put
it in my old wheel barrow and started to
Ponds. I got a few lbs of fresh spuds at
the store and when the battery was charged
I started for home again. ~~At Ponds~~
~~Ponds insisted that I stay there in the car~~
~~until Barney came along for his car.~~
You had better leave that rig and sleds
with us he said you can get it tomorrow.
No I will make it alright.

At dusk already he called Don't
you have a flashlight?

I do not need ^{one} I called answered.

It was a long trip that night. The
moon kept hiding behind clouds. I stopped
a rest at the top of the steepest climb
but I didn't rest too well. I ~~was~~ am uneasy

Well Ed we had better get back ~~because~~ ^{because} the wife ~~will throw out our supper~~ if he's probably thrown our supper out already.

Well many thanks Boney maybe I can do something for you some time I said as he started to drive away.

The cabin was in good shape now. ~~and~~ It was home again with the stove, more tools, dishes and a few other things around. I didn't have money enough to stay in that winter. Most of my traps would be gone by now. They would be rusty. ~~in the holes~~ I could never find where I had left them. ~~all~~ on the old traplines. ~~It would take much more~~ ~~be~~ ~~impossible~~ to follow now.

I would have ~~gone out and~~ work this winter away from Island Park. Next spring I could be back early it would all be set up I would have plenty of money. I ~~could~~ ^{could} buy enough to start trapping again. ~~I don't know~~

The next day I put every thing in place within the cabin. ~~I know~~ I latched the door good enough to keep out man or animals and started the Chevy. Before I drove away I took a long look. Yes this time the cabin looked better to me than ever before. I stopped only at Ponds on my way south for a winter job. They were friendly as usual and said they would miss my visits to the store.

The winter will be a long one I said. The squirrels they know it. If they ~~say~~ ^{say} that then it will be a long one.

Do you really think so, Ed. said Mrs. Ponce. Aye they have stored their pine cones in very large piles this fall she will be a long winter straight.

The next spring I was waiting at Ponds for the snow to melt so I could drive into the cabin. In a few weeks the road was in

in your cabin to ~~said~~ ^{told me,} he had said. I agreed with him and ~~persuaded~~ ^{he} was going to persuade him to haul it back to the cabin for me. He readily agreed and the day after he showed up at the cabin with the stone ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~his~~ ^{his} truck, one of his trucks.

We had talked a while that day, I needed a few gallons of gas and he ~~drank~~ ^{took} five from his truck tank.

"How much do I owe you?" I said. ⓪

Oh I was glad to bring your stone up he said.

"I know, but for the gas I said.

Oh forget it Ed it's alright.

Is it not? I want to pay you tell me what it is? ⓪

Oh about twenty cents a gallon I guess Ed. Is it more than that.

No you see I buy in the bulk for my trucks. Alright I said and I got a dollar in small change from my purse.

We talked ~~for~~ ^{about} a half hour more, about nothing in particular.

A couple of his men were with him and a boy too.

~~Both~~ Don't it awful lonesome here said one kid.

Age I ~~do~~ ^{do} do not mind it. Ha! one time I had just ~~rolled~~ ^{rolled} into hit the hay when I heard a big racket on the doorstep. I just about scared the hell out of me for a minute. When she moved around in front of the window it was a sign moose. She seemed like the biggest one I had ever seen. ~~At the time~~

You ought to be able to get your winter meat from the cabin up here said Barney.

Age I do not. Whenever I get meat I do it in the cold weather. I do not like to let it spoil or eat too much of it at a time. In the winter I'd make a kill I do it back away. Then I pack it in on my back. But it is too warm now it would not keep.

It was getting along in the summer
and I was again ~~going~~ way to ~~Pond~~ I
was at ~~the Pond~~

There was an old fellow there who was
caretaker for a resort down river away.
I made a deal with him for his car. It
was a good car he had told me. A 1933
Chevy coupe. Well it ran pretty good I
thought and I felt I had enough money
to afford it. I saved a lot of time. Anyway
I would ~~not~~ have to make a lot of
trips ~~in and out of the~~ to the cabin to
get supplies. I knew I could not get the
enough supplies I ~~would~~ needed
without something to haul them with.

In a few weeks I had ~~taken~~ down the old
cabin and built a new one. I set it back
a ways from the old cabin site and arranged
it into two rooms. The first one was just
big enough for the stove, table and bed.
The other one was a little larger I thought
~~that~~ it would be a good storage room. Perhaps
I could ~~not~~ have a wood pile in it too.

~~The place~~ ^{the place} ~~was~~ pretty good now. There were only
two tool sheds left standing and the new
cabin with the Chevy parked along side seemed
like a pretty nice place again. ~~Well I~~

~~stayed at the cabin until the first snow.~~
The first snow came and ~~fell~~. I ~~took~~
~~the door to the cabin and sleep~~ After
~~putting all the tools in~~ I made sure everything
was pick away in the cabin and I ~~loaded~~
the Chevy down the road to Pond. ~~It~~
~~was a long winter and spring found me~~
~~wa. I left Island back~~

Hell

I talked to Barney one day about a stove. Someone
at the mill had hauled it out he said. But ~~but~~ ~~level~~
it was stolen we have used it and it is probably in
better shape than it would have been if I had ~~played~~

It's only a '47 model.

Pretty nice car just the same I said.
Going back in a little while she asked,
Wye (I replied).

Well I'll give you a ride if you'd
like.

I'll be ready in a little while then I said,
She ~~she~~ went out at the railroad crossing
and turned for home. I walked about
a half mile when I suddenly remembered
I had forgotten matches. I left them in her
car. "Well" I chuckled to myself I didn't
want to smoke any way.

The next week I spent tidying up the
place. I dabbed the walls with freshly
mixed mud from the river bank. Three
days a week I made trips to Pond
and carried home spuds, canned goods
and little things I knew I'd be needing.

It was a long fall. ~~Snow didn't come~~
~~until the fifteenth of October~~ as I ^{reawakened} jumped
out of bed it was white outside. The snow
was falling fast. I looked at the calendar
it was the ~~third~~ ^{third} of November. I shivered
at the sight of the snow. Soon I had a
fire going. I stayed close to the cabin fishing
a little occasionally and hunting only once
in a while.

a logging truck.

The truck stopped, "Hello Ed, said the driver.

I nodded and walked on.

Say there! Don't you remember me?
It's Jess.

I'm on my way to Pond's I didn't look back again but walked on. Pretty soon I heard the trailer hitch pounding as he started off. I didn't feel like talking to anybody. I passed the mill. It was running. They smoke no longer poured from the stack. The stack was gone. They had a new jangled engine. ~~I guess one of those~~ It was about as noisy as a the caterpillars I had seen on the road jobs. I hadn't passed the mill long when Barney's wife picked me up.

Wouldn't you like a ride she said.

Thanks I said. This your car?

Yep it's a new one we don't have to drive our truck every where now. What's that I said? Oh that's a radio.

Aye this is really some see huh?

Yep it's pretty nice.

How new is it. Oh well didn't buy it new. We can't afford a brand new one with building a new house and everything.

broken down.

That day saw me traveling to Pond.
Maybe I could get some money from my
car it was at Pond's. But when I got there
it had been moved out behind, ~~house~~
no one seemed to want to bother with
it. ~~So I had to~~ I parted with my last
~~few dollars~~ I dug in my pockets and
came up with a few bills.

Mr. Pond I will be needing supplies.
Here take this money I will get what I
need as I can handle it.

What do you mean.

I cannot carry it all at once. I will
be coming around every week or so.
I got some nails and a few ~~small~~ ^{small} varieties of
canned goods, some matches and flour.
He had an old fish line which I got for
a little bit and he gave me some hooks.
I started for the cabin.

The road seemed twice as long as
ever before, maybe because I didn't exactly
know whether or not I reached either end.
When I got home I ~~went to~~ ^{scrambled down into} the cellar, prised
up a board from the partition wall and
pulled out my 25:35 rifle. It wasn't shiny
but as I worked the action, ^{it} ~~it~~ was good shape.
The next trip I made to Pond I met

an "x" marked through the 22 of February. It certainly was a different place. I ^{hesitantly} looked into the back room, & it was bare, no ax or saw. All that was left was a few traps, the quilts still lay on the bed but no tools were under them. The dark glasses, everything I could think of was gone. I didn't see anything worth looking at.

I went outside, picked up the sack and threw it back down again. I walked down to the spring. I could feel cold sweat ~~all~~ ^{my} ~~about~~ ^{down} me. I wiped at it with my coat sleeve and sat on a windfall overlooking the creek. The creek was not ~~so~~ beautiful as usual. The tall green grass was clipped short. Cattle tracks had made the banks edge a mass of mud. A wallow is all that it was now.

I finally got up I didn't feel hungry now but I walked back to the cabin. Nothing seemed the same. I forced myself to eat a few slices of bread and fruit. That night I tried to sleep but tossed for hours. I wanted to get up and smoke but I didn't have my matches. The sun was just rising as I got up. The cabin had a terrible smell about it. Squirrel and rock chucks had ~~at~~ ~~it~~ ~~I~~ ~~could~~ ~~some~~ ~~made~~ ~~entree~~ ~~through~~ ~~the~~

Journal

have to leave. (I do not have a letter here do I?)

I'm afraid not. I wish I had something for you he said. Something you could do.

It was August when I returned to Island Park. I hadn't had much work. I went as far South as California but there was nothing there to do either. It had taken a long time to get home.

My clothes were ~~ruined~~ ^{rugged} no wonder ^{either} they were dirty too I had been in no place to wash them. I hurried ~~to~~ over the road to the cabin. The small sack of food I carried seemed to grow lighter as I neared the cabin. ~~I got to the cabin~~ Now I was happy, but as I reached the cabin I saw the back window was broken. ~~Outside~~ The grass around the cabin had been tramped by ~~the~~ cattle of cows. Signs of cattle were every where. There in front of the cabin the grass was matted flat by ~~the~~ car tracks. Ashes showed where campers had been. My front yard was not the same now. I quickly hurried to the cabin. The door was half hanging one hinge was torn from its hold. I set the sack on the bench at the side of the cabin. ~~It was~~ It was a hard blow as I looked around the cabin trying hard to find anything familiar about the place. There on the wall was the calendar ~~to~~ with

dark, the last cup of coffee I drank that night,
In the morning I put a few chips that were
scattered in the back room on the fire. I
warmed myself as I packed all my valuable
my dishes blankets everything that I could
in a large box and mailed it shut. I put
my car tools under the bed in the corner
and threw ^{the two} heavy quilts over the bed in such
a manner as to protect the tools.

Now everything was ready. My shoes
I did not need I put by the stove.

Hung the snow shoes on the wall under
the fishing pole. Pulled on my boots, tightened

my coat and mittens tight. ~~slambed the door.~~

as I slammed
the door

The latch fell hard. The door was locked
from the inside. No one would get through
the door now I thought. Well spring it will
be alright.

I left by the river. The water
was not too cold as a heavy overcast
seemed to warm it. The trip down the
river seemed long. I was leaving home and
it seemed so slow getting away from it. I
didn't want to leave - well maybe there
would be good news maybe a letter would
be at Ponds. a check in it. But I was not
that ~~lucky~~. Hello Ed Haven't seen you for a long spell. How's things
over 1st Well I must have work. Mr. Paul I will

had not stayed. No one had stolen
its beauty. Age, one day, soon I would
have it as good as before, even better.
I needed a few new things when I
left anyhow I tried to reason. But it would
not work. I felt as if I would like
to shoot the first person I saw, and
keep on shooting. But that would not
get my things back.

Well I left soon and started
toward Round Bay again. It was not a pretty
road now. I didn't watch for the
spring fawns or wolf moose. I didn't see
the small squirrels or these the song
birds music. I only counted the dreadful
steps back to the store.

Mr. Pond I said as soon as I saw him:
I want to have you take care of my rifle
for me again. I don't know when it will
be back but it will be a few months.
Have any of my checks arrived recently?

None said he. They haven't come for a long time
since a few months after your departure. I
guess they will soon merit they?

I don't know I said and I hardly care.
Oh everything will be okay. Said Mr. Pond.
You don't seem too happy at the present.
Would you ~~like~~ ^{like} have away as I spoke. My
voice was hard to control. I wanted to shout
and sweep me the case, how, as I told him
the simple truths of the destruction that
disappointment that took place at the cabin.

What are you going to do? he asked.
Well I have no checks I will have
to get some work for a while. ~~I will~~
next yellow stone is the ~~best~~ ^{best} place
to find work. I will try there.

★ We were rebuilding cabin
new furnishings not
stay in winter. Get on and a love (1912)

shooked them for the night. It seemed a long way that day to the cabin, & had waited so long for that day to come. Every bend seemed like it should be the last one as I got nearer and nearer. At last I saw the giant boulders ahead aligning the sides of the ravine opening onto the river bank. There was ~~the~~ pack which had the cabin.

My steps faltered, where was my pickup. It wasn't parked by the large space. The sled doors were swung open. The place didn't seem like home. It was as if a horrible dream. The windows in the cabin were smashed out. I very cautiously walked around the corner. The floor was a jar. I dreaded to look in; nothing was in sight. I summoned up enough courage soon and gave the door a kick open. A couple of woodchucks scurried across the floor and dove through a hole in the boards I could see evidence of squirrels all about the cabin. But

But that was all, I could see, a mess. Nothing else was in sight. The stoves were gone. Dishes, bench bed, I looked around. Nothing was in place. A burst radio shell lay in a heap in the corner. A nest of mice probably were using it from the holes of it. I could stand to look at it any longer, whimpering I retreated to the edge of the River. Here I milt (I knealed) by the spring and drank long from the pure soft water. I rose picked up my rifle and with clenched fist I looked about. Only the buildings were left, I stood trembling.

The air was pure as ever the winter still pounded melodiously over the rocks from the canyon above. The stately pines, aspens and spruce still overtake this paradise. It was the same. It

rifle. He was a little shaky in his manner as he handed it over. I'm glad your feeling well he said, you look well.

I'm alright I said, again eyes were on me from all about the store. I would like to talk to you I said. Go ahead he replied.

Bye but not right here I said, He looked nervously about him. Come on lets go some where. Fat

Well we can go in the office. No lets go out behind the lodge I said, alright if that's where you want to talk lets go. He voice quivered.

I must thank you for taking care of my rifle I answered.

Oh I was glad to he said. Why didn't you write to me

You mean you didn't — oh well its all right I said. Tell me have you heard anything about my cabin.

Well I'm so busy here I can never leave I don't know of anyone going in to it, maybe you could find out better over at the sawmill.

Aye perhaps I can thanks Mr. Pond.

I left the store and started on the road home. I hadn't gone far when a wagon over took me. It was Joe. Well how are you Ed. He said. He was a lot older now. ~~and~~ had a young lady was riding in the wagon with him so I think he introduced to me as his wife.

He had been away for several years and so that the war was over had been home nearly a year from the air force and just gotten married. He didn't know too much about what had gone on the last few years in Island Park.

I got off at the sawmill and

~~I shifted~~

I felt consciously felt of my head as I entered Ponds. I knew it was long. I walked carefully in.

Well Hello Ed said Mr. Ponds. How are you?

As well as can be expected I guess, said I. What would you expect. I felt his eyes shift. Aye he could not look me in the eye. I have come for my rifle I said.

Oh yes your rifle that's right you did leave your rifle here didn't you. Several years it's been hasn't it.

I felt his wandering eyes rest upon me. Aye he noticed I wasn't so neat. I restlessly awaited his presentation of the weapon as he left the room to get it. Suddenly I felt as if everyone around was watching me. I started to straighten my tie it was not there I didn't have one. I glanced at the reflection on the glass door. Yes it was me alright that I was ashamed the first time in my life that I was ashamed to be seen by people. My coat was ragged and dirty. It was a black coat with eaten and hung shapelessly about my shoulders. The trim of my hat hung badly also. It was soiled. These were surely not my clothes. Someone else had brought them to me I wouldn't wear clothes like these. I looked down at my shoes. Where were the handsome polished boots Aye a shame to wear such beat up shoes. The pants hung about my waist with a pair of unmatched suspenders. They looked like something ~~there~~ thrown out of a used clothes store. Worse still they were bought from one.

Now Mr Ponds came back with the

I tell you it is good ridance to them if you ask me. They are a terrible nuisance, ~~more~~ nuisance. They are worse than weasels.

Well you may as well save it, said one and come along with us.

Payment if I will! I said you had better forget all about it. You might get hurt fooling with me. I am not ~~going~~ any where. I am ~~not doing~~ your business and trapping for an honest living. I -

I was interrupted by Mr. Pond.

Ed he said take it cool. You had better go with them, maybe it won't take long to get it straightened out.

The bell with straightening it out its straightened out and always has been now Ed take my advice. If you need any help I will do all I can to help you. I am sure it can all be worked out easily.

Let me see my rifle I said.

Pond give it to ~~the~~ said one of the Wardens.

It's none of your business I said. He turned his head as I looked into his eyes. They backed off.

I'm warning you Mr. Ryberg you had better not do anything you would feel sorry for.

Say Ed said Mr. Pond, your rifle will be alright here til you come back in a couple of days. I will put it in my house. It will be in top shape as soon as you want it.

Alright but remember make it snappy I must get back to my trapline. If I don't keep a fire in my cabin the food will freeze.

IV

coats and caps. What a bunch of happy ones
I thought as I saw them standing round
the fire drinking beer one bottle after another.

Well there sure weren't many I'll bet then
I guess this is the best place for them.

I packed my furs in ~~to~~ the post office
and checked my furs and gave in at the
post office window and went over for a drink
of coffee.

Presently two hunters approached me.
Pretty good trapping is it one said.

Not too bad it's still early I said.
There seemed to be an uneasiness in
their manner.

You Ed Ryberg said to the other.
I stared up and looked him straight in the
eyes. You have heard of me? I queried.

You are the trapper Ed aren't you. he
asked again.

That's me I said.

Well you'll make a nest said he well
state game wardens and we find you
have been shipping martens. said there
is no season on marten this year. Lets
go see if there any martens in the pack
you have to day.

What of it I said. Do you think you own
everything. There are a few ruffed
grouse around too but there won't be
long if these martens keep eating them.

I have a right to trap on my line
for animals. How can I make a living
or milk above. There aren't enough
minks around.

Never mind you can talk about
that later.

Yes there are marten pelts here
said the one warden. about 15 in
one ~~bundle~~ bundle and it works into
a balance in another.