

## RECOLLECTIONS

by  
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In my view, Oliver was a prototypical example of the generation that grew up during the Great Depression and fought World War II. He was very competent, could do almost anything, and could live through hard times.

Most of my conversations with Oliver centered more on his WWII experiences than on his philosophy of life. I'm afraid I can remember little of that, other than the fact that he was shot down over Yugoslavia on a bombing raid. Tito's partisans (Communists) rescued the entire crew. It took six weeks for them to make it back to allied lines.

Oliver showed me how to build a tool out of a crowbar for chopping a water hole, and we talked about the best way to sharpen an axe. He also repaired a gasoline-powered washing machine that I had purchased from Homer Cleveland in Shungnak.

He built an ingenious one-wheel cart to move sod for my cabin roof. He made the wheel out of the cross-section of a log, using a 6" log spike as the axle.

There really is not very much that I could add. Oliver was not really much of an influence concerning dog mushing. Pete Macmanus, Keith Jones and Alex Sheldon were my primary sources of local information and inspiration in that field.

Oliver and I visited a lot. I always enjoyed my time with him because he was so fully competent and self-sufficient and because he was full of great information and suggestions about living in the Arctic.

But really, I'm afraid the details are lost in the cobwebs of my memories. I know that Jan Cabanis could have contributed much more.....