HOLE NOTES

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FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S
DESK
DALE CALDWELL

There I was...eyeball to eyeball with the
biggest walleye I had ever seen! Certainly
the biggest walleye Mark Smith had ever
seen! The entire hole in the ice under the
fish house was filled with the gigantic
walleye's head. As I worked the fish into
position to get it into the house, my heart
was pounding. I slowly pulled the fish out
of the water. I could not believe my good
fortune. The big fish was one third out of
the water when I found a broken line was
all I held in my hands. My heart stopped
beating momentarily. The walleye began to
sink back through the hole in the ice. I
screamed in anguish, "Darn it!!!"

At that
instant I thought all was lost. I began
imagining that no one back at the lodge
would believe that I was this close to
actually catching a fish that wasn't an eel
pout or a rock bass, particularly with Mark
Smith as my only witness. Others would
know that Mark had accompanied me on
fishing excursions in the past. At that
moment I knew I had to have that fish in
my possession or forget about telling this
tale. Especially, considering my reputation
as a less than average liar at the liar's
poker table. I plunged my hands into the
icy water up to my elbows, grabbed the big
fish by the gills, hoisted it through the
hole and threw it to the floor of the fish
house, exhausted. Mark adequately summed
up the fierce battle as he stared at the
huge walleye and said, "Holy cow, what a
fish!!"

This entire episode took place within twenty
minutes from the time we positioned
ourselves in the fish house. We didn't catch
another walleye the remainder of the time
spent fishing, which amounted to the next
nine hours. It was worth it as we were the
last to arrive at the lodge for dinner and
the business meeting. I walked through the
lodge in the company of one of the largest
walleyes caught during the January fishing

meeting and extravaganza..EVER!!!!

My position and the availability of this
column gives me license to gloat about this
subject. If anyone wants further
information, or a fishing lesson, I can be
contacted at the phone number listed
elsewhere in this issue!!