

OLIVER IN NORWAY

by
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As you know Oliver was staying in our camp for about three months a year, six or seven years! When he first heard of the project he felt that the idea and the ideals was so close to what he wanted to accomplish in life that he offered to participate. He said he would make sure that the camp got the right energy and would prevent it from being to commercial. And it worked! Oliver found new solutions every time we were stuck with ideas of how to solve a "problem".

He was the one that showed me how to make a doug-out canoe. No-one in Norway new how to and if he hadn't arrived I would have built it a totally wrong way. He showed up at the exactly right time. His participation made it possible to make the doug-out in the old way, traditional way, which made the Norwegian scientists interested in such a way that I made a film for Norwegian television about the history of doug-out canoes in Norway. The film actually changed the scientists attitude of the importance of doug-outs in Norwegian history! They changed the history books!

Later on we had someone make another doug-out for the camp (Tuva's husband) but it wasn't nearly as nice as the one Oliver helped us build. He said he had built two of them when he was a kid.

Oliver was the one who suggested we should make a huge wigwam for more than 100 people. It was perfect for our use. We had planned to build a big lavvo (same-tent) but didn't have a space for a tent like that and was aware that all the heat from a stove would disappear in a tall construction like that. A wigwan, made of bent poles was perfect for us: Nice looking, original and functional with its low roof. Oliver designed the whole thing. He helped us find stiff spruce poles for the framing and soft trees for the poles who we should bend. He then designed a huge steamer (18 feet long) out of a oil barrel and some ventilation tubes. It made it possible to bend the poles. It all worked just perfect! It became the, by far, most important building in the camp. If you need an idea of what it looked like inside or outside you can still find it at our web-sites: www.villmaksleiren.no.

When we also needed a wear house that fit the camp he designed a little building made of poles that was just perfect and that a lot of people has been admiring later on. Oliver always made things look nice, original, simple and real. He sure improved our camp.

Olivers impact on people in the camp was quite big. A lot of people heard about him and came to see him and speak with him. Several persons stayed with him for days at a time and was very touched and inspired by him. It seem like his "down to earth" attitude, his enormous experience when it came to living in the wilderness and the way he was "living as he spoke" was what

inspired people the most. He always listened respectfully to people before he started expounding his own ideas and views of life. No one would doubt that Oliver meant everything he said and that his opinions were built on a lot of experience. Quite a few people in Norway claim that Oliver changed their opinions about important values in life. A lot of Norwegians miss him.