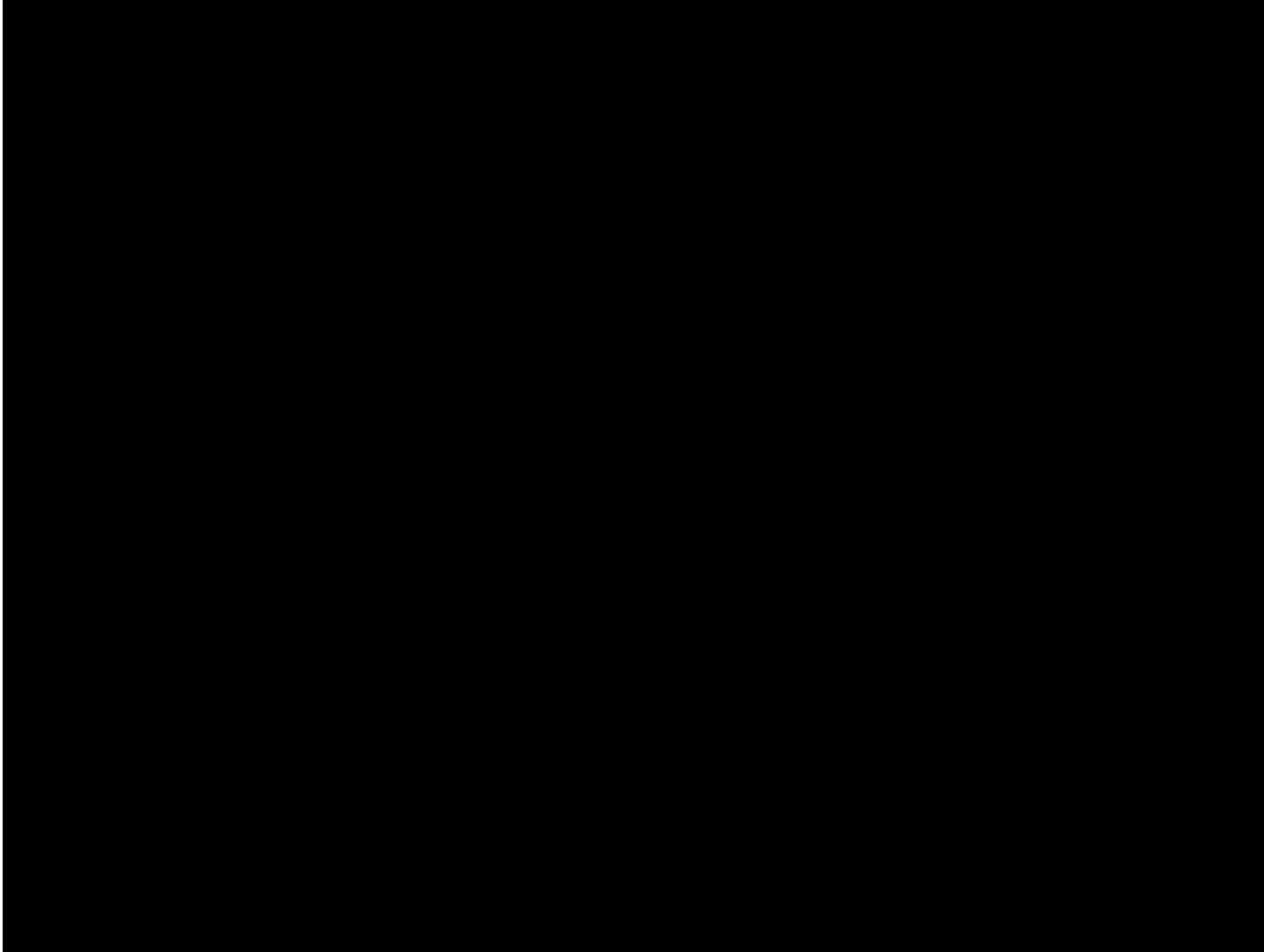


**Buzz Holmstrom &  
the doing of the  
thing**

# Conquering the Colorado

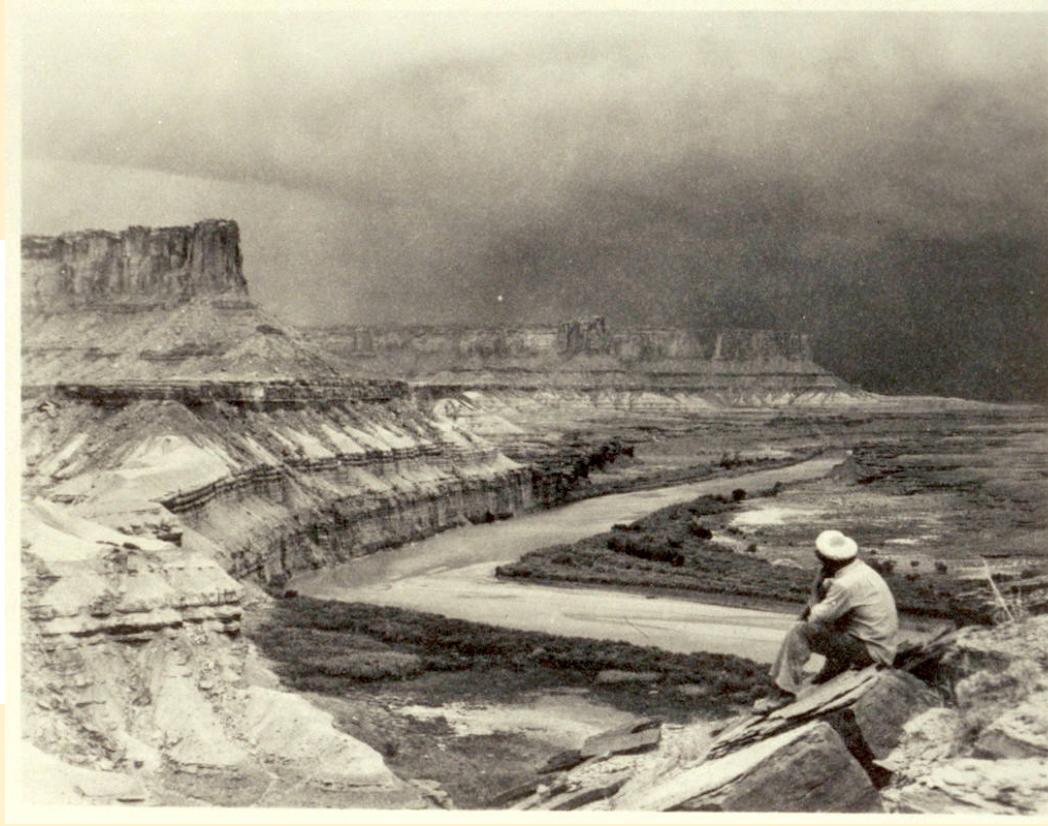
Photographed by Amos Burge  
Arranged by Russ Sheilds  
Described by Lew Lehr

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

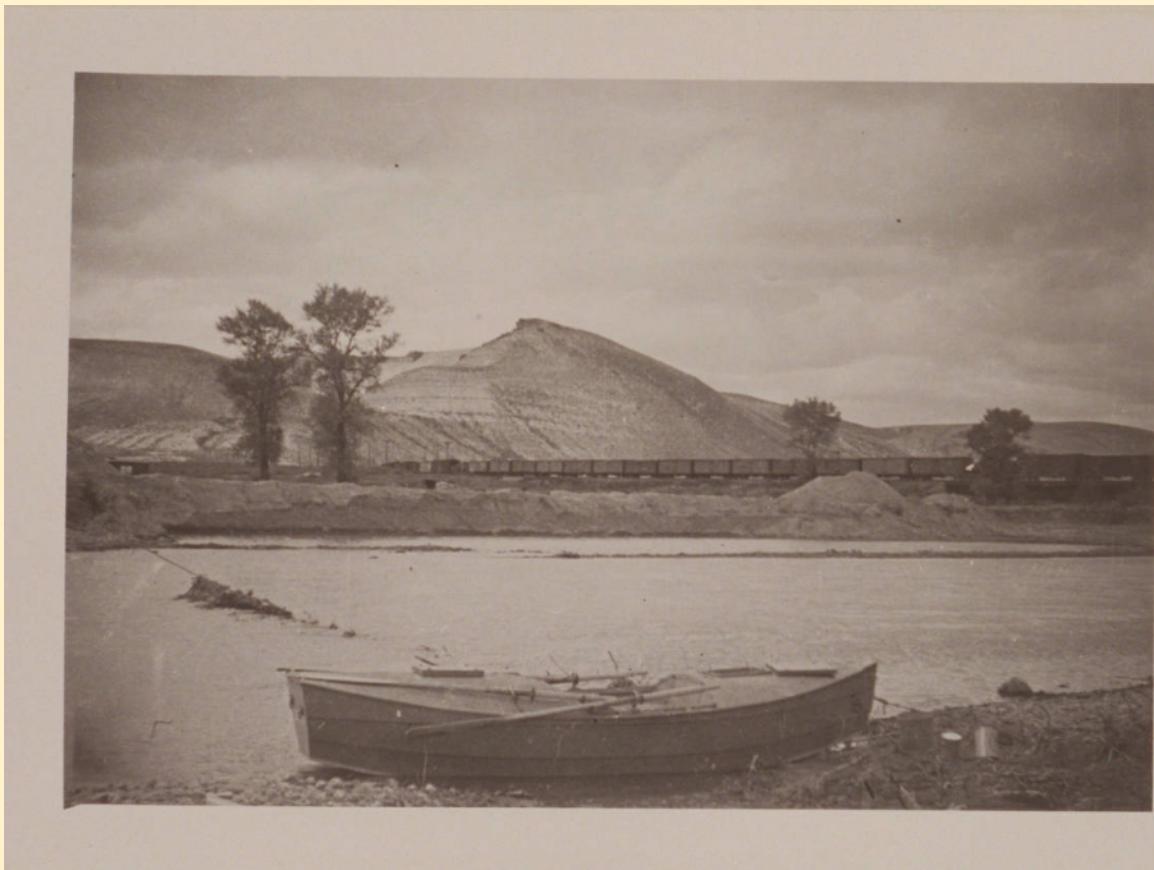


Right in middle of storm -  
thunder, lightning - huddled  
under rock with water streaming  
down all round - can't keep me  
dry above hips though -  
wouldn't have missed this for  
anything - creeks falling over  
the cliffs all around.

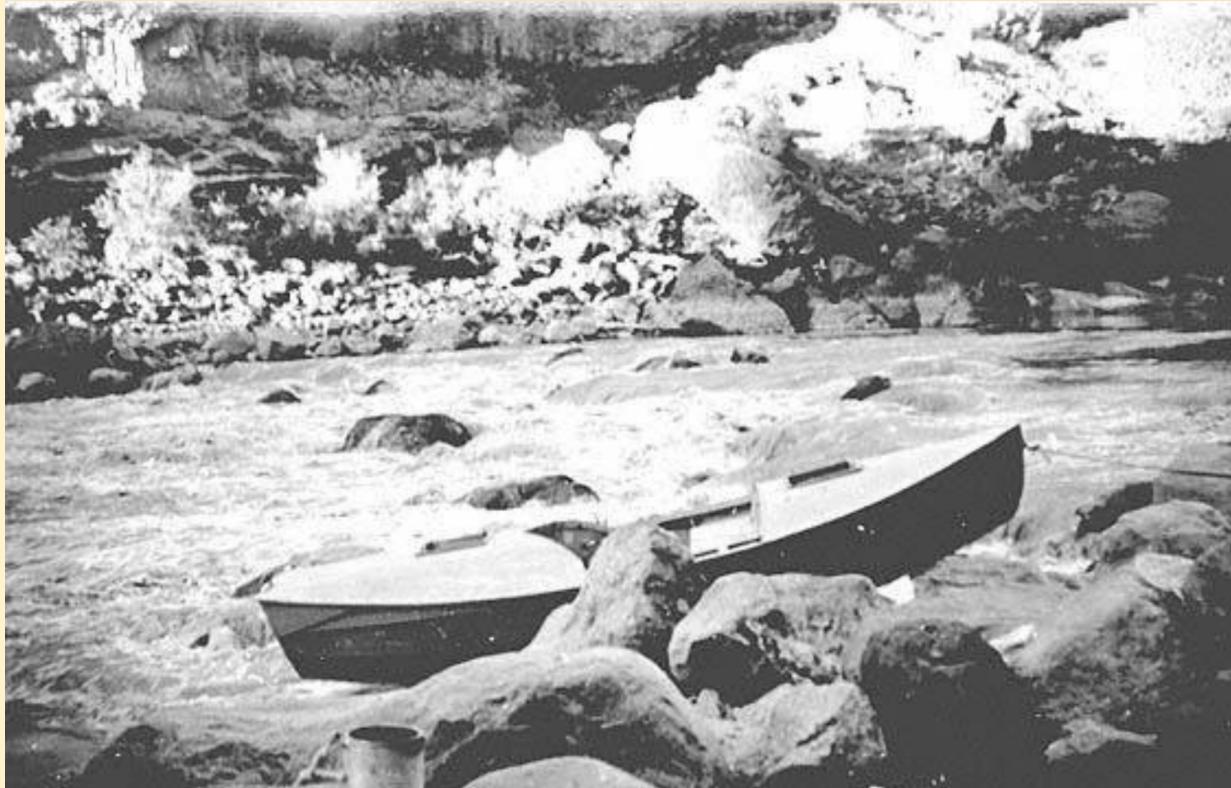
For supper last nite

- 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 rock -  
about 3 galleries - Canyon  
R: at Lower end Rap - mi 247  
with the last bad one above  
me - the Red Rapid - Lava Cliff -  
that have been looking for -  
nearly a thousand miles  
I hear 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 closing  
of the third - the slopes &  
Cliffs & Canyons. The Road  
the rapids - the moon & the  
Uncertainty - worry -



# SAFE AT BOULDER DAM

