Tow Hill: At the back of the beach, a high-shanked spruce forest seemed to have its green skirt up, daintily ready to come wading.

(cut from p. 97 of ms; use later?)
Tow Hill, 31 July '80--

cliff abt 200 yds long, perhaps 300' sheer up

the top domes--arcs--over you as you stand looking up: something like mosque domeline in middle with walls out either end (see sketch on original card)

abt 15 big trees along cliff top, at very brink as if poised to dive

the cliff is remarkably sheer--beneath if you have to throw your head back as far as possible to see the top--of long sectioned material like columnar basalt, but bigger. Cliff face is not smooth as say Half Dome's, but indent in these column-like ways when it does, and from a little distance looks like a half-dome: a minor mountain sliced in half.

Clumps of green grass, long like thickly clustered dune grass, spot the entire cliff; also some moss growth, particularly at eastern end.

Perhaps say it looks like one of the Sitka round mtns whacked in half
At the cliff base is tumble of black boulders big as oxcarts. Then a narrow stand of fir trees, then the sharp upshot of the cliff.

The point extending out and around Tow, beginning at its western base and continuing rocky all the way around to the mouth of the Hiellen River, is black rock, knobbed and pitted and riven (gouged, some rectangular trenches cut by waves). One blowhole at western base of cliff, surf shattering up from a concavity in the rocky tideline into beads of white. Much bigger blowhole near eastern farthest-extendmg (that is, reaching north into Dixon ENtrance) finger of the point: concavity angles in smooth curve down beneath the rock of the point, wave strikes in, rebounds out along the confining curve of the top in great spray, yards long. Blowhole explosions are something like instant fan-shapes, dissolving as instantly as they happen.

The rock ledges of the point, esp. along the eastern farthest-out portion, are black horny parapets, pitted with fist-size holes as if they've been under seige from small cannon. Several thrusts of them, like some crazy fortress extensions (enfilades?).
Tow Hill/3

Beach west of big blowhole, between it and western end of cliff, is hummocked with two rock formations like ship hulls resting upside down—even striated as the ship boards would be. Hummocks are the same blackish color as the rest of the point rocks.

At eastern forest edge of cliff, sawgrass along the treeline and in a little ways (on the walk from parking lot 400 yds in from river mouth) and then moss over forest floor, rocks, stumps, everything, like a green rust.

It is dark country along there: the Hiellen a river of black lacquer, very slow and beautiful, 60' wide at the bridge by the parking lot; the mud of the trail very dark too, and then the black rock of the point rimming around.
Tow Hill/4

The beach east of Tow Hill and Hiellen river mouth: very broad, tan sand, arcing northeastward (?) in its sweep to the tip at Rose Point. Wall of trees, likely spruce, with branches mostly at their tops (a bit like cattails; Visitors Bureau lady said the salt spray costs trees in Tow Hill area their lower branches), making another horizon arc above the beach; at tideline are clots of spume coming and going with the surf, beaded all along the tideline like floats of endless fishing net. From distance they look like gulls ceaselessly pacing back and forth; closer, they look like sponges scrubbing the beach.
Plot development: they land (are washed in) on broad sand beach just east of mouth of Hiellen River after Dixon E trance storm. Next morning, M sees the very high tops of trees across the river mouth, decides to investigate. He either swims the river—would have to go 400 yds in from river mouth to find it narrow enough, about 60' wide there—or he and others take canoe and go round point to western edge of cliff, where shallow beachline runs west.

Either way, the half-dome cliff begins to reveal itself to him as he comes around the point from the river mouth: the sharpness like a Sitka mtn bisected, then the expanse of the cliff face and its beauty of structure and decoration of grass as he comes farther around. Two Bald eagles float across the face of the cliff as he looks up at it.

Finding his way to the top—by coming back across base of cliff to eastern edge—he climbs and can see to Dall(?), Prince of Wales...
Tow Hill
Tow Hill pt of rock like premiere
Rosa Spit - dunes at Tow Hill:
Along east coast of inland, sand & gravel cliffs, dep'd thousands of yrs ago by melting glaciers, are attacked & eroded by waves. Strong north-flowing currents have carried sand up coast & dropped it in series of beach ridges at 1 & 7 land. Gradually, all land in & c of Tow Hill & Anglesea Hill has been built up.

- in area: sandhill crane, white-winged scoter
Clots of foam like sponges washing back & forth on tide
- tan (-gray) beach
- wall of trees, branches & tops - dark green
from beach across Hieller R., back at Tow Hill Pt:
fog hung in top 1/2s of trees, as if trees were being formed
from bottom up.
Touch - ½ done, clumps of mossy grass all over it

beach - 2 hummocks of rock, c. boardlike
striations - c. like
ships on back
black
dark rocks shelf

Dawgrass along tree line, then moss like gun moss

dark mud

Hit R old bench, salt black
water had turned to green

columnar rock - basket - like

leaves one of. Satisfaction sliced in 1/2

brown at w. edge of base; explosion white; fan-like (candy in

taggert bigger

beach in black, knobby & pitted + miles (gouged)

how to get start up to sea top of trees atop cliff
cliff 300 yds long - high
400 domes - are - over you - with walls out of either end
lower break into break of will water
shatter
alt 15

stumps big trees along cliff top

at cliff base, tumbled of black rocks big as cars
" " " narrow stand of trees, then uproot of cliff
beach east of H'rn: spume in line like floats on fish net

tipple of surf as far east as cd be seen making an arc

ey had landed in - bottom to vee

spume like gulls

river嘴 200 yds wide

belted kg/46

400 yds up a mile to narrowing

pebble 1/4m from
I puzzled o trends b of trees (as be this across my beach e of
H'm). Roundly point Crookall way; canoe we have to land
west o' Blowhole) be begin to see loom f'ly, lst in
prople 6 then my beneath.

- 2 bald eagles go past face of mullth, e to w-

rock ledges are heavy far can be pitted c fist-size holes
- several thrust of them on point, like craggy fortress (rutilated?)

at eastern pt of rock, bigger Blowhole: concavity going back
under pt 7 rock
shrink cat small

2" steel; 60' wide at ER; black lagmed
Trees at Tow Hill vastly bigger than and Sitka; big enough you can watch water drops fall like beads if you have time to stop up under them.

— Skunk cabbage smaller than and Sitka.
stately trees along QC shoreline, n & e sides
5. Strathgarry museum: pic of carved pole at Tow Hill, early this century. Pole had smaller carved figures, 6 more of them, than usual.
considered that Melander, who thought he had seen a lot in his seafaring, could recall nothing as odd as this black whorled thing shore, with its dome of cliff shooting up from nowhere.