

THE BULLETIN

February 2014



Editor: Judy Fleetham

Publisher: Stuart R. Watkins

The Annual T.R.C.R. Round-Up

(aka the Pow-Wow)

By Judy Fleetham



1925 CPR advertising.

The first T.R.C.R. Pow-Wow in 1924 was held at the bungalow camp at Takakaw falls. The Yoho Valley was selected because of its accessibility and spectacular beauty. With the cooperation of the Canadian Pacific Railway, accommodation was supplemented with twenty Indian teepees and a large circular tent, decorated in Indian fashion, and since known

by every Trail Rider as the Sundance Lodge. No less than 207 guests gathered at this inaugural get-together.

The annual pow-wow served more than one useful, or perhaps even vital, purpose insofar as

the Association is concerned. Its original purpose was to give members, resident in Banff and vicinity, who could not attend the rides, an opportunity of hearing about it and meeting its participants. For the active trail riders, it fulfilled an equally important mission. It made the transition from five or six carefree days in the wilderness to civilization more gradual by serving as a “stepping stone”.

The presence of the big assembly tent also relieved the nostalgia somewhat for those pining for what recently was Teepee Town far back on the trail! Even the supper was served trail ride style. Once again, you could mingle and share stories with your trail riding pals. Of course, there was music, entertainment and the presentation of the Townsend Trophy.

The Trail Riders association and the outfitters were so impressed with the Sundance Lodge that the Indians erected for the first pow-wow that they made their own version unique to the Trail Riders, and called it the “donut”.

So, fellow trail riders, on May 10, 2014 we carry on the tradition for the 91st year, “donut” tent and all! The location will be at the Rocky 6S ranch located north west of Calgary. From Crowfoot Center, go 12 km on highway 1A, then turn right (north) on Lochend Road. Go 37 km (the road is gravel for the last 7 km) and the ranch is on the left (west) side of the road. Look for the red barn and a T.R.C.R. sign on the road. We sure hope to see you there.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Your Board of Directors continue to be at work this winter making sure that we have ten successful rides this summer. Judy Fleetham, our Bulletin editor, has been busy producing another great newsletter, and organizing both the Townsend Trophy and the Spring Round-up. Gary Sandbeck is making plans for “better biffies” and we are adding more cots, mattresses, teepees and tents, depending upon registration numbers. Ron Warner from Warner Guiding and Outfitting is presently putting together what I feel will be a terrific compliment of staff. Details to follow...

Speaking of which.....have you registered yet? Although the club has a 60% return rate (one of the highest in the tourism industry) we still need to have new riders each summer. As a result, we have launched some major marketing and it is our hope that the rides will be full. After all, do we not have the best product and “the best vacation of your life?” Have a look at our new website and get those registrations in before we are full!

Click here for ride availability:

<http://trailridevacations.com/2014-trial-ride-availability/>

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Rod Wallace to the position of T.R.C.R. board member. Rod joined us on a ride last summer and was so enthused that he decided to join the board. Rod is a retired Park Warden and feels that he can be a help to us with his extensive background of Parks Canada and his backcountry expertise. He is right; he can and he has! Many thanks Rod and welcome aboard!

Gary Sandbeck, Rod Wallace and I are going to meet with Rick Smith, the manager of the Ya-Ha-Tinda Ranch sometime in the next month to put together a twenty year proposal for Parks Canada of possible camp locations. Rick worked for Ron Warner for over 20 years and has travelled extensively through the National Parks. He and Rod are valuable assets to our club and I look forward to pouring over some maps with them and making some plans.

Although we feel that marketing our organization is

still needed, our number one source of new riders has historically been “word of mouth.” That is, your words from your mouths! Please bring a friend this summer and using our “refer a friend program,” take \$50 off on your ride. Additionally, any local marketing you can do for us is appreciated. We have ten rides to fill, so our work is “cut out” for us and your help is appreciated.

The longer I stay with this organization, the more I feel it is too good to let go. Many of the “old timers” from the last 30 - 40 years of the trail riders have either retired or passed on, and it is time to raise a new generation of riders, like my 13 year old daughter Janessa for example. As always, we your board need your help; get those letters off to Parks and the politicians, bring a friend this summer, and complete your registrations as soon a possible to avoid disappointment.

Staffing plans are not complete, but I know you will be very pleased with our new head guide and cook, assuming the details are “ironed” out with our outfitter. It is going to be a great summer and I think possibly the best rides ever. You don’t want to miss them...

As always, connect with me anytime.
admin@trail-rides.ca

See you this summer.

Stuart R. Watkins
President, T.R.C.R.

P.S. Still looking for five Emcees; and six musicians.....



IMPRESSIONS OF A FIRST RIDE

By Vanna Mickle

Yes. Those days in the saddle are hard to forget. The summer of 1956 was my first on the trail ride. Our base camp was on the beautiful and picturesque Pipestone River. The horse I rode was not exactly the most beautiful steed around, but he certainly had a wonderful nature and did his work faithfully. When I first saw "Blackie, as I named him later on, I fell in love with his big brown eyes which looked at me so innocently, as if to say "I am ready, let's go!"

Blackie was not by any means black - he was a sort of dark chestnut shade, and had a well built body. He was as friendly a horse as you would wish to meet, so I suppose I could mark him down in my scrapbook, as another good friend I met on the ride. I have a good photo of Blackie in my wallet. I look at it often with loneliness for the good old trail ride and camp life.

The sing-song around the campfire brings memories of happiness, fellowship and good cheer. The cowboys with their guitars and accordians sing their favourite songs. Then comes the cocoa and cookies - a welcome sight for all. At last all retire to their teepees and snuggle into their cozy sleeping bags.

You meet all kinds of people from all parts of the continent on the trail ride, and they are all so nice and friendly that you never feel lost or unwanted at all. But, then like all good things it has to come to an end and finally stunt night rolls around. This is the last night of the ride and every teepee is invited to put on some kind of stunt or skit in the doughnut tent. After the stunts are over the call goes out "How about a little square dancing?" Then the guitars start playing, the accordion starts in, and pretty soon weary feet are dancing to the familiar music played by the cowboys.

Soon though you are back in your sleeping bag, wishing the night would never end, for you know tomorrow you will be mounting your steed, for the last time; this year anyway. And before you know it you are rolling up your sleeping bag and trudging over to the doughnut tent to put it on the faithful pack horse. The last smoking embers of last night's fire are still there. You look at them with tears in your eyes, wishing you didn't have to go.

So you mount, say goodbye to the friends you have made, and start on the long journey back to the trailhead. You turn back to take your last look at the base camp. Your mind goes back over the trail ride events, and you remember all the fun you have had. But you must not forget your faithful companion who has carried you over many a mountain trail and river. You give him an affectionate pat and whisper in his ear, "Don't worry I will be back next year."



Vanna Mickle surveys campsite from door of Sunset Teepee. (1956)

TRAIL RIDER'S HISTORY



IS STILL ALIVE & WELL...



By Stuart R. Watkins

One of the T.R.C.R.'s historical traditions is the giving of mileage "pins" or "buttons" after each rider has accumulated a certain number of rides. The idea was broached on Wolverine Pass by R.H. Palenske. Palenske, was a well known Chicago artist and one of the original founders in 1921 of the T.R.C.R. He designed the buttons with a slight difference for men and women; the men's have the horse standing straight and the ladies horse is eating grass.

Trail Rider Pins

- Bronze** - (1 ride)
- Silver** - (2 rides)
- Silver & Enamel** - (4 rides)
- Gold** - (7 rides)
- Gold & Enamel** - (14 rides)
- Enamel** - (20 rides)



A selection of vintage pins made by Birks Jewellers.

The other T.R.C.R. tradition which is still in use today, is the Life Membership Certificate designed by Mr. Palenske (completion of seven rides is required.)

Reinhold H. or R. H. Palenske (1884 1954) was born in Chicago, Illinois. He was a graphic artist and painter. During his career his work was reproduced in The Spur, the Washington Star, and the Chicago Daily News. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and was a student of Wellington Reynolds. For many years, Brown and Bigelow had Palenske's work on an exclusive basis in the advertising specialty market, and they also offered a number of his original etchings. Palenske's love of animals and nature was almost inborn, for both his father and grandfather were cavalry officers whose love of horses is traditional. In addition to being a master etcher, he was a sportsman and hunter of prominence.

When he was only a lad of ten, R. H. Palenske knew he was going to be an artist. Fascinated by the graceful lines and movements of his fathers horses, the boy spent long hours trying to capture their beauty with his pencil and sketch pad. By the time he was seventeen he had mastered his trade and was launched on a career as a newspaper illustrator. Twenty years later he found his second career as one of the world's fine etchers.

Throughout his whole life the great outdoors held a strong appeal for Palenske, and he spent every spare moment exploring the woods, streams, lakes and mountains of North America's great wilderness. As co-founder of T.R.C.R. he was a well-known figure to the trappers, guides, traders and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of the Canadian west. The Blackfoot Indians so admired his riding skill and woods ability they adopted him into their tribe as "White-Calf-Running-Like-Hell-Do-Everything".

One day, using one of his wife's darning needles, Palenske idly scratched a design in a scrap of copper plate. His idle curiosity soon turned to fascination, and he began to explore this new medium in his spare time. He finally abandoned his newspaper career in order to devote full time to perfecting his etching technique. Within a short time he had earned international recognition and an invitation to exhibit at a one man show in the Smithsonian Institution. In 1944 the Chicago Society of Etchers awarded him the most coveted prize in etching arts "for the outstanding work of the year among the nation's top etchers". Etchings by Palenske are now included in the collections of the world's finest galleries, including the Smithsonian Institute, the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library and the Royal Gallery of London.

Publisher's note: We no longer have both male and female pins as that tradition was lost. I think we should bring it back when we need to replenish our inventory of pins. Also, we have so many riders that have achieved more than twenty rides that I am going to propose to the board that we develop another pin for 30 and 40 rides!

Pictured below is one of the long lost 'female' pins in 10k gold & enamel. ca 1940's.



A 1954 R.H. Palenske drawing is featured prominently on the T.R.C.R. Lifetime Member certificate; still in use today.



Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies

This will Certify that:

John Smith

has accumulated a minimum of 500 miles of horseback riding on skyline trails of the Canadian Rockies, as specified by the Constitution (Article 4, Section 2) and has qualified in all other respects for Life Membership in this Association. In recognition thereof, as of this date and for all time, the Trail Rider listed above is to be accorded all considerations and privileges commensurate with the honour of Life Membership.

Secretary Treasurer

Date

President

"KNOW YOUR MOUNT, MR. DUDE"

By Graham Nichols

Of course you want your trail ride horse to like you! After all, you and he are going to see a lot of each other during those five glamorous days on the trail. So it's just as well to size up your mount and get into his good books right from the start. This advice is particularly applicable to dudes who have had little or no riding experience.

Some horses, of course, take to their riders right from the start: others, like some people, are harder to get to know. Many riders maintain that a horse's expression gives the major clue as to the animal's character and disposition. This is supposed to be revealed by the gleam in the animal's eye or the droop of its lower lip.

One thing however, the trail rider can start off with in his equine psychoanalysis, is the knowledge that his horse has been broken to the trails. His horse comes from accredited stock, has earned a reputation for good manners and manoeuverability on the trails, and in all respects has conformed to the requisites of a good trail ride horse.

IF KINDNESS FAIL. TRY BRIBERY

But it's just as well to find out more about your horse's character at the outset of the ride. Some trail riders actually visit Seebee, Alta. where many of the horses are corralled well in advance of the ride with a view to selecting a horse of their liking and getting on speaking terms with their prospective mounts. This prolongs the friendship and makes the ride more enjoyable for both horse and rider.

There are numerous means of gaining your horse's friendship, confidence and respect. Kindness, of course, cannot be over-estimated as a contributing factor. And should this fail to bring the desired results there is always 'bribery' to fall back on. This might take the form of tempting the horse with some morsel pleasing to the equine palate but not sugar.



The fact that sugar fails to tempt the western horse's palate is a source of wonder, particularly to trail riders from the east where a lump of sugar is the horse's "piece de resistance". So save your sugar for the tea and coffee.

HAVE A GOOD LINE

Care should be taken at all times to assure your horse's comfort and general well being. Keeping the horse properly reined during the ride is particularly important to the maintenance of good relationship between rider and horse. The lines should be held at sufficiently short length, of course, to assure control of the animal, but never so short that the horse fairly chokes every time it moves its head or lunges at a tempting mouthful of green along the trail side.

And speaking of lines it is particularly important that the rider unfasten the lines, letting them dangle singly at the horse's sides, when dismounting for a rest on the trail. If allowed to hang or drag while still looped the horse stands a good chance of tripping, perhaps breaking a leg. Alert guides are usually on the lookout just in case absent-minded trail riders forget to observe this rule.

BOARD MEMBER FEATURE: ROD WALLACE

Each newsletter will feature a biography about a board member. This month's article features new board member, Rod Wallace.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, I would like to assist the T.R.C.R. in the promotion of trail riding in the Rockies, to continue an attempt to promote interest in western Canadian heritage. As a native Albertan my passions include horses, antique vehicles, and western Canadian history.

My dad was involved with T.R.C.R. thirty years ago, and we took the opportunity to celebrate the ninetieth anniversary last summer, to join T.R.C.R. for the commemorative ride. Let's hope the T.R.C.R. continue to enjoy the Rockies into and well beyond the 100th year !

Besides the great scenery and horse travel in the Rockies, meeting folks from all over North America was a highlight of the trip. Friendly, knowledgeable guide staff made the whole experience a truly joyous week.

I worked some thirty-five years for Parks Canada in western Canada, as a park warden and cultural resource management specialist, mainly in Jasper. My experience in six different National Parks, with extensive travel in the backcountry of the Rockies makes me familiar with most backcountry areas, both within and adjacent the National Parks. I now live in retirement on a small acreage on the Ghost river, immediately adjacent the Alberta Forest Service "green zone" in the Alberta foothills. My wife and I have horses, which we now ride in most foothills areas, from Waterton to the Red Deer River. Those warm Chinooks mean most winters we can ride on a limited basis, directly out of the yard gate.

The experience with Parks Canada, and many of the outfitting community, as well as a knowledge of the Rockies, will hopefully assist T.R.C.R. in working with various groups to promote horseback riding for more people to enjoy. My knowledge of many of the parks "insiders" will hopefully assist in this process. I would like to see T.R.C.R. expand their riding options to include the more northern Rockies, and perhaps the Wilmore Wilderness.

In these changing times, T.R.C.R. face some major marketing and public awareness challenges in the next few years. European, Asian, and "new Canadian" groups, as well as "Down under" countries present both an opportunity and a challenge for more awareness of horse trip possibilities.

All the best in 2014 !

Rod Wallace



Rod, his wife Sharon with renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman

Music On The Ride:

WILF CARTER AND THE T.R.C.R.

By Judy Fleetham

The Order of the Trail Rockies of the Canadian Rockies made it clear from its inception in 1923 that members should have a good time on the trail. It began publishing song sheets so everyone would know the words for the Trail Riders tunes that were sung at each Pow Wow. Musicians have always played a welcome part in the Trail Riders experience. Entertainment was often provided by a singer with a guitar and early on the accordion appeared.



The career of one well-known country singer, Wilf Carter (aka Montana Slim, the yodelling cowboy) was started by the T.R.C.R. He was born in Port Hilford, Nova Scotia December 18, 1904. Inspired at an early age by a yodeller who was passing through town, Wilf began to practice and developed his own unique “echo” yodel. Wilf worked a short stint in the lumber woods in Nova Scotia and then drifted to the Alberta grain fields. Eventually he began singing at the local dances and in 1930 he auditioned for a radio station and was hired to sing on their Friday night hoedowns. He was also approached by an official of the Brewster Transport Company and accepted his invitation to be part of the entertainment as well as being a packer on the rides during the day for the Canadian Pacific Railway’s trail rides through the Rockies. For several years, Wilf accompanied the trail riders on their summer packing trips. At night, they would sit around the campfire and listen to Wilf tell stories, sing and yodel. Two of his most well-known songs were “Bluebird on Your Windowsill” and “Strawberry Roan”



In 1933, he was hired as an entertainer on the maiden voyage of the British ship S.S. Empress. Later that year, he stopped off in Montreal and recorded two songs he had just written: “My Swiss Moonlight Lullaby” and “The Capture of Albert Johnson”. After signing with RCA, the record became a best-seller within a year. That same year, Carter also wrote and recorded “Pete Knight, The King of the Cowboys,” which also became a hit.

In 1935, Carter moved to New York City, where he performed on WABC radio. He also hosted a CBS country music radio program until 1937. During

Wilf Carter (playing guitar), Ray Jennings (seated next to Carter), Lois Hammond (seated for right), Matilda Hammond (standing right), on Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies trip, ca 1935.

*Courtesy Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies
(V484/NA66-2036, George Paris Fonds)*

this time, someone tagged him with the name “Montana Slim,” and the name stuck. In 1937, Carter returned to Alberta, where he purchased a ranch. He continued to appear on both American and Canadian radio shows, as well as perform live concerts.

In 1940, Carter seriously injured his back in a car accident in Montana. He was unable to perform for much of the decade, but his popularity was sustained by the periodic release of new recordings. He sold his ranch in 1949 and moved his family to a 180 acres (73 ha) farm in New Jersey. In 1952, he moved again, this time to Orlando, Florida, where he opened the Wilf Carter Motor Lodge, a venture that lasted only two years.

RETURN TO THE ROAD

In 1949, Carter resumed live performances with tours in Canada and the United States. In 1950, he attracted over 50,000 people during a week at the Canadian National Exhibition bandstand in Toronto.

In 1953, Wilf Carter started touring with his own show called, The Family Show with the Folks You Know. His daughters, Carol and Sheila, worked with him as dancers and back-up singers.

In 1964, Carter performed for the first time at the Calgary Stampede. He also became one of the most requested guests on the TV show hosted by Canadian country singer Tommy Hunter.

Wilf Carter’s simple, honest sound continues to attract listeners with each new generation. His straightforward singing and guitar playing have a universal appeal. He wrote hundreds of songs covering a wide range of themes, including traditional country western, cowboy, folk, and hobo songs. His recordings of “Blue Canadian Rockies” and “You Are My Sunshine” are among the most popular. Some believe that Carter wrote the popular American Christmas carol, “Jolly Old Saint Nicholas”. Fellow Canadian country artist Ian Tyson considers Carter an influence on his music. Wilf Carter passed away in Florida in 1996 at the age of 92.

Publisher’s note: Ironically, Wilf could not read music. And to think he got his career started on the T.R.C.R. One of our claims to fame!

Wilf Carter (aka ‘Montana Slim’) in a 1930’s CFCN Radio promo card.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS & PROSPECTIVE EMCEE’S!

Ideally we like to have an official musician on every ride. Historically this has been an accordionist and/or fiddle player which is our first choice, and we will accept guitar players as well. Any additional skills in entertaining the riders is welcome too.

We need an Emcee for every ride. There is not a lot of “work” to do, but there is quite a bit of responsibility. We publish an “Emcee’s handbook” and the position is open to anyone that has attended one or more rides. It is helpful to have some administrative skills and of course you need to be a “people person” and be well versed in the history of the T.R.C.R. and our polices and procedures that are clearly written in the handbook.

Musicians and Emcees’ pay the full price of the ride in advance like every other rider. After the ride is completed, Emcees receive a \$500 rebate and Musicians \$1000. For further information and any questions, please contact our President, Stuart R. Watkins. srwatkins@shaw.ca



THE TOWNSEND TROPHY

Hey Trail Riders, its time to look at your fantastic 2013 ride photos again and choose your best for the photo contest. There are 5 categories:

- Horses & People
- Scenery
- Flora
- Wildlife
- Youth Entries (ages 17 & under)

There is an email address on the contacts page on the website where you can enter your photos in each of the categories and make sure you give your photo a title.

The winning photographs will be selected by members of the Calgary Camera Club. The winner in each category will receive a framed plaque and their photos will appear in the 2014 calendar. The winner of "Best of Show" will receive a miniature of the original trophy which was donated by Reginald Townsend in 1929 as well as an engraved plaque that will be added to the base of that trophy.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT TO ENTER!!

The photograph should epitomize Trail Riding, including elements that are distinctly representative of the T.R.C.R (horses, riders, teepee town, campfires, mountain scenery, etc.) and can be colour or back-and-white. The deadline is March 31 and the winners will be announced at the annual Round-up May 10, 2014. All entries become property of the TRCR for our calendar, albums, advertising, and/or our website.

**"KNOW YOUR MOUNT, MR. DUDE"
CONTINUED...**

(continued from page 5)

Horses quite naturally like to be appreciated particularly if they have accomplished something out of the ordinary. So when your mount has pawed his way carefully over submerged boulders hidden by the foaming spray of a shallow mountain river, and without so much as getting you splashed give him an appreciative pat on the neck or behind the ears if you can reach that far. The horse will love it and will be that much more anxious to please.

It is also well to remember that a 14-mile day's ride, while restful and relaxing for the rider, calls for plenty of foot-work from the trail horse. That is why thoughtful trail riders have a habit of dismounting and leading their horses when the trail becomes unusually steep, rocky or otherwise hard to negotiate. Not only does it give the horse a well deserved rest, but it gives the rider a chance of getting in a bit of foot-work as well.

**WANT TO HAVE A FUN
FEW DAYS IN THE BUSH?**

As part of our contract with our outfitter, we are required to send four to six volunteers in late June to set-up the T.R.C.R. camp and then again over the Labour day weekend to tear the camp down. We offer a free helicopter ride, accommodation, meals, fun and silliness with a great team of people, lots of hard work, and... ..no pay. Working in camp under the direction of our Vice-President Gary Sandbeck, is a great job and Gary is a "dream boss" to work for. He never gets in the flap and works very well with people.

Come and join us! Contact Gary for more information: admin@trail-rides.ca

T.R.C.R. LOSES A LONG TIME RIDER



It is with sadness we wish to report the passing of long time trail rider, Pat Waite.

Pat began trail riding in the 1950's along with her husband Jack. Both were actively involved with the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies. Jack was one of the "founding four" of the T.R.C.R. as a nonprofit organization in 1962. He was a lawyer and helped my father Howard Watkins the first T.R.C.R. President as a non-profit, with all of the legal work and the drafting of our club's constitution. Jack later became a judge on the Queens Bench of Alberta and pre-deceased Pat a few years ago. Pat was on our board and Emceed for many many years. She was active with native Indians here in Alberta in addition to many other community projects including being a founder of the Calgary Native Friendship Society. Pat was truly a woman who marched to her own drummer. We appreciate the years of service to her community and to the T.R.C.R.

At the request of the family, in lieu of flowers the T.R.C.R. sent a donation to the Calgary Food Bank.

Further details can be found at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/calgaryherald/obituary.aspx?n=patriciawaite&pid=168647112&fhid=5932>

S.R.W.

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND!

The rides are filling up and we're looking forward to a very successful summer. Check here for availability:

(<http://trailridevacations.com/2014-trial-ride-availability/>)

Get your registrations in soon!

...refer a friend is now worth \$100 per new rider!!!

NEW POLICIES!

Our new secretary-treasurer Robert Vanderzweerde has been instrumental in "cleaning house" in terms of our database, accounting, and internal procedures. The intent is to streamline our operations make it more efficient and customer friendly. We have changed out down payment policies and refund polices. See our website for details.

NEW THIS YEAR! THEME RIDES!

Watch our website over the next two weeks for details about our theme rides: photography, astronomy, and "Bring your own Horse!"

CAN YOU HELP US WITH A TESTIMONIAL?

We would like to add some testimonials to our website. Could you write us a few sentences and tell us about your previous rides, how much you enjoyed them and why you are planning to come back? You can also mention specifically what you like about the rides. Again, our best form of marketing over the years has proven to be word-of-mouth.

ARE YOU A SOCIAL MEDIA GURU??!!

The board members are not of the generation of social media!! LOL We are looking for a volunteer to handle and build our presence on Twitter and Facebook. The beauty of this position is that the person does not need to live in Calgary. With modern technology anybody with a level of expertise in social media and an internet connection can handle this most valuable and needed position. Conventional marketing is changing and we the T.R.C.R. needs to keep abreast of new technology and join the social media revolution.

Can you help us?