



MOSES LAUNCHES SAVAGE—Owner and Captain of the Wild Savage, Milton Moses launches his boat for the Yukon 800 Marathon. Moses and his native crew of brother Elijah Moses and Edmond

Lord won the famed race in the time of 20 hours four minutes and 25 seconds, finishing more than one hour ahead of the second place boat.

—Photo by THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.

## Moses Wins Yukon 800 Marathon

"The natives are winning everything this year," one spectator was heard to comment at the end of the Yukon 800 Marathon.

After two days of dodging sandbars in the Chena, avoiding logs floating on the Tanana, and navigating in near-zero visibility in the Yukon River, Milton Moses and his crew of the Wild Savage raced across the finish line at the chamber of Commerce building near the Cushman Street bridge.

Moses, experiencing propeller difficulties at the start of the med marathon, left Fairbanks last place. Later, with brother on and Edmond Lord, he came rough Nenana in fifth place.

By the time they arrived at Ruby for refueling and attempting a two-hour nap, 9 hours 23 minutes and 25 seconds had been spent in traveling the 400 mile

distance. They were in first place, with five minutes over the second boat.

Leaving Ruby at 3:00 a.m. Sunday morning, the experienced crew of Interior Indians made skillful use of their mysterious river sense to widen their lead.

With a knowledge of the river, derived from a lifetime of experience and information passed to them from uncounted generations,

the river-pilots felt their way through the dense smoke and battled the boat-racking waves.

At one point, the Wild Savage literally began to come apart. The weakened bow separated slightly from the rest of the boat, so that the Wild Savage snaked along much like a supersonic jet maneuvers its adaptable nose.

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# Milton Moses . . .

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At this point, Milton admits that he nearly decided to scratch. Yet, perhaps recalling his last place finish in the 1968 race, he became determined to show.

Show he did, buzzing like an angry fly beneath the Cushman street bridge. The unbelievable time of 20 hours four minutes and 45 seconds left second place Miss Rewak over an hour behind in the standings.

Initially, the well-respected Blue Goose and its owner-driver Johnny Anderson were expected to place in the final results. Crew members Anderson, Andy Jimmy, and Howard Luke drove a new engine back to Fairbanks.

To their great dismay, they discovered the new motor burned more gas than was anticipated. A mere three miles from the finish found the Blue Goose out of fuel and disqualified.

John Shilling's Miss Nordale came in third. The disqualified Blue Goose came in before Shilling, who could be seen arriving with a "he edged me out again" look on his face as he viewed the three boats sitting in front of the Chamber.

Some of the other boats weren't in such a hurry to return to Fairbanks. The Red Lantern Special, Miss Preservative Lady, X-5, and perpetually jinxed Slow Moe's Kayak encountered difficulties and scratched.

The Moses crew is not about to retire. Edmond Lord told Milton that he would wish to begin repairs on the Savage. "You are coming with me on the Nenana Race," Milton replied.

Thoroughly unimpressed with the entire event was two-year old Miltie, Jr. "I want to take home my trophy," he repeated many times. Miltie is the official owner of the Wild Savage, as the Senior Moses bought the boat in his son's name.