



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Archives of American Art*

## **Reuben Tam Diary (Loose Pages), circa 1966-1970**

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 09:03:46

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Tue Aug 30, '66. Another great day - of such wonder and grandeur as to be unbelievable and almost unreal. Maligne Lake - 17 miles long. The great mountains rising from the shores of the lake.

Left the cabin at 10, drove north then Southeast. First to Maligne Canyon - weird, narrow, miniature, deep. Then to Medicine Lake - very picturesque - a barren cone of a mt. over a still blue lake. To the left, the silver grey Colin Range now close-up - and still extremely interesting with sharp clefts and hard smooth shiny barren sides streaked with lines of firs. Then to 5-mile Gate where car was parked. Boarded an old bus, rode 5 mi over a rough unpaved temporary road. Arrived Maligne Lake: a lodge, collection of tent-cabins, 2 docks. Boarded a cabin-cruiser. Then the whole world opened up. It was astounding. First the grey barren peaks. Then brown. Then the awesome blue-black-white 10000' mts: Mt Henry McLeod, Pobotkan, Olympus and many others. Very much like the mts. of Alaska before Skagway. A wind came up + blew huge swells in the path of the boat as it turned around at the end of the lake. Returning, the boat headed thru very rough water. Cold, icy cold!

Tues Aug 30 '66. Another great day - of such wonder + grandeur as to be unbelievable and almost unreal. Maligne Lake - 17 miles long. The great mountains rising from the shores of the lake. Left the cabin at 10, drove north then Southeast. First to Maligne Canyon - weird, narrow, miniature, deep. Then to Medicine Lake - very picturesque - a barren cone of a mt. over a still blue lake. To the left, the silver grey Colin Range now close-up - and still extremely interesting with sharp clefts and hard smooth shiny barren sides streaked with lines of fir firs. Then to 5-mile Gate where car was parked. Boarded an old bus, rode 5 mi over rough unpaved temporary road. Arrived Maligne Lake: a lodge, collection of tent-cabins, 2 docks. Boarded a cabin-cruiser. Then the whole world opened up. It was astounding - first the grey barren peaks. Then brown. Then the awesome blue-black-white 10000' mts: Mt Henry McLeod, Pobotkan, Olympus and many others. Very much like the mts. of Alaska before Skagway. A wind came up, + blew huge swells in the path of the boat as it turned around at the end of the lake. Returning, the boat headed thru very rough water. Cold, icy cold.

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