

Holstrom and Party Pull Boats From River At Grand Canyon

10-22-38
GRAND CANYON, Ariz., Oct. 22 — (UP) — Three adventurers pulled two small boats out of the turbulent Colorado river here last night to safely end the first half of a projected 2,000-mile voyage, longest ever taken through the dangerous rapids.

The trio was Buzz Holmstrom, of Coquille, Oregon, who last year became the first man to travel the Colorado alone; Amos Burg, of Portland, Oregon, photographer, and Willis Johnson, riverman picked up by the explorers along the route from Greenriver Lake, Wyoming.

"It's going to feel good to sleep in a bed instead of on a rock," Holmstrom, leader of the party, told welcomers in the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Holmstrom and Burg started the trip 250 miles farther upstream than any other expedition and expect to ride down to the Gulf of California and then out into the tricky currents of the Mexican

west coast to Guaymas.

"Holmstrom has shot every rapid of the entire route," Burg said. "We picked up Johnson in Utah to help portage the camera and photographic equipment we used in reconstructing the first Holmstrom voyage."

Asked if they had seen anything of Jack Aldridge, 45, of Palm Springs, California, who has been missing since he set out on a lone voyage down the perilous river two months ago, Holmstrom said they had seen the wreckage of a pine-constructed boat resembling that of Aldridge on the rocks at the mouth of the Little Colorado river.

"We don't know for sure if the boat belonged to Aldridge, but it looked heavy and had been smashed in the rapids. Aldridge may have drowned or he may have been able to get out onto the isolated desert," Holmstrom said. "Either way, it looked bad for him."