

Willits No. 952
Catalogue of Images & Information



Voyaging Mode—launching for the top of
Muir Inlet, Glacier Bay, Alaska 2011

My beautiful Willits canoe was delivered to me personally by the Willits brothers on a dawn morning in June 1961, and she has been a source of great adventure, enjoyment, and beauty ever since. Of late, she has graced my redwood home here in Monterey, California, but now it has come time to find her a new home.



As described in an article published in the Fall 2025 Wooden Canoe Journal, I was very fortunate to receive my Willits when I did: The Willits brothers had agreed a year earlier to jump me to the top of the waiting list in order to deliver my canoe to the dock of Camp Ta Ha Do Wa on Tanglewood Island in order for me to join as one of the leaders for the epic adventure paddling to Juneau, Alaska—a 54 day, 1200+ mile maiden voyage. Floyd Willits died the next year and production of these masterpieces ceased.



She has remained a carefully loved and maintained vessel for many voyages throughout my life, including a repeat of the Ketchikan/Juneau leg of the original adventure, an ascent of Glacier Bay to the top of the Muir Inlet with no other humans in sight, and multiple other adventures exploring the fjords and inlets of the British Columbia coast, as well as the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness in Minnesota. I refinished her after almost every major voyage, and got pretty good at it.

Set out below are **current images of No. 952 and the equipment that will come with her** to a new home. Every item shown is original Willits Bros. In viewing them, please keep in mind that the pictures have been taken while she is still in her cradle that hangs from my living room ceiling, preventing me from raising her sail or properly affixing the spray cover. All this equipment remains in excellent and usable condition:



Overview—Ain't she a beauty?



A Viking longboat?



Interior looking forward



Interior looking aft



View of spray cover (not fastened in place)



Overview showing sailing kit



Partial view of butterfly sail



Sail under inspection



Rudder & tiller pole set up for sailing.



Woodwork masterpiece



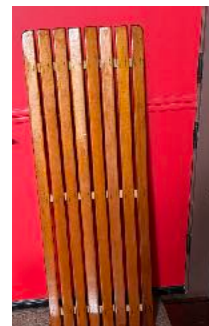
Willits paddles



Portaging yoke



Fin keel



hull saving Floorboards

In addition to the original Willits Bros. Items shown above, ***there are other items that would be included if desired by the purchaser, as follows:***

- 3 Old Town paddles—2 of them are heavy and sturdy, for whitewater, the 3rd is lightweight and comparable to a Willits stern paddle
- A custom made blue maritime canvas cover for protecting the canoe for car top transport. (This cover has played an important role in keeping No. 952 in her excellent condition);
- 2 canoeing style life vests;
- A balloon tired carriage for hauling the canoe up and down beaches, etc.

Asking Price:

She was appraised in 2002 at a value up to \$10,000, and that is my asking price. She is a masterpiece with a unique history—a true collector's gem.