

The Wager
Todd Lindahl
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On February 18, 1904 a couple of people in Duluth got into an argument about whether a person could travel by land from Duluth to Beaver Bay and back in less than 24 hours. The argument became quite heated with both parties very certain they were right. Finally a bet was made that would net the winner \$500.00 when it was proven.

The man making the run found a light cutter (sleigh) and a good team of horses that he thought would have the stamina for a long fast trip. An impartial judge was selected to ride along to ensure the entire distance was covered. The time of departure was selected as 9:00 A.M. , which meant that they would have to be back at that point before 9:00 A.M. the following day to win. The two men left exactly at 9:00 as scheduled traveling the old stage road and reached Two Harbors at 12:30 P.M. By late afternoon they had arrived in Beaver Bay and turned to head back down. The cold wind bit at their faces as the trotting horses pulled the cutter swiftly down the narrow snowy stage road in the dark. At 1:00 A.M. they again passed through the now quiet and sleeping town of Two Harbors. They arrived back in Duluth at 8:20 A.M. where the winner collected his \$500.00 with 40 minutes to spare.

The total distance traveled was 128 miles proving for the first time that you actually could travel from Duluth to Beaver Bay and back in less than 24 hours. Today you can drive this same distance in about 2 hours in comfort. We have come a long way since 1904.