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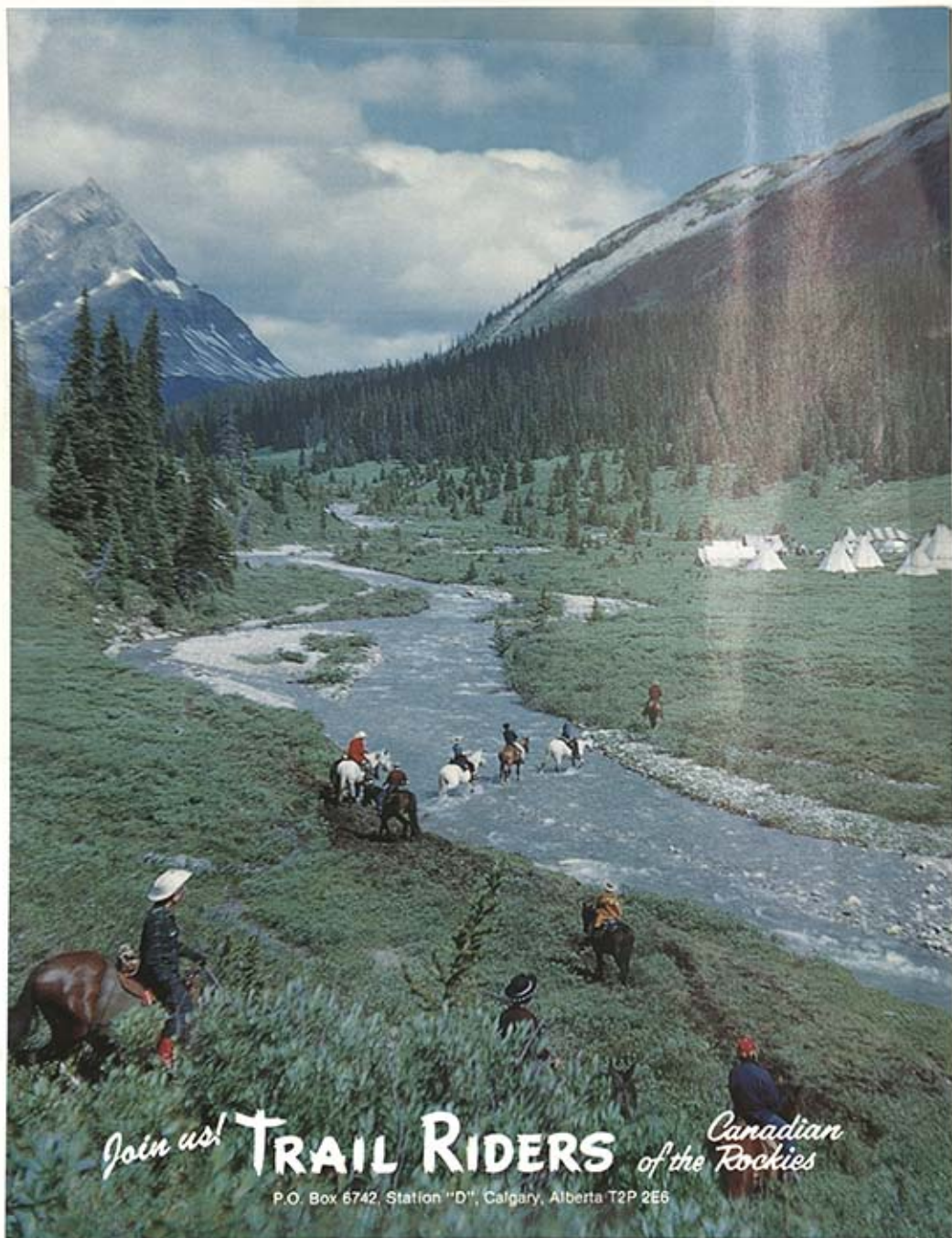
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—Eskimo fishing boat abandoned for the winter on arctic bay tundra, Northwest Territories.

TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST—Un bateau de pêche esquimeau abandonné pour l'hiver dans la toundra Arctique. — Territoires du nord-ouest.



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Join us! **TRAIL RIDERS** *Canadian of the Rockies*

P.O. Box 6742, Station "D", Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E6

At the top of the world, a group of

By DR. NANCY MAGUIRE*

DROPPING AWAY almost vertically at our feet was the trail, zig-zagging down like a snake—grey shale on a wall of white.

Here we were on horseback nearly 8,000 feet up, on the scree above the snow line high in the Rockies. Ahead of us the pack train—mules and horses winding like a colorful herd of elephants—had sweated and strained steeply up the pass, grass on ever more grass rounding the cliffs till at last it flattened out and we reached 'the top of the world.'

The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, (sponsored by the CPR from 1923 till 1961) were celebrating their 60th anniversary with a two-week ride between Banff and Jasper, some 200 miles on horseback. The 16 people lucky enough to be in the group riding from Banff, and wondering if they

had been out of their minds to sign up for a camping trip at over 7,000 feet in mid-September, were given a big send-off breakfast at the Banff Springs Hotel.

Representatives of the CPR environment and parks departments and Ted Hart, historian of the early history of the Banff area, were inspiring and enlightening guest speakers. After a huge breakfast, the Riders mounted up and paraded on horseback down Banff Avenue to the trail head.

The first night we rode the trail into Mystic Lake, our first stop some 12 miles north of Banff, accompanied by a group of weekend trail riders. After a magnificent supper (having washed dishes in the rain to warm our hands) we had a sing-song and square dance by a roaring wood stove in the cooktent. There is something very special about singing cowboy ballads in the

dripping 'bush'. Trail riding really cements friendships.

Next morning the Anniversary Riders, feeling like pioneering heroes, were given an emotional farewell by those left behind, and we rode to our second fixed camp, with tents already set up from the summer and surrounded by an electrified 'bear trap'.

That evening there was a rowdy display of long Johns by a joker who had fallen in the creek collecting mushrooms.

After this we were on our own—riders, six guides and packers including our very versatile cook, and 38 horses and mules. Lest rugged trail riding be thought to be a young person's pastime, our dearly loved oldest gentleman was born in 1905, and the oldest lady (mother-in-law of one of the summer cowboys) in 1906. Our group was a most youthful bunch of senior citi-

zens. The average age was 60. Why, we working women were mere children!

We climbed steadily higher into the mountains, sometimes above the tree line.

Towards the end of a long day, when several people had led their horses for a mile or so to ease their legs, we passed through an enchanted forest with gnarled, dead trees ready to reach out and grab us, soft sparkling moss and dried mushrooms perched high in the trees by squirrels to dry for winter. The relief of dismounting to stumble among the old grey dead-fall and sphagnum moss for a 'bush break' gave everyone the strength they needed to complete the last lap.

There is nothing like arriving at a high, long-abandoned campsite and having to set up tents from scratch to separate the sheep from

the goats. And brown mountain sheep there were in abundance! First one, then several down the creek. In spite of securing all the horse feed and garbage that night, next morning there were three or four flocks, some with little white woolly lambs, all in among the pack mules as the packers heaved and pulled, roping up the pack boxes and bedding, all covered with a large tarpaulin and secured with a diamond hitch, while we dudes stood fascinated and held the mules, in awe at the skill and intricacy of loading a pack train.

I was very fortunate in my tent mate, who had the tent up almost before I had the saddle bags off my horse, after which we extracted tent pegs from the middle of a willow bush of a couple who never did get any better (if anything, worse) at setting up their tent as the week progressed!

That evening we had our only medical melodrama; two cut fingers stitched by flashlight on a high alpine meadow in the dark. However, thanks to the skill of the doctor, (there were three doctors and three nurses in our group!), the pure mountain air and water, the inherent tough constitution of Trail Riders and a tetanus shot, they could not have healed more cleanly.

Next day was easy riding, high along the Cascade Fire Road. The horses, accustomed to tough rides, were trotting and dancing all the way. We reached camp early on our hottest afternoon and had our first 'skinny dip' in a backwater of the river; very refreshing but pretty chilly! That was our only T-shirt afternoon. Most of the week, even in the sunshine in that high rarified atmosphere, we lived in layers of sweaters and down jackets.

One evening we visited some hunters camped half a mile away, just outside the Banff Park boundary. They looked like fugitives from justice—as we probably did—and we must have given them a shock; visitors from the middle of nowhere! They were most welcoming, however we unfortunately had to refuse their hospitality as it was dusk. Having stumbled through the bushes, we found our way back to the camp, the moon shining on the shingle at the river's edge making it almost as bright as day.

We had been followed all day by cloud on the peaks behind us, and next morning it hit. At first, rain gear seemed superfluous, however, following the lead of our guide we were very glad of it as the spots turned to drizzle, then rain. First chore at lunch in the dripping trees was to get a fire going, then water from the creek for tea and coffee. That day we found the packers had taken half our carefully made sandwiches, however we filled the chinks with home made cookies—being rapidly reduced to crumbs in the pack boxes on the back of Monica, the 'lunch' mule.

Then the rain turned to snow as,

care to brush the heavy wet snow off our fly sheets, and woke next morning to a fairy land of Christmas in September! There was plenty of time to enjoy it and take pictures of everyone and everything, with just an hour's ride to our destination—the Saskatchewan River Crossing, mid point of the ride, where we were to meet up with the party coming south from Jasper.

Owing one's safety as one did to the good mountain instincts and sure footedness of one's horse on precipitous trails for a whole week, saying goodbye to both mounts and outfitters is a sad moment. However, Trail Ride addicts always return!

The horses were hobbled to graze on Kootenay Plains (a favourite spot of the original pioneers) till next day, when they were to take the fourth group south again to Banff over our tracks, while all our duff was carted over the narrow metal river bridge to the waiting truck on wheelbarrows! Thus was the Trail Riders triumphant entry to civilization after a week in the 'bush'. Getting into the bus for the last 20 miles up the road was claustrophobic in the extreme.

That night was the giant Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration Pow Wow—the traditional Trail Riders' party with all four riding groups embracing each other in their personal pride and exhilaration for achieving what from the safety of their warm beds the previous March had seemed like impossible madness.

After more short speeches and greetings from old-time Trail Riders, parks and CPR representatives and descendants of the pioneers and founders of the organization linking us to our historic past, there was food, drink, dancing in the large marquees and the wild kind of fun and camaraderie which can only be generated by a group like that, some 200 strong.

DOCTOR ON HIGH

Riding the range has its ups and downs

By NANCY MAGUIRE*

"GIT OVER DOC, you old bag of bones!"

"Who me?"

"No, just talkin' to my horse!"

"Have to find a mounting block before anyone pulls out their camera!"

"Hang onto your horses' manes as you're going up a hill."

"Surely we can't be going up there!"

But we did, and the view was stupendous in spite of the valley below wreathed in shifting cloud.

Last year we were camped in tepees on the upper reaches of the Red Deer River in Banff National Park. At 6,000 ft. the creek was fed by two crystal-clear waterfalls tumbling off the mountain behind the tepees. In front was the very full and turbulent river, a fisherman's joy. A small backwater provided a freezing "bath" for those hardy enough to want to be clean! We rode every day up different trails, across creeks, through forests and up into the high country.

This year we were camped in a lush green meadow below Mount Assiniboine. We rode into camp in clinging wet rain gear, having found some chilly comfort in wieners and buns along the trail. I had to deal with a bloody axe wound to a thumbnail before our belongings were even unpacked in a soggy tepee. However, as this was the worst of my medical emergencies for the week I couldn't complain.

Dancing

We danced that night in the cook tent to the accompaniment of dripping socks and woke next morning to snow on the tepees (in July!). But by lunchtime it had changed to rain and we rode out in the afternoon above a glistening turquoise green Marvel Lake.

Next day some people stayed back in camp and as always happens in bad weather, missed a gorgeous and exciting ride up to Owl Lake, scrambling over rocks and tree roots up and down the mountain trails. One would never believe where a mountain-bred horse could carry even a novice rider!

At lunch time that day the sun came out and for the first time we were able to see the mountain tops. Two trail-riding fishermen brought back some fossilized oysters. (The oysters once formed part of the ocean floor and we also found fossil barnacles and coral at 7,500



IN A PIN-STRIPED suit with a briefcase

ft.). Fortunately we weren't dependent on their efforts for lunch. One thing one doesn't do on a trail ride is starve!

That night we failed to see the eclipse of the moon due to total cloud cover, but we were able to have a campfire and square dancing in our partially covered recreation tent.

The following night we saw a huge orange moon rising over the jagged black outline of the mountain peaks down the valley, which was later partially obscured by swatches of gray cloud reminiscent of a Japanese water color.

Next morning I crawled out of my sleeping bag and went out into frost on the bushes and saw a pair of elk cavorting not 100 yards from the camp as the sun tipped the snow-covered peaks opposite. One experiences some of the more glorious moments of life above 6,000 ft.

By this time the weather was clear and warm though the trails were still very muddy and the creeks high. The grass was green and the willows were in bloom. We were using our flower identification book, and riding the high alpine meadows was a delight. Up and down the trails, we were in another world of mountains and lakes, flora and fauna and incredible views.

Hilarious

And so to skit night; hilariously funny as by the end of the week each group has generated its own dynamic and peculiar brand of humor. And finally next day after packing all our duffel, the lunch break on the last ride out to the trail head always has a tinge of nostalgic sadness.

Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, which started in 1924, is a non-profit organization originally developed from a local trail-riding group who approached Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) with the idea that there might be other people who would travel CPR boats and trains from all over the world to explore the Rockies on horseback. At first they had increasingly large rides which moved from place to place each night in a very cumbersome fashion and was very high in cowboy help. This arrangement finally ran into manpower problems due to the war, and in 1942 the present system of eight weekly rides with a fixed tepee camp in the mountains was set up, the camps rotating on a yearly basis between half a dozen different locations in Banff National Park.

Every ride

One requirement when Trail Riders was inaugurated in 1924 was that a doctor be on every ride, and this has persisted so that now, every summer, eight local doctors each have the privilege of a week's free trail riding. It's a tremendous amount of fun. Usually the duties are not onerous—minor cuts, stings, sun burn, sprains, sore behinds of one sort and another—and there is a medical box on site stocked with everything from coramine to constipation remedies.

It is emphasized that it is not a hospital and riders are expected to bring their own regular medications. The overall incidence of serious accidents and illnesses over the years has been very low, however, the decision to start a fixed camp in 1942 was partly the result of pneumonia in the camp leader, not

helped by arriving at a 7,000-ft. lake in a blizzard before the camp was set up. Bottled cheer flowed freely and the man didn't die, but it led to much soul searching and an overhaul of the system.

With any medical problems beyond the trivial, management revolves around whether to evacuate the victim by helicopter (very expensive) or not.

Some pains

There has been the occasional acute abdomen or fracture. These diagnoses should be obvious. The problems revolve around the doubtful situations. People with medical problems will tend to pick a trail-ride group with a doctor. We have had coronary bypass riders (one of whom, with multiple other related problems, forgot to bring his anti-hypertensive medications on a week's trail-ride and almost caused the trail ride doctor to blow a fuse!).

We have also had diabetics, including one brittle, mismanaged child who caused great concern to everyone except her parents, and a lady with multiple medical and personality problems who constantly argued with the wranglers on the ride. This caused the doctor to have to be the soul of diplomacy for a week, always bearing in mind

that the safety of the ride was paramount.

One year, a man with abdominal pain rode out of camp with what turned out to be a perforated ulcer, and another year a lady was evacuated by helicopter with a broken leg sustained while playing touch football! But considering there are close to 200 riders a year, ranging in age from five to 92 years old, casualties are remarkably few, and it's a pretty good free mountain trail-riding holiday for the doc, who, it is stipulated, has to ride on every ride. (No great hardship if one is fit.)

One retired rancher took up trail riding at the age of 72 and came regularly for the next 20 years, and an old-time Alaskan came regularly from a senior citizens lodge. My tepee mate last year was aged 70.

The strangest story of all was of an old gentleman who arrived in Banff to get on the truck to the trail head in a pin-striped suit with a briefcase. On arrival at camp it was discovered that he had no sleeping bag or suitable clothes. So he was fixed up somehow and had a wonderful week on horseback. On arrival back in Banff it was discovered that he had saved up his pension and walked out of a nursing home in Ontario! There was relief all around his home town when he was found to have gone A.W.O.L. on a trail ride in the Rockies! However, most of the trail riders are averagely fit adults, many of whom have been going for years.

One has to be prepared to wake up to sleet, and there are more pleasant ways of greeting the dawn than stumbling through wet bushes to an outhouse in danger of cave-in from the rain.

They say no riding experience is necessary; interpret that how you will, but if you can light a fire with wet wood, survive the first night in a storm and cope with a porcupine in your tepee, you will probably live to ride in the rare and brilliant atmosphere of the High Rockies and become a trail-riding addict.

For further information write: Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, Box 6742, Station "D", Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E6. Telephone (403) 287-1746.

*Dr. Maguire is a Calgary physician.

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Aug 1984

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Aug 1984

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH



Trail riding through the great mountains

BY SARAH LAWLEY

The only sound was the steady beat of our horses' hooves gently plodding on the narrow mountain path. Dense stands of pine and spruce flanked us, and the air was filled with the heady scent of damp earth and moss mingling with the evergreens. I watched the lattice of shadows cast by the soft afternoon sun sway in the breeze on the trail ahead. Somewhere off to the right, obscured by the trees, was the Pipestone Valley; I could hear the river rushing through it. Beyond the valley, another vast mountain rose ... and beyond it, another ...

But suddenly my idle reverie was broken. A ripple of movement went through the line of riders as a message was passed back: "Grizzly ahead." I gripped the horn of my saddle; a silence fell over us. The calm tranquility had been abruptly stolen.

I wasn't sure exactly what I was afraid of — there were 46 of us (23 horses and 23 riders) and only one bear. But still an instinctive fear gripped me. Perhaps the horses would become frightened and bolt blindly down the mountainside. Perhaps the great bruin was rabid.

But I kept my place in the line of

riders, which moved unrelentingly toward the clearing where the animal had been sighted — toward whatever destiny awaited us.

One by one we rode into the clearing; one by one we scouted the land for the great bear. But it had retreated into the timber, evidently fearing us as much as we, or at least I, feared it.

As I slid off my horse for a few moments' rest, a nearby voice called excitedly, "Look over there." I turned cautiously, expecting to come face to face with the grizzly. Then I realized it wasn't the bear I was being directed to look at, but a breathtaking sight across the open valley.

I was suddenly and deeply stirred by the view before me. Directly opposite and seemingly so close that I could almost touch it, an immense wall of ice rose menacingly from the clouds. It was Mount Drummond glacier — a colossal river of moving, living ice, fed year round by upland snowfalls. It was our goal for the day, and a vivid reminder of why I had come trail riding in the wild mountains of Banff National Park with the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, a nonprofit association that has been organizing

rides through the region for 60 years.

The association got its start in 1923, quite fittingly on the summit of Alberta's Wolverine Pass. It was here that a party of riders — which included such eminent figures as Murray Gibbon, a writer, poet and the general publicity agent for Canadian Pacific, and H.B. Clow, president of Rand McNally mapmakers — was stranded for three days by a summer blizzard. The riders had little to do but talk during those chilly days, and, ironically, much of the conversation dwelt on the joys of trail riding.

Trail riding has been part of life in the Rockies for hundreds of years. North American Indians blazed the first trails, which later became central to the fur trade and the development of the West, not to mention the building of the railroad. But once the car became common and roads penetrated the mountains, the number of people choosing to explore the region on horseback began to dwindle. To the diehard riders stranded on Wolverine Pass, this was a great tragedy, and by the time the blizzard had abated they had decided to create an organization that would ensure the survival of trail

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Getting away to Canada's Rockies

"Where are we going for our vacation this year... the lake?"
"It's getting so crowded there."
"You're right... the coast!"
"It's such a long way to go."
"I don't think we can afford that."

"What sort of holiday do you want?"
"Well, I want to get out of the city, I want to really relax."
The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies has been "getting away from it all" since 1921 and this summer will see 30 trail riders enjoy the grandeur of the

Canadian Rockies each week throughout July and August. Riders slow down to a natural pace, that of rider and horse exploring nature at its best along the historic, wilderness trails discovered by our forefathers in Banff National Park. As this is the 50th year of operation, the organizers are highly experienced.

"That's all right for her. She was brought up on a farm, but I've never been on a horse in my life."

Don't worry, the leaders expect a wide variety of participants, not just with differing riding abilities, but from different age groups, nationalities, backgrounds and with a wide variety of interests. The whole trip is carefully planned to appeal to such a diverse group. For example, the horses are selected to match the individual's riding skill and they are looked after by experienced wranglers. The daily trails are chosen to stimulate without being too challenging.

"But I want to be pampered on a holiday. I don't want to have to work!"

That's taken care of, too. Excellent cooks, a musician, a camp co-ordinator and a doctor are part of camp staff to help everyone relax and have a good time. Groups meet in Banff, Alberta, and are based to the corral built close to the mountains. There they meet their expert guides and horses. After a leisurely day's ride they arrive at a scenic spot where tents and horsepads have been set up — base camp for the season. The cooks are already there putting the finishing touches to a tasty four-course meal while riders settle their gear into allotted horsepads.

"Sounds like fun. I guess you're too busy to do anything in the evening!"

Far from it! After dinner everyone gathers around a roaring

fire in the Dome, a circular tent 90 feet in diameter, large enough to accommodate some lively dancing and many a good old-fashioned sing-song.

"What else is there to do?"
The variety is limitless. Each day there is a ride in a different area. You can enjoy it actively, fishing or taking photographs, or just drink in the clean fresh air and appreciate the sheer pleasure of exploring the magnificent terrain on horseback.

"Where do they go?"

This year the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies have chosen a favorite area on Bryant Creek, near Mt. Assiniboine, some 30 miles south and west of Banff. This is an alpine wonderland with excellent riding terrain, masses of wild flowers, lush evergreens, wild animals grazing peacefully in their natural habitat, birds singing in the cool dark forests, towering peaks and dramatic glaciers.

On the first day the group gathers at the Trail Rider Store in Banff and is transported to the trailhead at Spray Lakes. Here they meet their guides and horses and ride a leisurely 10 miles to Teepee Town at the base of Gibraltar Rock.

For the next four days the riders set out on new trails each day enjoying lunch by a mountain stream or lake. There will be plenty of time for fishing, swimming or photography. Areas to be visited include Og-Pass with its ancient fossil beds, Owl and Marvel Lakes and Alenby Pass. Highlighting the 1921 ride will be the ascent of Assiniboine Pass and a short hike to Lake Magog at the base of spectacular Mt. Assiniboine.

On Friday everyone packs their duffel and leaves their mountain home, riding back along Bryant Creek to the trail head where they leave guides

and horses for the journey back to Banff.

"Sounds great!"

Yes, this really is the experience of a life time and it's an exciting experience too. Not only will memories and friendships live on with each rider, but members can also enjoy year-round newsletters and round-up style socials wherever chapters of this non-profit organization are founded.

"How do we find out more?"

For more information, contact:

The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, Box 6742, Station D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2B6; Telephone (403) 287-1746.

WESTERN

TRAIL RIDERS

Of The Canadian Rockies

"I awoke this morning and crept out of the teepee to watch a dramatic Rockies sunrise with only the horses and a magnificent bull elk for company. Soon my companions awoke and after a hearty breakfast shared with some bold chipmunks we set off on our daily ride. My mount, Sorrel, must have been handpicked for me. We were perfectly in tune as we climbed the steep pass to the alpine meadow where he grazed contentedly while I feasted on the spectacular mountain scenery and drank in the scent of the hundreds of wild flowers.

Back at camp in the evening we relaxed around a roaring camp fire telling the day and singing out joy into the night. Truly an exciting day, filled with wonder, beauty and inner peace."

Sixty years ago this gentleman was a pioneer on the first ever trail ride organized by the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies. This year you can enjoy a similar experience. Yes, this year the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies will mark their Diamond Jubilee with a ride in the upper Pipestone River Region. Each week throughout July and August some thirty trail riders will set out for Pipestone Meadows, fifteen miles north of Lake Louise, to explore the wilderness terrain.

Just like that first group, this year's adventurers will come from different age groups, nationalities, backgrounds and with a wide range of interests and

riding ability. After thirty years the organizers will need to such diverse groups. Horses are chosen to match each individual's riding skills and the daily rides are chosen to be exciting without being too demanding. This special year, riders will visit the Red Deer and Skoki Lakes, Hector Plateau and the Singing Meadows. The glinting Hector Glacier, the mighty Lake Louise group of mountains and

Pipestone Pass and its cascading waterfalls are just a few of the memorable view from the trail.

Just like our pioneer rider, you will be staying in the traditional teepees set up at the Pipestone Meadows base camp. On the first day you will ride in a leisurely twelve mile ride from the trailhead, one mile north of Lake Louise. After a traditionally warm welcome from the camp staff, cooks, camp co-ordinator, musician and doctor and a tasty four-course meal, everyone lingers around a roaring

fire in the Dome, a circular tent, 60 feet in diameter, large enough to accommodate some lively dancing and many an old-fashioned sing-song.

The appeal of this kind of holiday is the same as it was 60 years ago: limitless, untraded territory to explore on horseback, clean fresh air to breathe, rushing rivers and still lakes to fish, breathtaking scenery to admire or photograph, lush forests, carpets of wild flowers, wild animals grazing undisturbed, birds singing in the cool, dark

forests, ice-locked glaciers inching towards the valley.

After four days of different rides you will reluctantly pack your duffel, return to the trailhead and say goodbye to trusted steed, guides and new-found friends and head back to a real but imperfect civilization.

Anyone can join the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies and for a reasonable price, especially in today's inflationary world, enjoy the splendour, the ultimate relaxation and good, old-fashioned fun for

such a holiday. Your membership means that the experience lives on not only in your memories and friendships but stimulated by year-round newsletters and round-up style socials wherever there are chapters of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

For more information about this unique holiday experience, contact: The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, Box 6742, Station D, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2B6. Phone (403) 287-1746.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1983

Page 9

THE PERFECT VACATION!



**"COME
RIDE
WITH US"**



Eight 6-day trail rides to choose from, July through August, in Banff Park Wilderness. No riding experience necessary!! Just bring your enthusiasm and your sleeping bag.

TRAIL RIDERS Canadian
of the Rockies

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I.V. Guide and
once in a
Specialty Addition
to the Herald
over the summer
for tourists

WESTSIDER

TRAIL RIDERS

Of The Canadian Rockies

"Where are we going for our vacation this year...the lake? 'It's getting so crowded there.' You're right...the coast?' 'It's such a long way to go.' 'How about overseas then? I don't think we can afford that.' 'What sort of holiday do you want?' 'Well, I want to get out of the city; I want to really relax.'"

Hey, listen, we've got the ideal holiday for you. The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies has been 'getting away from it all' since 1924 and this summer will see thirty trail riders enjoy the grandeur of the Canadian Rockies each week throughout July and August. Such a trip is the ultimate relaxation. Riders slow down to a natural pace, that of rider and horse exploring nature at its best along the historic, wilderness trails discovered by our forefathers in Banff National Park. As this is the 59th year of operation, the organizers are highly experienced.

"That's alright for her. She was brought up on a farm, but I've never been on a horse in my life."

Don't worry. The leaders expect a wide variety of participants, not just with differing riding abilities; but from different age groups, nationalities, backgrounds, and with a wide variety of interests. The whole trip is carefully planned to appeal to such a diverse group. For example, the horses are selected to match the individ-

ual's riding skill and they are looked after by experienced wranglers. The daily trails are chosen to stimulate without being too challenging.

"But I want to be pampered on a holiday. I don't want to have to work!"

Relax! That's taken care of. Excellent cooks, a musician, a camp coordinator and a doctor are part of camp staff to help everyone relax and have a good time.

Groups meet in Banff, Alberta and are housed to the corral built close to the mountains. There they meet their expert guides and horses. After a leisurely day's ride they arrive at a scenic spot where tents and teepees have been set up-base camp for the season. The cooks are already there putting the finishing touches to a tasty four-course meal while riders settle their gear into allotted teepees.

"Sounds like fun. I guess you're too bushed to do anything in the evening?"

Far from it! After dinner everyone gathers around a roaring fire in the Donut, a circular tent 60 feet in diameter, large enough to accommodate some lively dancing and many a good old-fashioned sing-song.

"What else is there to do?"

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On Friday everyone packs their duffel and leaves their mountain home, riding back along Bryant Creek to the trail head where they leave guides and horses for the journey back to Banff.

"Sounds great!"

Yes, this really is the experience of a life time

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1982

and it's an on-going experience too. Not only will memories and friendships live on with each rider, but members can also enjoy year-round newsletters and round-up style socials wherever chapters of this non-profit organization are founded.

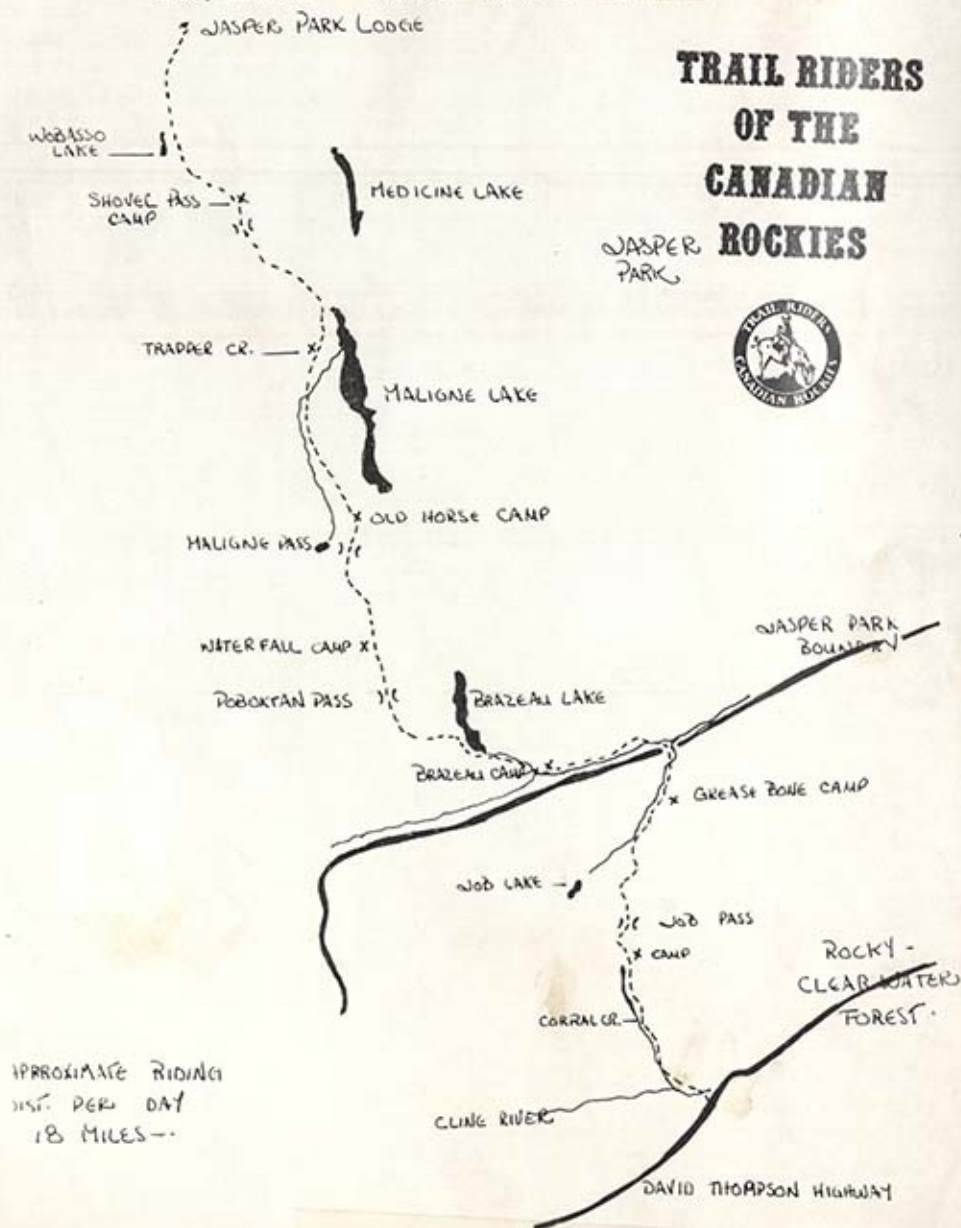
"How do we find out more?"

For more information, contact: The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, Box 6742, Station D, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E6, Phone 403-287-1746.

SKYLINE TRAIL RIDES LTD.

TRAIL RIDERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

JASPER
PARK





To Banff by horse

Fourteen people left Jasper on Saturday morning on horseback on a memorable trip to Banff. At the same time 15 riders left Banff to ride to Jasper. They will meet at David Thompson Highway. After a gigantic barbecue at which 200 are expected, some will continue on to Jasper and Banff to continue the ride.

The ride is a special effort of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the association. On a rainy summer day in 1923 at Wolverine Pass, high in the Canadian Rockies, a group of mountain riders decided to strike "The Order of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies. They envisioned an organization to present to the public the opportunity to experience the splendor of the Rockies on horseback by day and the camaraderie as a group gathered round a campfire by night.

In these early days a single annual official ride was held, in the Banff-Lake Louise area culminating in a gathering. It was the annual meeting of the Trail Riders and the grand finale for the year. Coined The Pow-Wow it was attended by riders, local guides and outfitters, other members and by other trail riding groups who would ride in from Jasper and Windermere Valley - all timing their arrival at the Pow-Wow point to coincide with the celebrations. A unique tent of Indian origin, 40 ft in diameter, called the Sundance Lodge and painted by Stony Indians with traditional designs would be erected to accommodate the festivities.

Many of the some 500 members go back year after year to re-experience the grandeur of the Rockies, the solitude, the flowers, the wildlife in its natural habitat, the fishing, the geology, the geography, the clean fresh air, the campfire singings, the fireside chats and new-found friendships. The rides mean different things to different folks, but for all it is an escape from the hustle, the bustle and the hectic pace of city life to the refuge of one of the world's most spectacular settings. A professional outfitter supplies the excellent mountain bred horses and necessary equipment. A doctor and musician participate in every ride.

The group of 14 that left Jasper are tended to by Ron and Lenore Moore of Skyline Trail Rides Ltd. They sent a crew of 6 to set up camp, cook meals, and handle the horses, both riding and pack saddle. The group that left from Banff are in the good hands of Warner and Mackenzie, Outfitters.

Leaving Jasper about 10 am Saturday, they will travel about 18 miles per day, or about 6 hours in the saddle. They will camp at Shovel Pass, Trapper Creek, Old Horse Camp (near Maligne Lake) Waterfall Camp (between Maligne Pass and Paboktan Pass), Brazeau Camp, Grease Bore Camp, Job Pass and then the Cline River where they will meet with the other adventurers from Banff.

The Jasper group are: Ray Curtis, Rick Godderis, Grace Isaac, Joel Lipkind, Brendan McKenna, and S.E. Richter, all of Calgary. From Edmonton George Edgelow, Bob Langford and Thelma Sharp. Others are John Galbraith, Oshawa, Ont.; Roland Guertin, Aylmer, Que.; Cecilia Nielsen, Bassano, Alta.; John Ogilvie, Pridis, Alta.; and Carole Cook, Mondovi, Wisconsin.

The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies has its office in Calgary and annual rides are made in the Banff-Calgary area. Usually there are 8 camps, where members ride in to some spot for the base camp and make daily rides from there, returning each night to the base camp. This year, after the usual 8 rides, the Trail Riders planned this special marathon ride to commemorate the 60th year of the club.



TRAIL RIDERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY RIDE

BANFF TO JASPER

SEPTEMBER 1983

By Dr Nancy Maguire
3603 7th Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2T 2Y2
September 24th 1983



Trail riders leave camp on the Pipestone River

Trail riding reveals lure of backcountry

By Bruce Patterson
(and staff writer)

LAKE LOUISE — It took less than an hour for the noise of the trains and the holiday weekend traffic to fade in the distance.

The reminders of the 20th century were soon replaced with the timeless sounds of a rushing river and the rhythm of hoofbeats.

Out on a mountain trail, on the back of a sure-footed quarter horse, it's easy to shed the concerns of the modern world and immerse yourself in the ways of the old West.

For 60 years, the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies have been taking people from all over the world into the spectacular wilderness of Banff National Park. Artists, writers, professional athletes, students, movie stars and even a king and queen have been among the backcountry adventures.

There's no doubt about the changes in the outside world since the park trips began in 1921. In the backcountry, things have stayed pretty much the same.

"The organization was founded on the principle of tradition," said Brent Macnab, who has been riding with the association since 1971.

This week, Macnab is out with his son and 20 other riders exploring the high mountain valleys and passes near the Pipestone River north of Lake Louise on one of eight six-day trips offered this summer by the Trail Riders.

They are sleeping in teepees decorated with aged Indian symbols, sitting at tables fashioned from roughly cut logs, and eating hearty meals cooked on an ancient wood stove. The paths they are following to Baker Lake and Mount Malar were established long before most roads were built in the park. Each night, they are gathering around a campfire for singing, square dancing and swapping tales like the one about a particularly successful trip when most of the camp gear was stranded behind the riders because of bad weather. Fifty people spent a long, cold night standing in a single line.

In the first half of this century, trail riding was the most popular way to see the parts of the Rockies that lie beyond the view of a railway car window. During those early years, more than a dozen outfitters worked out of Banff. One company alone had more than 1,500 horses for hire.

There are only a few outfitters left in the park today. Ron Warner, who runs the largest operation, has about 200 horses. He contracts out to run the weekly trips for the Trail Riders as well as a variety of tours from short rides around the Banff Springs Hotel to a six-day circle tour north of the townsite. Business for his regular tours has levelled off in recent years with about 1,500 overnight guests each season.

Warner said the decline in trail riding came as the road system expanded in the mountains. People began staying in their cars and sticking to roadside campgrounds. It reached the point where only a small fraction of park visitors ever ventured far from the highways.

In the 1960's, there was a resurgence in backcountry use but the trend was to hiking

rather than riding. That shift inevitably led to complaints when bikers were confronted with trails closed up by horses. Now, park officials try to keep the two groups apart as much as possible. The Trail Riders use seven different regions of the Rockies on a rotating basis to provide variety for their members. They also plan their trips five years in advance to minimize the conflict with other park users.

The association, a non-profit organization of close to 800 members, was founded in 1921 to promote horseback touring in the Rockies and a camaraderie among the riders.

To stimulate that festive atmosphere, a tradition is signed on with each trip to entertain and lead singing nightly. Country singer Wolf Carter took his guitar along on many of the rides, occasionally entertaining from his saddle on the ride in.

Chuck McEwen, who sings in Calgary's country and western night spots, said his stint this week in the Rockies is an ideal break.

"It's such a release you wouldn't believe it. All the music I talk to want to come on it."

Originally, the Trail Riders organized one large trip each year with new campfires set up each night. Now, a single base camp is used with riders simply heading out on daytrips throughout the week. A doctor accompanies each group along with a volunteer from the association who serves as camp coordinator.

The riding is not particularly demanding and beginners share the trail with experts. Anyone heading out on an extended trip should be in shape or about to be in shape to get their legs and rear ends accustomed to the scene.

Some riders on past trips, including a few National Hockey League players, have resorted to using pillows to ease the sensitive problem of saddle sores.

While riding is an excellent way to travel in the backcountry the sport itself is just one of the attractions.

"I'd say socializing is the main reason for about half the people to come here," said Dennis Orr, a Calgary school teacher and past president of the association.

"First, I came for the people," said Macnab, a fabrication plant manager who moved from Ontario to Alberta to be closer to the mountain trails.

He added that the \$60 trip is an ideal vacation for someone interested in being catered to without paying too high a price.

The Trail Riders have included a group of colorful, varied and sometimes famous people over the years. There were the early mountaineers like Tom Wilson, Jim Simpson and the Brewster family. There were influential patrons like Murray Gibson, a Canadian Pacific Railway executive and founder of the association, and H.R. Crow, the president of the Rand McNally map company, who had his employees chart the early trails in the Rockies.

There has even been some royalty. In 1921, the King and Queen of Spain, took part in a special ride into Pine Lake.

The association has continued to attract members who are particularly dedicated to the sport. Joe Maclean, of Calgary, who is the volunteer co-ordinator for this week's ride, retired from 28 years of banking rather than accept a transfer partly because it would make it harder to get out on the trail.

"This is the holiday I enjoy the most," he said.

Bunny Robinson, another veteran camp co-ordinator from Calgary, also volunteers her time to paint the traditional Indian designs on the teepees.

This September, Robinson and 25 other Trail Riders will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the association with a 16-day ride between Jasper and Banff. Half the riders will set out from each townsite and meet at the Kananaskis Flats near Saskatchewan River Crossing for a few weeks.

The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies can be contacted at PO Box 6743, Stn. D, Calgary, T2P 2E6. Information and rules on commercial trail rides in the province is available through the provincial government's Travel Alberta outlets.

CALGARY HERALD

Wed, Aug 3, 1983 84

Mutual respect key to sharing Rockies' ranges

Re the letter from R. L. Garrett regarding use of the mountain parks ("Controls urged on trail rides," Herald, July 9).

The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies is not an outfitter or a commercial enterprise. Our organization is an integral element of the history and heritage of Banff National Park. We have been there for 61 years, giving thousands of people from around the world the opportunity to experience Western traditions and the beauty of the mountains. Horses have been used to travel the wilderness areas since the early nineteenth century.

The statement was made that "trail riding is incompatible with the increasing demand of backpackers for a primitive environment." TRCR, as well, faces an increasing demand for

places on our trail rides; we limit our numbers for the sake of the environment.

I question the statement that backpackers are "forced to hike on trails turned into quagmires by outfitters' horses." An enquiry at the warden's office will result in information about which trails are now being travelled by horses. These trails can then be avoided, if one does not wish to risk hiking them. Since TRCR uses different trails each year, a backpacker need never be inconvenienced.

Trail riders do not suggest the mountain trails be closed to hikers. There is room for both hikers and riders. We are there for the same reasons. We can co-exist through mutual respect and collaboration.

Calgary.

G. ISAAK.



File photo, Calgary Herald

Trail Riders part of Banff's history for 61 years

wilderness areas since the early eighteenth century.

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Trail riders do not suggest the mountain trails be closed to hikers. There is room for both hikers and riders. We are there for the same reasons. We can co-exist through mutual respect and collaboration.

Yours truly,

G. ISAAK.

cc - TRCR

GI/br



Trail rides open back country to public without causing damage to environment

'Keep back country open'

Re the hearings regarding the future of the four mountain parks.

The tone of the presentation and the options given to choose from lead me to fear there may be unduly restrictive legislation brought in.

Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies is a non-profit organization which has been in existence for over 60 years. Under its constitution, it is dedicated to:

- Encourage travel on horseback through the Canadian Rockies; foster the maintenance and improvement of old trails and the building of new trails; promote good fellowship among those who visit and live in the Canadian Rockies; encourage the appreciation of outdoor life and the study and conservation of mountain ecology; assist in every way possible to ensure the complete preservation of the national parks of Canada for the use and enjoyment of the public and to co-operate with other

organizations with similar aims.

- Encourage legislation designed to preserve for the public, for all time, rights of way on established trails and free access by trails to mountains, lakes, rivers and forests.

We supply a doctor and a camp co-ordinator with each ride so that the elderly (our age span has been from four to 90 years of age), the infirm and the not-so-athletic general public can go into areas they would never be able to reach in any other way. It is because of our care and the use of horses and guides that such people other than the very fit can enjoy the parks.

Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies has constantly worked to minimize the effects of usage and has been a leader in garbage control, education of tourists and the spread of good habits among park users.

By using six different areas on an annual rotational basis, we

seek to spread the impact on any one area over this period. Thus we give each site a chance to recover completely before it is used again.

Our past record proves that we are anxious to co-operate in preserving our parks and this we will continue to do. However, if we are so confined that we cannot exist, Western Canada will lose a precious part of its heritage and be the loser in the long run.

All who enjoy horseback riding in the parks should press authorities to allow the continuation of trail-riding rotational camps. Without input from this segment of society, the parks may only be accessible to the few who are able to back pack into the deeper areas.

BARBARA J. ROSTRON,
President,
Trail Riders
of the Canadian Rockies,
Calgary.

Parks' purpose to make money

I wish to congratulate Merv Anderson on his revelation that people-hating environmentalists are taking over the national parks ("Park hearings guarantee environmentalists takeover," Herald, June 23). . . .

I especially applaud Anderson's courageous stand that park managers should ignore the input of those people interested enough in the parks to study the issues and submit opinions and should instead use the input of those "ordinary citizens" who are less interested and haven't submitted opinions. This plan is, I admit, a bit confusing at first, but I am sure that under the surface the plan is brilliant and should be adopted by more government agencies.

It is a common fallacy, promoted by these creepy environmentalists, that the parks were set aside to protect natural resources. Any clear-headed citizen knows they were intended as money-making devices for nearby cities, a point that does not escape Anderson.

More development in the parks not only provides money-making opportunities, it also would have spiritual benefits. For example, increased numbers of hotels, restaurants, bowling alleys, wax museums, go-cart tracks, discos and massage parlors could only heighten our esthetic appreciation of the mountains.

I personally favor a series of Calaway Park-style amusement centres in the national parks. Though some might scoff at the idea, a ferris wheel at the toe of the Athabasca Glacier would provide a beautiful blend of the natural and the man-made and would serve as a pleasant diversion of those taxpaying citizens who don't get off on glaciers, trees, birds, and other dirty objects that now clutter our parks.

It's time to wake up, Albertans. Let's realize the menace of this anti-social, elitist, environmentalist conspiracy which threatens decent folk like Anderson and myself. Go out and make a rude gesture to a people-hater today.

JERRY OSBORN,
Calgary.

4 MOUNTAIN PARKS

Editor: Bill Hart

CALGARY HERALD

Mon., July 9, 1984 A6



File photo, Calgary Herald

Back country should be for backpackers

Controls urged on trail rides

The recent public hearings on the future of the mountain parks have served to emphasize how critical it is now to preserve the back country for future generations.

Wilderness is one commodity that man cannot create. I have expressed a preference for the Option A Program for the back country, whereby the land is retained in a primitive condition.

Recently, a letter from the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies expressed concern that this program would force an alteration to their activities. I support such a change. The environmental impact of their horse camps is significant, requiring up to six years to recover between visits.

By comparison, the impact of an equal number of backpackers is insignificant. I have often been forced to hike on trails turned into quagmires by outfitters' horses and littered with horse droppings. The passage of a group of horses on a wet day does incredible damage to the trails, and there

are many wet days in the mountains. There is no reason why the primitive back country has to be universally accessible.

I suggest that the Trail Riders and other outfitters alter their programs by offering their trail rides outside the national parks in areas at lower elevations that are less ecologically fragile and by providing for their clients inside the parks by adopting the Far Eastern practice of using sherpas to carry the packs of those unable or unwilling to do so. I am certain that there are many people who would be willing to contract for a sherpa service, and in today's economy, there are certainly many able to provide the service.

Trail riding is an enjoyable means to tour the high country, but it is incompatible with the increasing demand of backpackers for a primitive environment that can last for lifetimes to come.

R. L. GARRETT,
Calgary.

Trail Riders offer lifetime experience

Every year it seems that the pace of life becomes increasingly frantic and that there is a growing need to 'get away from it all,' to relax totally, to refresh both body and mind.

The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies have been 'getting away from it all' since 1924 and this summer will see 30 trail riders enjoy the grandeur of the Canadian Rockies each week throughout July and August.

Such a trip is the ultimate relaxation. Riders slow down to a natural pace, that of rider and horse exploring nature at its very best along the historic, wilderness trails discovered by our forefathers in Banff National Park. As this is the 58th year of operation, the organizers are highly experienced. They expect a wide variety of participants; from different age groups, nationalities, backgrounds and with differing interests and riding abilities. The total vacation is carefully planned to appeal to such a diverse group. For example, the horses are selected to match the individual's riding skill and they are looked after by experienced wranglers. The daily trails are chosen to stimulate without being unduly challenging.

Excellent cooks, a musician, a camp co-ordinator and a physician are part of camp staff to help everyone relax and benefit from the experience.

Groups meet in Calgary and are bused to a corral built close to the mountains. There they meet their expert guides and horses. After a leisurely day's ride they arrive at a scenic spot where tents and teepees have been set up — base camp for the season.

The cooks are already there putting the finishing touches to a tasty four-course meal while riders settle their gear into allotted teepees.

After dinner everyone gathers around a roaring fire in the Donut, a circular tent 60 feet in diameter, large enough to accom-



Get away from it all with the Trail Riders

modate some lively dancing and many a good old-fashioned sing-song.

Next morning, after a hearty breakfast, the group heads out on the first of the different daily trail rides. The variety is limitless, towering peaks, rushing rivers and waterfalls, alpine meadows carpeted with wild flowers, cool dark forests and wild animals grazing peacefully in their natural home are all part of the daily experience. Riders can enjoy it actively, fishing or taking photographs, or just drink in the clean, fresh air and appreciate the sheer pleasure of exploring the magnificent terrain on horseback.

This year the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies' Annual Trail Ride will be held in a remote area of Banff National Park — an area that is new to them — the spectacular Red Deer River Region.

The first night will be spent at the Mountain Aire Lodge in the Forestry Reserve. Next

morning the group will depart on horseback from the Ya-Ha-Tinda Trail Head Corral along the picturesque Red Deer River with its rushing rapids and deep, still pools. After a leisurely day's ride, they will reach base camp for the next five days set in a wide valley between Mt. Tyrell and the Bare Mountains. The Red Deer River is renowned for its excellent fishing as well as being a photographer's fantasy.

From the base camp the daily trail rides will cover a new area each day: Divide Creek, Tyrell Creek, Horseshoe Lake and the Panther

Ridge.

This is the experience of a lifetime and it's an on-going experience too. Not only will memories and friendships live on with each rider, but members can also enjoy year-round newsletters and round-up style socials wherever chapters of this non-profit organization are founded.

This vacation is total relaxation with the experts in trail riding vacations. For more information, contact: The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, Box 6742, Station D, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E6. Telephone: (403) 287-1746.



...by Dwayne Erickson
Edmonton Sun Sports Editor

PLAYING COWBOY

There's a hockey story every day during the winter.... they come at you at a tiring pace.

But my favorite hockey story breaks during the summer - usually around Calgary Stampede time. The central figures, of course, are hockey players though at that time of year, they're playing cowboy.

While killing those hazy, lazy days of summer, a bunch of the boys usually gather somewhere west of Red Deer and go for a ride in the mountains. It takes about a week to do the ride but a year to hear the whole story. The bits and pieces come at you only when you're leaning across a bar and reminiscing.

Enough preamble, let's get to the juicy stuff.

First off, we'll go back a year to the summer of '80 and the still silence of the mountains. All you can hear is the klickety-klop of the horses as they wind their way up a narrow, rocky path along side of a mountain.

Seven horses there are and seven hockey players mounted on them. It's a winding trail and not too often can the guy in the lead see the guy bringing up the rear. On this occasion, Rocky Saganiuk is leading the parade and Dale McCourt, one quarter Indian so the story goes, is trailing far behind.

Saganiuk curls around a bend and, having tipped off the guy immediately behind him, slides off his horse and into the deep brush.

The second rider in the parade, John Davidson, moves up and grabs the reins of the riderless lead horse as if nothing has happened.

Minutes later, McCourt comes around the bend and --- in the stillness of the mountains -- Saganiuk leaps out of the brush and onto the back of Dale's horse with a scream.

Now, I'm not too sure who had the lines but for the sake of the story, I'll attribute them to the Murdochs, Bob and Don.

Says Bob, peering back at an unruffled McCourt: "Hell, you can't scare an Indian."

Retorts Don: "You're right but I'll betcha the other three quarters (bleeped) his pants."

And on the stories go.

Now, we'll take you to the summer of '81, a month or so ago. This time, there're upwards of 15 in the party and they're camped out at the Mountain Air Lodge, about 150 miles west of Red Deer. They mounted up at the Yaha Tinda ranch and rode some 20 miles deep into the mountains.

The camp is a series of teepees with a cook shack; a couple of girls from Staveland are fixing the food and there's a guide along to keep the boys from getting lost. They're about five days into the trip and after one particularly long sojourn out to a creek for some fishing, the group returns and saddle-sore, they fall off their horses and take a nap that stretches into the dark of night.

Bill (Cowboy) Flett manages to get his wet boots off and sets them on a grill above a campfire before the weariness overcomes him and he falls asleep. An hour or so later, the heat gets to the boots and they burst into flames.

Fortunately, before the entire mountain becomes afire, Darryl Maggs wakes up and snuffs out the flames. The only casualties are Flett's boots.

The following morning, the now bootless Flett slides back into the saddle barefoot and -- in the company of Saganiuk -- rides back out to base at the Yaha Tinda where he runs into Trapper, better known to us as Dale Trotter, seven times a Canadian champion bareback rider in the sport of rodeo.

Now, it seems that Trapper has to take his small aircraft out for a spin to warm up the engine so he can change the oil. So, Flett, Saganiuk and another bareback rider, Lynn Jensen climb aboard and they fly into the mountains where they buzz the camp of remaining hockey players turned cowboys.

On the last fly-past, Flett drops a written message into an empty coke can and drops it on the camp.

(Continued on page 32)

Published By Canadian Travel News (Southern Business) City life put Calgary guest ranch in business *Published*

By Lee Christie

CALGARY—City life has put Alberta guest ranch operator Mac Makenny in business. Victims of high-speed living are seeking sanctuary in the country and Makenny's Homeplace Ranch combines a tranquil, wooded setting with convenient proximity to the city.

An hour's drive southwest of Calgary International Airport, Homeplace Ranch, with almost 700 acres of rolling terrain abutting the Kananaskis Forest Reserve, is ideal for hiking, trail riding and cross-country skiing. In fact the ranch is only nine miles from the site where the 1988 Olympic cross-country ski events are to be held.

There are four fulltime guest ranches in Alberta and numerous farm and ranch vacation operators. Homeplace

Ranch is the nearest commercial operation to an urban centre.

Fending off commercialism, Makenny accommodates no more than 12 guests at one time in the summer and eight in the winter.

"If a person is looking for a social event he might as well go to Banff. If he wants serenity and a feel for the lifestyle, this type of ranch would be more the thing."

Makenny is pure country boy; from his silver spurs to the grey Biltmore that shades his silver hair and brown face. He was raised in the outfitting business in Jasper National Park, his father a cowboy convert originally from New York state. Yet in spite of his farm boy background, Makenny recognizes the needs of his city guests. He spent 18 years in major U.S. and Canadian cities in



Alberta wilderness holds special appeal for city folk.

the sales, marketing and promotions business.

"City life takes more than it gives," explains Makenny. "The constant go of it never allows a person to wind down. You're bombarded by sound, always being pressed by it." Half of Makenny's job involves reversing the effects of the inner city rat race. He helps people "come down".

Makenny believes the unwinding process occurs, not through idleness, but through diversions from one's everyday lifestyle.

"I give them the opportunity to share this lifestyle and to make a contribution to what's going on here." It doesn't take long, adds Makenny. "You see them change."

"This guy came in from Toronto (a market research executive). Boy, was he on the tight—upright and hostile. By Sunday, though, he was up making breakfast for everyone."

Enjoy Chores

That paying guests actually enjoy helping with chores baffles old-timers in the business. Historically, people wanted to be fussed over. Today's ranch visitor wants to experience the lifestyle on which Canadian history was built, a lifestyle they sense is diminishing.

Makenny bought the ranch in 1978, intrigued by the life of the homesteader who built the log cabin and three-room frame house on the property. An old Chinese laundromat which was moved to the ranch from downtown Calgary in the early 1900s, is still used for a shed.

The homesteader's handmade furniture and assorted relics are still used helping Makenny create an atmosphere of the past.

"We talk about hard times

today. When you look at what homesteaders went through to make this country, it makes you realize you can handle a lot more than you think," explains Makenny.

He sings an upbeat song from the kitchen while his assistant fixes hearty home-cooked grub. No place to go, no schedule to keep. The city is but a bright spot in the night sky.

Summer activities at Homeplace Ranch include cattle branding weekends with dances, bull games and barbecues. Guided camping, hiking and horse packing trips into the Rocky Mountain and Kananaskis areas are also available with Class "A" guides.

Seasonal Rates

Each of the eight rooms at the ranch house has private bath and is suitable for double occupancy. Summer rates from May to October are \$320 per person for a four-day package and \$550 for the seven-day package. Prices are based on double occupancy and include meals, day trips and lodging. The daily per person rate for meals, lodging and riding is \$85.

Winter rates, based on double occupancy include two nights accommodation, meals and recreation for \$99.

A 25 percent deposit while booking guarantees dates requested while cancellations received less than 30 days prior to vacation date forfeit deposit.

Pick up at airport or in Calgary is \$10 per party of up to three persons.

Homeplace Ranch offers 10 percent commission to travel agents and 15 percent to wholesalers. For more information call or write Mac Makenny at Homeplace Ranch, Site 2, Box 6, R.R. 1 Priddis, Alberta, T0L 1W0 (403) 931-3245.

The Arrow OF PI BETA PHI
SUMMER 1984



250 mile trail ride celebrates anniversary

To celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, a 250 mile ride was undertaken from Banff to Jasper in September, 1983. Among the fifteen veteran trail riders chosen to represent the past and the present membership were: Lois Badgley Laycraft, Pi Phi's Canadian Philanthropy Chairman from Paddockwood, Saskatchewan; Dorothy Livingstone Lomas, Kappa Alpha Theta from Calgary, Alberta; and Jane Allman Wetzel, Kappa Kappa Gamma from Dallas, Texas. In conversation high on a mountain pass one day the three discovered a bond beyond mountain riding—that of their fraternity memberships. Lois and Dorothy both attended the University of Alberta, then met years later on a trail ride. Jane's mother, Margaret Deavours Allman of Dallas, is a Pi Phi and a close friend is Sally MacKenzie, the 1981 Convention chairman!

In retrospect, the sixteen day journey was wonderful. On a day-to-day basis it was often arduous. Mother Nature provided great variety in weather and the group rode through rain, sleet and heavy snow. Because they were scheduled to meet another group riding from Jasper toward Banff at the Kootenay Plains where two hundred other members and dignitaries would meet for a traditional "Pow-Wow," there could be no delays. The difficult trails were made hazardous by the ice and snow. More than once the horses had to be led down steep, rocky inclines or jumped over deadfall. They forded many creeks and rivers already edged with ice, slogged through boggy alpine meadows, and faced bitter winds. One high desolate pass was so cold and bleak Lois says she would not have been surprised to come upon the Great Wall of China.

Although experienced outfitters and guides accompanied the rides, everyone was expected to help with the horses, set up tents, and assist with meals. It did not take long to become accustomed to such chores and as the group melded into harmonious friendship, even kneeling in the moonlight to wash dishes seemed like fun. Setting up tents in the snow became routine and by ten o'clock at night little could be heard in camp but the forest sounds and contented snores.

Only one accident required the care of three doctors and three nurses in the group. A "MASH" unit was set up in a matter of minutes and even the patient seemed to enjoy being sewn back together.

On the last day, descending from Shovel Pass and riding toward the Jasper Park Lodge stable, winter changed dramatically into autumn. The falling snow gave way to golden aspen leaves drifting to the earth and the usual shouts and laughter quieted as this epic journey concluded and goodbyes were said. But friendships formed under such circumstances are deep and long-lasting. Already plans are underway for a reunion and perhaps another autumn adventure in the high country. And there will surely be another meeting of a Kappa and a Theta and a Pi Phi and their husbands, all of whom love each other's company!

(The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies is a non-profit organization started in 1923 and with a current membership of over 800 riders from all over the world. Another Pi Phi Lois met trail riding is Dr. Judith Graham of Seattle. She would love to hear if there are others!)



Making the trail ride a Panhellenic gathering were (l-r) Dorothy Lomas, Theta; Lois Laycraft, Pi Phi; and Jane Wetzel, Kappa.

"The Spectator"

Hamilton, Ontario

June 23, 1984

TRAVEL

Rookie riders can saddle up for trip to remote Rockies

IT HARDLY matters that you don't know the difference between a Morgan and a mule.

An organization offering horse-back holidays in a remote area of Banff National Park claims you're welcome even if you've never ridden before.

The Calgary-based Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies has had 60 years of experience in handling would-be pioneers of different ages, backgrounds and riding ability.

A non-profit organization founded in 1924 to encourage more people to visit the Rockies, Trail Riders has eight trips planned for this summer. Each week during July and August, groups of about 20 riders will be setting out to explore the spectacular Panther River region.

If you join one of these expeditions, you'll be assigned a mountain-bred, sure-footed animal in accordance with the vital statistics and riding experience stated on your application form.

These are six-day, five-night holidays that start on Sundays and end the following Friday.

The price is \$485 per person and your guides, horse, food, packers, tepee accommodation are all included. There is a discount of \$100 for children under 18 who must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, Box 6742, Station D, Calgary, Alta., T2P 2E6 or call (403) 251-3077.



John Gibson
travelog

*A similar article
also appeared in
the "Vancouver Sun"*

Buaff Life Summer
Sept 84

TRAIL RIDING in the CANADIAN ROCKIES

By SUSAN HAMMOND



Hikers vs. Riders:

After having been part of large group trail rides in both Banff and Riding Mountain National Parks for a number of years, I have found that riders have probably as many complaints about hikers as hikers have about riders, the difference being that hikers are much more vocal than riders. As a fairly large percentage of riders are "first timers", their enthusiasm over this wilderness experience is generally greater than any complaints they may have about hikers that have been encountered on the trail. As such, any complaints are usually not brought to the attention of anyone but fellow riders.

One of the major irritations to me is that when any major conflict arises between hikers and riders, the riders always lose out. Horses are prohibited from the area of conflict and Parks Canada does little or nothing to find an alternate site or trail for the riders. Part of the problem appears to be in the policing. When trails are made muddy from overuse by horses in wet weather, it is easy to spot the reason - the large trail ride group. When horse manure is found on the trail, again it is easy to pick out the offender - the large trail ride group. But when campfires are lit in the middle of the trail, foil food packages are strewn everywhere and garbage to attract the bears is scattered along the trail, which one of the individual or small groups of hikers do you blame? In the latter cases you have to catch the offenders "in the act".

Problems that arise from large group trail rides are a result of "the nature of the beast" more or less. They are not generally due to neglect, carelessness or stupidity. On the other hand, I feel that problems encountered with hikers are because of neglect, carelessness or stupidity.

Those outfitters that operate large group trail rides in the National Parks cannot afford to allow carelessness etc. for two reasons: - their livelihood depends on the activity and also as I mentioned before, any telltale signs point right to the trail ride groups. My experience in Banff is limited to only one outfitter, but in this particular case I feel that the outfitter and staff are very conscientious about adhering to Park regulations and insisting that guests do the same.

4 MOUNTAIN PARKS

SUBMISSION - GEORGE KUXHAUS

July 20, 1984

This submission is in response to a letter dated May 17, 1984 soliciting input to the Four Mountain Parks Planning Program.

My submission deals specifically with horse use, particularly large group trail rides, and what appears to be a very strong philosophical bias by Parks Canada against it.

In February 1983, background papers for the Four Mountain Parks Planning Program were distributed to interested parties. On the top of page 4 of background paper 12 (Horse Use) it states, "Today, horse outfitters offer their customers a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy the mountain national parks." A good portion of the rest of the background paper seems to be dedicated to providing reasons why the horse outfitters should be restricted in offering this "unique opportunity" or completely eliminated from areas of the backcountry.

Many of these reasons for eliminating or curtailing large group horse use would seem to be based on nothing more than the biases and prejudices of one other specific interest group, namely, hikers. On page 16 of background paper 12, the last paragraph states, "A principal impact, at least in the eyes of many hikers, is the meeting of horse users in the backcountry. Many hikers dislike meeting horses on the trail, but most can accept reasonably limited encounters with small horse groups (Stankey, 1973). Encounters with large horse groups and the visual impact of large semi-permanent horse camps with associated horse grazing is not tolerable to most hikers. While the litany of complaints registered by hikers against horse users is well documented, it should be noted that inappropriately behaved hikers can be a source of vexation to riders." First, I would like to ask the ruling hierarchy of Parks Canada, since when is the backcountry of Canada's national parks the private domain of hikers, to be controlled according to their personal prejudices using Parks Canada as the police force? Parks Canada has considered the prejudices of a special interest group important enough to be considered a horse use impact while on the other hand states, "inappropriately behaved hikers can be a source of vexation to riders". It is my understanding that a few years ago, tens of tons of garbage were airlifted by helicopter from the backcountry areas of Banff National Park at great public expense due to, I must assume, the actions of "inappropriately behaved hikers".

4545 Wetmore Rd.
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223
September 10, 1984

Dear Broda,

Laura and I want to thank you for the wonderful week we spent on the Panther River last month. The ride far exceeded our expectations. As newcomers, we should have known this would be true that first moment we met our fellow riders outside Ribtors and found that over half of them were "repeaters" for the last two to ten years. I guess you can say the mountains did their magic for us.

But the mountains wouldn't have had their chance to, without the help of the people who are the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

The magic of the mountains. Who can say what it means? To sit by a clear mountain stream. To have lunch in a meadow overlooking a valley surrounded by rock and snow capped peaks. To stare a long horned sheep in the eye at three paces until you both get bored. To ride trails across steep mountain slopes and ravines. To sit by a fire under a black sky filled with more stars than a fairy tale. If you've been there, you know; if you haven't, I really can't tell you. We were able to be there and experience it, and for that we thank you and all the TRCR people.

To us, TRCR is Rick and Gord, Bill Smith and Kathy and all the staff who put up with us, took all our concerns on themselves and let us just relax and enjoy the week. Your work—their work—is so important to all of us who enjoy the mountains.

Rick told us something of the debates between the riders, the backpackers, environmentalists, the four-wheelers and all the rest about the future use of the mountains. We don't know what the answer is, but we feel it's so important that you (we) all keep talking until we find an answer. What's at stake is the mountains — for all of us. You're fighting for all of us, not just the people of Alberta or of Canada. In all the world there is no place like the Canadian Rockies and we came away feeling they belong to all the world. We need you people who are there and who care — to keep fighting to be sure the mountains remain just what they are. Having seen them, we now know how fragile they are. Beautiful and majestic, yes. But also fragile. And irreplaceable.

Did you see the recent TIME article on what's happening to the Alps? What a crime, and what a lesson to the rest of the world.

Again, our thanks for making this unforgettable trip happen for us. Keep up the good work; and let us know what we can do to help.

Sincerely,

Bill & Laura
Bill and Laura Caldwell

4 MOUNTAIN PARKS

COPY

R.R. #2, Site 10, Comp. 6
Webber Road
Westbank, B.C.
V0N 2A0
July 17, 1984

Four Mountain Parks Planning Program
Parks Canada
520,220 - 4 Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta,
T2P 3G8

Dear Sirs:

I just learned of your existence and have not the time to peruse all the material that has come to my attention but would like to give you my thoughts on horse back riding in the Parks.

I have gone on group rides in the Parks on occasion. In fact I have been going on rides for the past fourteen years at various times. I enjoy getting out in the wilderness away from the crowds and 'soak' up the beauty of our mountains. My health is such that hiking up hills or mountains is out of the question. So these rides are doubly pleasurable to me.

The outfitters I have gone with have been very responsible and do live up to the Park regulations as far as I can determine.

It is my feeling that the parks should be open to all Canadians as far as possible including such as myself limited by respiratory problems. While we can see much from the roads it's always nicer to get into the back country. The parks are a focal point and outfitters have a better opportunity to serve the public under these conditions.

By the way I am in the retirement age group and many of us have health conditions that do not allow us to do the things we did in our youth. I trust your planning will take into consideration all Canadians regardless of age, health and any other condition.

Sincerely,


Ken Gunn

Earth Life - Summer 1984

TRAIL RIDING in the CANADIAN ROCKIES

By SUSAN HAMMOND





Nature's Ballet and Mrs. Brenda Ferris competing in the 1978 100-mile Tevis Cup, from Lake Tahoe, Nev. to Auburn, Cal.

The Russians Are Coming . . .

You are looking at Nature's Ballet, a Russian Orloff, a hybrid of Arabian and Danish Coach Horses. Originally bred as a combat and war horse, Orloffs are trained in their native Russia to trot on ice and snow, and compete nationally in three-horse hitch competitions pulling sleighs.

Russian Orloffs are bred for size, speed, stamina, and intelligence, and are big in bone structure and large in stature and lung capacity. Nature's Ballet, a ten-year-old stallion, is a regular competitor in the Tevis Cup, a gruelling 100-mile horse race across mountainous terrain from Lake Tahoe, Nevada to Auburn, California. This year, of 243 competitors, only 137 finished. Nature's Ballet has finished the race the past three years.

So if you are looking for stamina, speed and sure-footedness, consider breeding to Nature's Ballet. His offspring would make excellent jumpers, hunters, or show horses.

**WE WILL DELIVER NATURE'S BALLET ANYWHERE IN
NORTH AMERICA FOR SERVICING**

SERVICE FEES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



FERGLEN FARMS

Chester A. Ferris, President

Phone (306) 561-2222 Pilot Butte, Sask., Canada S0G 3Z0

Sonny Ferris joined the TRCA in 1984.

This is his wife.

Major expansion urged for Banff

By Hubert Johnson
(Herald Banff bureau)

BANFF — Tourist facilities in Banff townsite could expand by as much as 50 per cent if Ottawa accepts recommendations contained in a draft report prepared by Parks Canada officials.

The far-reaching document actually advocates major expansion in all four mountain national parks in a bid to find more accommodation for tourists.

The final version of the report is now in the process of revision and could be altered

even further before ever becoming government policy.

It was prepared by a steering committee which included the park superintendents of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho and Parks Canada's western region director.

Don Pike, co-ordinator of the four parks management program, said Thursday the draft report is being revised as a result of mid-September meetings between Parks Canada western region staff and senior officials in Ottawa.

The proposals in the original
See PARK, Page A2

Park bosses want to expand facilities

(Continued)

nal report have not changed substantially. But the revised document does a much better job of explaining Parks Canada's two mandates.

The report says that visitor accommodation should be increased in response to demand, through the construction of new hotels and motels in Banff and Jasper townsites, expansion of 29 outlying commercial bungalow camps to meet existing regulations, expansion of existing campgrounds and creation of several new campgrounds, plus minor expansion of existing hostels.

Banff townsite, in particular, should experience a 30 to 50 per cent expansion in hotel/motel

units within its existing boundaries. And Parks Canada should "continue discussions towards enhancing Banff's role as a major tourist destination in a national park."

At least three Alberta conservation groups, however, feel "betrayed and frustrated" over the report.

"We feel a real sense of betrayal and a tremendous amount of frustration," said Mike McIvor, designated spokesman for the Bow Valley Naturalists, Alberta Wilderness Association and the Federation of Alberta Naturalists.

"We kind of question the whole public consultation process. And we're not the only ones who feel this way," said McIvor.

The report, completed last

month, is one of the last aspects of the federal government's Four Mountain Parks Planning Program, initiated in 1981 to create a development, management, protection and use policy over the next 15 years.

Conservation groups argue the draft does not reflect results of public consultations this summer, where citizens were asked to comment on three policy options for future management of the four parks.

Option A emphasized maintaining the natural character of the parks, and banned both construction of new facilities and expansion of existing facilities. Option B permitted expansion of existing facilities but opposed construction of new ones. Option C favored promotional programs

to attract more park visitors, and expansion of existing facilities and construction of new facilities with government and private sector money.

Of the 3,164 written and oral responses, 49.4 per cent of the participants chose option A, 33.4 per cent chose option B, and 16 per cent chose option C. The remaining 1.2 per cent was non-committal.

The report also suggests a "modest increase" in the number of backcountry trail shelters, alpine huts and commercial lodges plus up-grading and possible expansion of existing backcountry facilities.

Park roads, facilities and services should be upgraded and expanded to encourage the use of public transportation within the four parks.

January 1985

This letter accompanied brochures sent to people who had not ridden with us for the last 3 years.



P.O. Box 6742
Station "D"
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 2E6

Telephone
(403) 251-3077



TRAIL RIDERS *of the Canadian Rockies*

January 3, 1985

Dear Trail Rider:

Have you planned your next summer vacation? Let me help you!

The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies will be visiting the beautiful Palliser Pass region of Banff National Park and we would love to have you along. You will enjoy more than spectacular scenery, wildlife and flora and fauna. You will have time to unwind and relax while photographing a flower, chatting with a riding companion or while soaking up the fresh mountain air. After a day on the trail, enjoy a sing song or square dance around an evening campfire then rest soundly in your own teepee.

Bring the family or come alone - we will give you fine food, good friends and a holiday you will long remember.

Our brochure is enclosed. Take a close look and then....Come ride with us!

Happy trails,

B. Stuart

Breda Stuart
Secretary-Manager

Encl.



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