

# The Bulletin

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# WHY YOU SHOULD RESERVE YOUR SADDLE NOW Hint!

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Three Wranglers on North Fork Ridge, Judy Fleetham, 2019

REMEMBERING AN EXTRAORDINARY LADY - DOROTHY LOMAS - 1930-2020

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### WHY YOU SHOULD RESERVE YOUR SADDLE NOW

#### And Experience Canada at it's Finest

#### Dear Trail Riders,

TRCR and its partners are very excited to offer three safe, jaw-dropping rides this summer. Each ride offers different experiences. Some rides are easy; others are more challenging but, all are magnificent.

Half Way Lodge - Imagine sitting on your horse at 8,000 feet altitude overlooking an endless span of Rockies' peaks. This is a six-day ride.

The Great Divide - Explore the mountainous area of the Continental Divide, where the water flows East and West. This is a six 6 day ride.

Sheep River - Become one with landscapes cowboy movies are made off. This is a four-day ride.

This year, our camps are smaller, more intimate and designed to ensure we meet all the required protocols demanded by Alberta Health within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

TRCR's is in its 97th year. We are determined to explore the magnificent Rockies as we have done all along and enjoyed every moment of it. Our guides and their horses are ready to welcome you. It is still time to reserve your saddle. Please visit our website or send us an email for more details.

You are guaranteed a ride of a lifetime.

#### Gary Sandbeck, President

On behalf of the Board of Directors



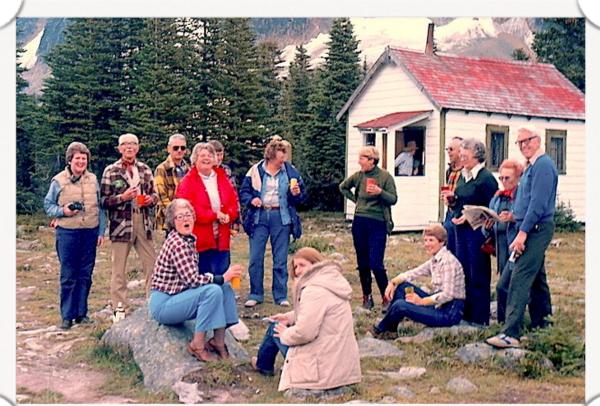
### **Remembering Dorothy**



Dorothy Lomas with her husband, Earl Lomas, Tonquin Ride -1981

I first met Dorothy in 1971 on a trip with the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies (TRCR) in the Pipestone River Valley. Many old-timers were there, including Bunny Robinson, Tom MacBeth, Bruce Hatfield, Lois Laycraft, Stuart Watkins, Howard Watkins, Jim Lannigan and, of course, Dorothy. It was a sizeable ride with 68 riders, not including staff. Riders were spread out over a mile along the trail, making a mockery of keeping close and not lagging behind to avoid running or hard trotting horses. The five staff riders had divided the group up into little rides that they could control. The summer was very dry. I'll never forget the dust that hung over the valley as we rode into TP town. It was my first trip to the mountains, and I was wide-eyed and knew nothing of the routines, or the traditions of the Camp. Stuart and his Dad, Howard, had talked me into the role of camp musician for the week, and although I was a good horseman, everything about the TRCR was a brand new experience. Mind-boggling!

My job was to play for the evening singing and dancing in the donut. I learned later that I was following in the footsteps of some very famous and well-liked musicians (Wilf Carter for one) whose standards of performance I was expected to rise to and meet. Although I had been provided with a copy of the official songbook, I could not possibly know every song by heart. I was scared stiff about that first evening's performance and was worried that the riders would consider me totally inadequate.



Fun in Camp with Dorothy (she is sitting on a rock, right hand-side) - 1981

In those days, happy hour (from about 4 pm to supper time) was a time-honoured tradition. It included wines and snacks that magically appeared out of the duffels of the riders. Dorothy was a leader in this time honour tradition. We gathered together in an open area in the Teepee's where the drinks were poured, and the goodies were distributed to renew old friendships and make new ones. I was placed on a stump and instructed to play quietly in the background to provide ambiance to the proceedings. That part was easy enough, but I was terrified of the upcoming singalong, which was the start of the evenings' entertainment in the donut.

At supper that evening, I found myself sitting next to Dorothy. After learning of her long association with the TRCR, I confided in her my fears of the upcoming musical hurdle. That was the beginning of a long and enjoyable relationship with Dorothy, that covered countless trails and adventures in the Rockies and wonderful evenings of music in the donut. She literally took me by the hand that first evening and led me through those first scary tunes, with a clear sweet alto voice that soon had me relaxed and confident. She held the songbook and picked tunes that everyone would know, and helped me select proper keys and tempos, never leaving my side until the dancing started. That first evening lasted until 4:00 am in the morning, and the final tune was sung in someone's TeePee with so many guests packed into it that you could not stand up. There was barely enough room for me to play my guitar. It was not until a couple of years later that I learned what a skilled musician she was in her own right both on the piano and with voice.



Dorothy Lomas with fellow rider, Joel Lipkind - Tonguin Ride -1981

Perhaps it was because that was my first "donut event," and my first ride, but I remember the events of that week more clearly than all the other 100 rides that I have been part of. I have Dorothy to thank for a lot of that. She taught me how to run a singalong, made me a part of the organization and introduced me to the riders, many she seemed to know personally. Everyone was her friend, and she was a friend to everyone.

Dorothy became president of the TRCR in 1977 and served on the executive for many years. Many of the TRCR meetings were held at her home that she shared with Earl, her husband and children Margaret, Rob, Stuart and Ken. She started riding with the TRCR in 1956, and I don't believe she missed a year until her last ride in 1988. In total she rode 31 times. Her husband Earl helped her draft the first TRCR constitution following the privatization of the organization as a CPR Railway program in 1961. I can't remember a work project that Dorothy was not part of in one way or another in the seventeen years that I rode with her on TRCR trails.

The TRCR would like to salute Dorothy as a significant leader and dedicated member of TRCR. Her love of riding, the people of the TRCR and the horses she rode on are a sterling example of the spirit of a life long Trail Rider. She will be remembered, she will be missed, and I'm sure that as we ride down our adventure trails, Dorothy will be riding with us, lending her comradeship and enjoyment for all to share.

### **Dorothy Margaret Johnston Lomas**

October 2nd, 1930 - April 26th, 2020



Dorothy was born in Edmonton, AB, the only child of Arthur and Esther Livingstone, who were teachers. She grew up near the U of A and graduated with a Bachelor's degree of Science in Home Economics in 1952. She then interned in dietetics at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. Dorothy married Earl Lomas on July 3, 1954. They moved to Calgary, where they

started a family, and Earl articled as a lawyer.

Raising her family, she introduced all of them to Trail Riding. She also found time to volunteer with the Junior League, Samaritan Club, Girl Guides, Festival Chorus, the TRCR and Kappa Alpha Theta. After the children were grown, travel began in earnest all over the world. After Earl passed away in 2009, she continued to travel with friends. In recent years, she was still attending regular swim fitness at the Glencoe Club and singing in the choir. Dorothy found great enjoyment in the

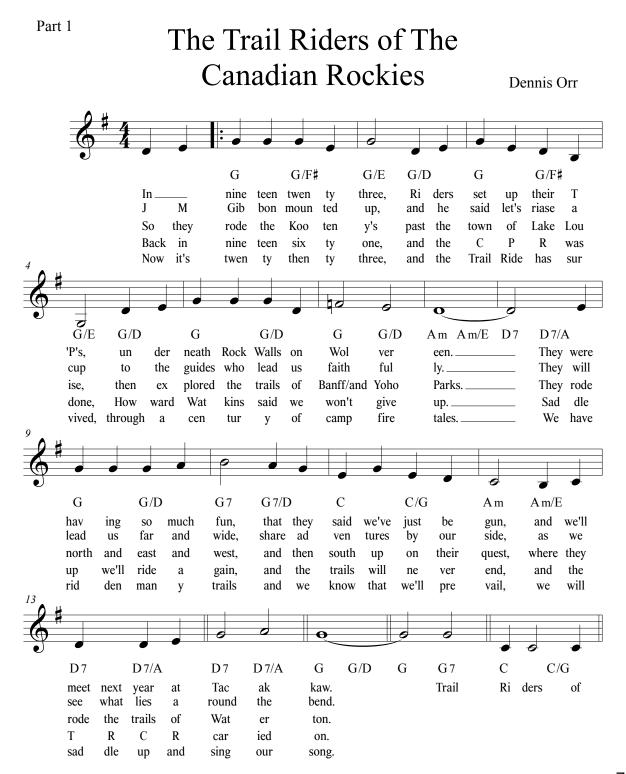
outdoors, kept immaculate gardens at her home and often commented on the wildlife visiting in her back yard. She was also a regular at the Calgary Golf and Country Club, where she loved to host dinners for friends and members. Dorothy spent her last three years with many life long friends at the Manor Village at Garrison Woods.



Fearless Dorothy enjoying a dip in an icy Rocky Mountain streams - 1979

### **Music Lyricists Wanted**

Howdy fellow Trail Ridders. A year ago, Stuart and I started writing this song. Then we thought, "Heck! wouldn't that be fun to ask our fellow ridders to add verses?" There you have it. Let's have fun. Go at it and share with us your lines about the TRCR latest song. My email is <a href="mailto:dennis.orr@icloud.com">dennis.orr@icloud.com</a>





# JOIN US



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