

10:00 a.m.

Jim Kelly called from Whitehorse. The Twin Otter will leave at 11:50 for a fly over.

11:45 a.m.

We left Carcross in the Twin Otter, flew down Bennett Lake to the log cabin, south to Fantail Lake, along Fantail Lake to Tagish Lake.

At 10:00 a.m. on the 18th day of his trip, he set out to Atlin once more. His face was protected with a piece of nylon he had cut from his tent. He intended to use it to signal any planes he might see. Half a mile from the Golden Gate he heard a plane and looked up to see a Twin Otter bearing RCMP officers.

Macy stamped out the word "frost" in the snow and pointed to his feet. Then he stamped out a big heart.

"That's the way I felt when I saw them. I was so happy."

12:45 p.m.

We spotted Macy on Tagish Lake and contacted Atlin Detachment to come with the helicopter. He was picked up at 1:15 p.m. at the Golden Gate and taken to Atlin. There he was transferred to the Twin Otter and taken to Whitehorse to see a doctor.

"There was a period when I thought I might never see anyone again," he said. "I came close to panicking. If I didn't love the out-of-doors, I would have gone nuts. Sometimes just the waiting can get to you."

The last part of his journey was a forced march. "If I wanted to live, I

knew I had to get out of that cabin. I had no choice in the matter and that sometimes makes things easier."

Macy had to call on everything he knew about survival in the wilderness. He had told himself at the beginning that his attitude would probably be the most important thing on the trip.

"That I survived was a lot of luck. I'm not religious but I prayed a lot. Then I realized that the only person who knew where I was and could help me was me."

Macy said he must have had some kind of premonition about what kind of trip he was going to have because he sent a postcard to friends in Fairbanks and told them that if he hadn't been heard from by February 8, to call the RCMP. "I was very direct and that's not like me."

The trip from Skagway to Atlin was also a training run for a 1,000-mile ski trip Macy had planned for later this winter but he's not planning on going now.

"Somehow it doesn't seem important right now," he said.

Macy wants people to know about the mistakes he made in hopes that they won't make the same ones. He admits he won't go into strange country again and will probably be better equipped next time.

February 11 — 2:20 p.m.

Macy advised us that he was headed to Fairbanks by air. He was very happy with our action. ■