



The Bulletin

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November 2020

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TRCR President's Message

Dear Trail Riders,

We have now wrapped up our 97th year of riding in the Canadian Rockies and are open for registrations for 2021.

The worldwide situation with the Covid-19 challenged us and our outfitting partners to adapt and meet all the health and safety guidelines necessary to offer our guests a safe and spectacular adventure in the Canadian Rockies. The rides that proceeded in 2020 were a resounding success and pictures will soon be posted.

We look forward to the rides in 2021 which will offer opportunities to accommodate all levels of riders and their desire for adventure. The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies and our outfitter partners, Banff Trail Riders and Boundary Ranch, will work diligently to make sure all the Covid-19 protocols will be met to ensure an exciting, memorable, and safe holiday adventure .

You are guaranteed a ride of a lifetime.

Gary Sandbeck, on behalf of the Board of Directors



"The whole experience made me forget about everyday life, especially "Covid"."

Guess rider's feedback, summer 2020

What our guests said about this summer's rides

Our riders' evaluations tell us how well we are doing and what we can do better. This year we got top marks, meeting or exceeding expectations. Lodging, food, wranglers, guides, trails, horses, views, outdoor shower, outhouses, even the weather - All was outstanding. Better than a formal report, the following comments from a rider sums it all. Thank you, riders, for your feedback. It means a lot to us.

"The food was awesome—all homemade, so delicious and wholesome. The portions and variety were huge. For me, too much to eat and sadly (some) wasted. I loved the hike to "Mitchell's Lake." A great way to work the kinks out from sitting on the saddle. The whole experience gave way to be able to forget about everyday life, especially "Covid". Every aspect was well orchestrated, the teamwork to make the experience world class was seamless. The team works so well together. I enjoyed every person; they all brought the feel of the "Wild West" to the experience. The lunches on the trail, the hanging out and enjoying the views, the high country, the lodges... I can't say enough about how special it all was.

And the outhouses were so clean and well maintained.



Halfway Lodge, 2020, R. Delorme



“Outlaws at Boulder Pass” movie, 1942



Banff Trail Riders 2020, R. Delorme

Wild Rag, Then and Now

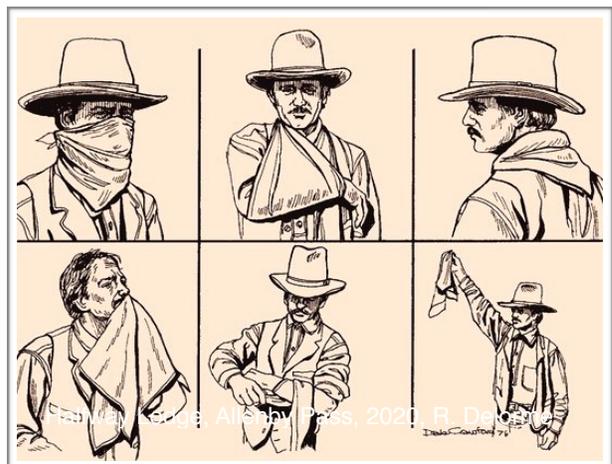
by Renée Delorme

Wild Rag, a.k.a. Bandana or Neckerchief, is a staple of the Cowboy wardrobe. Besides the dubious advantage it afforded bank and train robbers, it was and is still used:

- To keep the neck cool in summer by dipping it in a cold stream and washing the face, head and neck.
- To keep the neck warm in winter.
- As a washrag
- As a dust mask on cattle drives
- As an improvised bandage when hurt
- Or as a communication device over long open distance to signal others and
- Well, yes, as a tissue.

Bandanas were are still worn with fashion statements in mind. Usually bright coloured, often of fine fabric with elaborated motifs and tied up in most intricate ways that would leave a high fashion lady dumfounded. Several neckerchief styles developed over time, but the more common type was a square of about 20 x 20 inches. This shape and size was most versatile and allowed to do all of the above.

Cowboys are no strangers to wearing face masks. And, a Covid mask is just, well, another face mask. This is why riders take it in stride and go along for the ride, so to speak. Still, I admit to preferring the John Wayne style. It has a “*Je ne sais quoi*” that surgical looks just can’t beat.



Find out if your Emcee and your Guide are the real deal and other practical advice

by Bradley Bischoff

Ask your emcee how to make coffee on the trail! If she/he does not know, they are not the real deal!

Ask your emcee to nail a horse shoe back on and check the other ones when you are back to camp. If she/he cannot do it, they are not the real deal.

Pain free ride? Hhmmm. In my experience no such thing. Aches, pains, bumps, bruises are all part of the experience. You can try to keep them to a minimum. That is the challenge. Be alert, stay active on your horse, pay attention, expect the unexpected and you'll be fine.

My scariest moment? Running into a deer on the way to the outhouse.
Not sure who was more scared?

One of my found memory is how good that first cup of coffee was in the morning.

“Your horse will do most anything you ask. Be the leader”



How Not To Take A Picture of a Grizzly

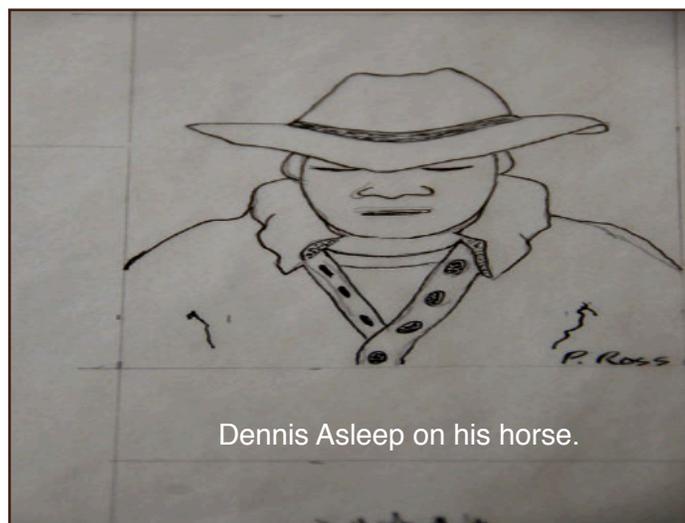
By Dennis Orr

For years I carried a camera in the hopes that I would get that incredible wild life picture. I was hoping for a picture of a grizzly, because to me they were the ultimate wild animal of Banff National Park. I had my chance one morning along the Red Deer River but it became one of the most embarrassing moments of my life.

It had been quite a party meeting the guests at the Mountain Air Lodge the night before and I was a bit hung over and lacking sleep. As a lowly man on the totem pole it was my job to lead the lunch horse, other pack animals and extra riding horses that had not been ready to leave with the regular pack train. I ended up with a pack string of six animals. I dutifully assumed my position at the rear of the ride. Anyone who has led a pack string will know how important it is to keep a steady pace, for if the line relaxed every pack animal would immediately try to get a mouthful of grass, step over a lead rope or wrap themselves around a tree, or any number of "hair brained horse ideas".

The guest line was large with over 30 riders and by noon I was fed up with fighting with the end of an elastic band of riders that couldn't seem to keep from trotting or stopping dead in the trail for lost hats, dropped cameras, pee breaks etc., etc., etc..

So after lunch and there was no more need of the lunch horse I talked Mike Crawley into letting me go back to the old wagon road that runs up the river from the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch to our base camp. There free of brush and guests stopping, I was free to set my own pace and could keep a steady pace into camp without the constant fear of a pack string wreck. It was a warm afternoon and as I mentioned, I had not had the opportunity to do much sleeping the night before. Once I got the string moving at a steady pace, I took the opportunity to close my eyes and doze along the trail, an art I had perfected over years of pack string duty. As I remember I only fell off once learning this trick.

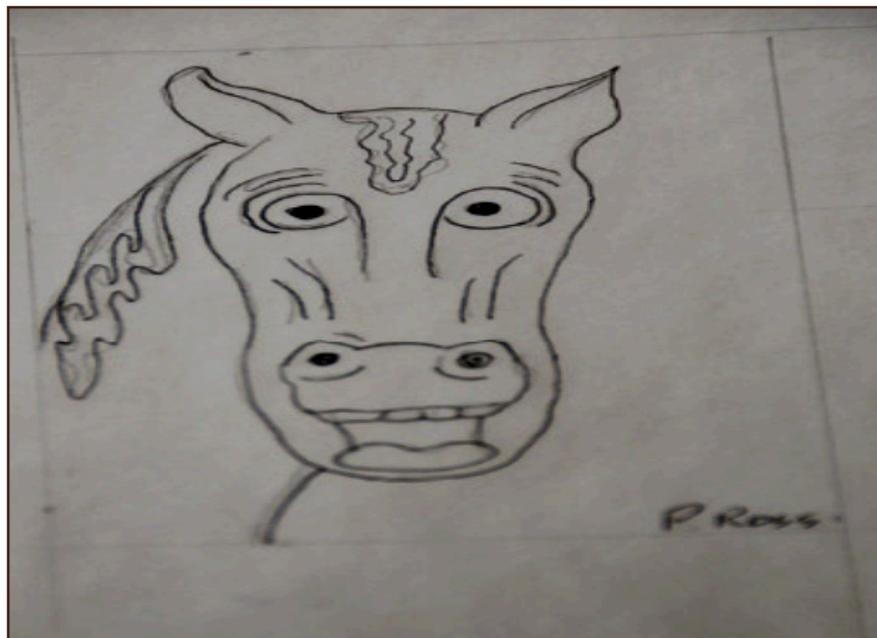


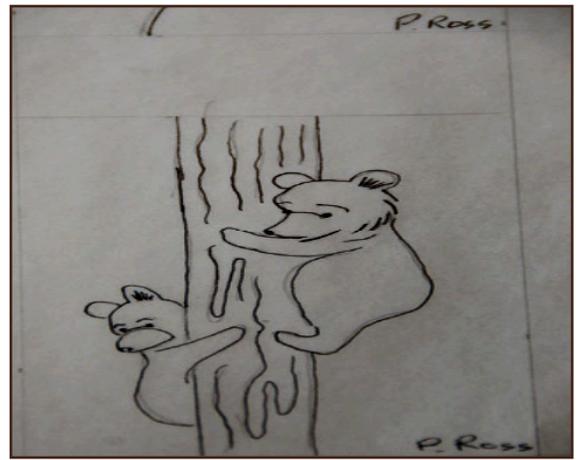
Dennis Asleep on his horse.

All of a sudden I was rudely awakened by my horse Nugget, who had stopped dead in the trail and was snorting and shaking as if he had seen a bear; he had, it was standing on it's hind legs just short few feet in front of us. At the same time I became aware that just out of arms reach, there were two grizzly cubs up a tree on the wrong side of me and that very upset mama bear.

Because I had just been enjoying a very nice doze, I was not very quick on assessing the situation and doing anything about it, but Nugget did. As if we had rehearsed it he wheeled around and headed back down the old road at very remarkable fast walk. That pack train peeled off after him just like a circus act and the lead ropes were tight as a steel cable. By now I had come to enough to regain control and looking over my shoulder could see that mama was not chasing us, but standing on her hind legs under the tree which the cubs were starting to scramble down. I thought; this is it, I'll never get another chance like this and smartly wheeled that pack train around so that I could get a good camera shot of the most incredible bear picture opportunity I had ever had.

Of course Nugget was still upset and nervous and it took some doing to get him to stand still so I could get my camera out and begin to shoot the scene. To control Nugget, I had to bite the reins in my mouth as I needed both hands to control the camera with the zoom lens I was so proud of. However, after much jerking of teeth and swearing at Nugget, I managed to shoot an entire roll of Kodak film as Mama Grizzly led her children off the road and up the side of the mountain.





Boy was I pumped. National Geographic here I come. Of course that evening at the camp fire I lost no time and left no small detail out of my life changing meeting with a bear and how I had managed to take incredible pictures to share with the world. As I couldn't get my film out to develop for a week, I was able to tell the story over and over and by end of the week, that grizzly had my horses head in it's mouth and the cubs were trying to climb in the saddle with me. I was a photographic hero.

Disaster struck two weeks later when I got the developed pictures back from the lab. Everyone of my award winning pictures was blurred. Not just a little, but it looked like I had been trying to control a very nervous and upset horse with reins gripped in my teeth. Nugget must have managed to jerk his head every time I took a shot. Needless to say, I had very little to say to the riders, who assumed that I had not gotten my pictures back due to a slow film developing company. So the lesson and moral of the story is; don't count your grizzlies before you see the finished pictures and for heaven's sake keep your mouth shut until you have the proof in your hands. Finally never-ever, take a picture with reins in your teeth.

The art sketches were drawn by a neighbour, Patricia Ross who very kindly provided me with some kind of memorabilia of the event.

THE TOWNSEND PHOTO CONTEST

ATTENTION 2020 RIDERS - You are invited to submit your best photos
by March 31st 2021

The history of the trophy goes back to the very first trail ride in 1923, not long after the first national parks were created. During those early years, Reginald Townsend was the official photographer for the T.R.C.R. In 1929, he donated the Townsend Trophy to be awarded annually to the best amateur photograph taken on the trail. Every year since 1929, we have invited all of our riders to submit their best photos.

What makes a winning photo?

The WOW factor is what makes a picture stand out. It may be in part technique, but is usually due to having a new or unusual subject or an old subject presented in a different way. Photos are judged by the Calgary Camera Club based on technical merits and their WOW factor. They should be sharp, in focus, have proper exposure and good composition. Photos should epitomize riding with Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies: horses, riders, staff, camp, activities, campfires, mountain scenery, etc.

Categories | **On the Trail** | **Scenic Views** | **Fun in Camp** | **People and Horses** | **Flora and Fauna**

You can send a maximum of 3 pictures per category:

The 3 best photos in each category will be featured in the TRCR calendar. The Townsend Trophy winning photo will appear on the cover and the winner will receive a small trophy.

Please note that all entries become the property of the TRCR for use in our calendar, postcards, albums or advertising.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

By Email to admin@trail-rides.ca as full-sized jpeg attachments (use the paper clip icon). You may only be able to send a couple of pictures per email due to their size. If so, identify your emails (i.e. email 1, 2, 3, etc.).

By Cell phone photos can also be emailed from your phone as full-sized jpeg attachments (paper clip) or shared via Google photos.

Upload to GDrive photo file - [Townsend Photo Contest - TRCR - 2020](#). Each photo should be identified including your name and the category it is submitting under. If you have problem uploading your photo, please email jfleetham@shaw.ca.



Trish Mainey, People and Horse 2020

2021

Reserve your saddle today



July 5 to 10 to **Little Elbow River** 6 Day
July 12 to 17 to **Little Elbow River** 6 Day
July 20 to 23 to **Little Elbow River** 4 Day
July 26 to 31 to **Little Elbow River** 6 Day
August 2 to 7 **Little Elbow River** 6 Day
August 8 to 13 **Halfway Lodge** 6 Day
August 15 to 20 **Halfway Lodge** 6 Day
August 23 to 28 **Cascade Valley** 6 Day
August 29 to September 3 **Halfway Lodge** 6 Day

Little Elbow River

These 4-day or 6-day rides are in an incredibly unique location, riding into a remote area in the high country with virtually no other users. While the National Parks and other parts of Kananaskis Country are experiencing more and more traffic with mountain bikers and hikers, this area is still unaffected.

Halfway Lodge

Explore the quintessential majesty of Canadian Rockies up to 8,100' high Allenby Pass. Over the days, unwind in rustic luxury at the Sundance Lodge and later at the cozy Halfway Lodge. Comfortable beds, a crackling fire and delicious backcountry cuisine.

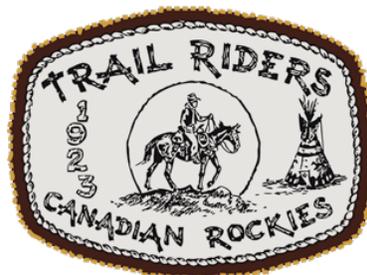
Cascade Valley

Experience trail riding in the backcountry and sleeping in rustic, but well equip camps nested in the shadow of the jagged peaks of the Palliser Mountain Range. Imagine the gentle murmur of Stoney creek, fire camps and the camaraderie that come with being all in it together.

JOIN US



For The Ride of a Lifetime



You can reach us at 1-844-560-5522
Email: admin@trail-rides.ca
www.trailridevacations.com

MEMBERS

Check the website under "Refer a friend" for a possible \$100 credit towards your next ride.