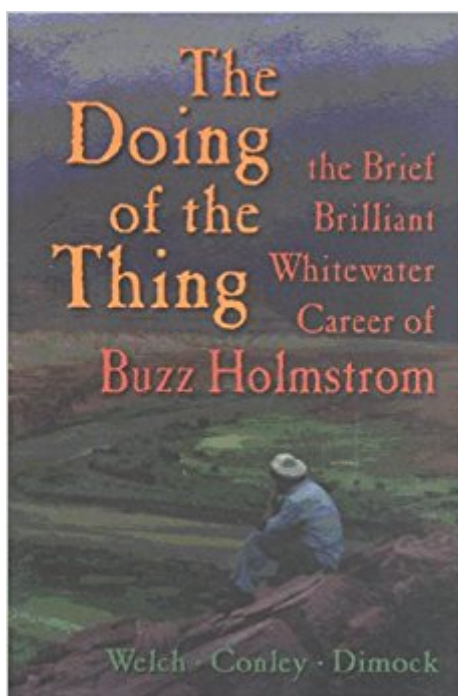


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# The Doing Of The Thing: The Brief Brilliant Whitewater Career Of Buzz Holmstrom



## Synopsis

Biography of America's great river runner, Buzz Holmstrom: the first to run the Green and Colorado Rivers alone in 1937. Born in the coastal logging communities of coastal Oregon, Holmstrom built his own wooden boats and soloed several of the country's great whitewater rivers. He died mysteriously on the Grande Ronde River at age 37.

## Book Information

Paperback: 290 pages

Publisher: Fretwater Press; Second edition edition (June 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1892327465

ISBN-13: 978-1892327468

Product Dimensions: 9 x 6 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,096,144 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Rafting](#) #1014 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > West](#) #2076 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Sailing](#)

## Customer Reviews

[The authors] are river-runners and they are fine writers. Welch's craft is strong. River runner or not, the reader flips with Buzz at Black Bar Falls, sits shivering at twilight on a boulder, swims the icy river, and tired and cold, goes on. By the time Holmstrom puts his hand-built boat into Green River, we like the young boatman. By the end of the voyage, we love him. He emerges, through Dimock's storytelling and excerpts of Buzz' journal as a bright, hugely conscious man, expert at carpentry, rowing, survival in hard terrain and, more than anything, steering his journey not against the river, but with it. If writing is, as Dimock's and Welch's skill would bear out, a river, then what "The Doing of the Thing" accomplishes is the restoration of the flow and the bringing to the surface of a fine human being. -- Mary Sojourner, Arizona Daily Sun, October 9, 1998

This beautifully designed trade paperback is notch bound for years of service both in the library and out on the river.

Holmstrom's an example of Calling, or the Daimon in Hillman's sense. The authors provide the

details of his life, limned on the canvas of the lost West, but there's a mystery in the strength of the hold the River had on him, as it has on some of the rest of us. Watching Holmstrom shape himself, even as he learned to shape wood for his boats, to make his voyages, gives a sense of destiny, which I think is one of the book's gifts. We live the era of gray, massed human lives; the book is a portrait of an actual human life: humble, shy, self-sculpted. doubt-racked, humorous, and finally dauntless. Reading of his early life, reading of his active life on the rivers, there is still the mystery of why this one from that town and those parents went to a peculiar and noble destiny. Welch, Dimock, Conley: boatmen, historians. They have the historical imagination and the river knowledge to vivify place and time, to judge in context, with expertise. Experts writing with precision and certainty (and where exacted by Holmstrom's death, with puzzlement and sorrow) about one of their Ancestors, one of their spiritual Fathers. Using Holmstrom's voice too; nobody could reveal him as he did himself. As with some greater and few lesser writers, these imbue their book at once with a picture of an odd, engaging spirit; a more spacious time; a lost West. Holmstrom lived in paradise; he lived in Neverland; he never left it. An achronic life, in a good book.

Great book, great story!

Engaging history of a young man who finds fulfillment in building boats and running rivers, but discovers that this focus is too narrow for true and lasting happiness. I enjoyed every page of this well written and thoroughly researched book.

River guiding is not all glory and paddling off into the sunset. Hard work, physical hardship and difficult relationships are more apt to snap a guides life. This book recounts all these things brilliantly, the authors actually know of what they write about.

A great book to read if you are a river rat. I live in Oregon and raft rivers and I had not heard about Carl. A great story about a very private and driven man.

Buzz Holmstrom was my uncle and this book hold so much of my family's history as well as Uncle Buzz's adventuresome spirit.

After multiple private trips down the Grand Canyon, reading this story was absolutely delightful. Not to be missed amongst the multitude of book chronicling Grand Canyon river running adventure.

Loved it.

I am a whitewater nut -Buzz had an interesting life

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