



# Centennial Special BULLETIN

100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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**Saddling up For the 100th Anniversary Celebrations** p. 2-3

**About the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies**

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**Our 100 Anniversary Buckle is now available**

See details on next p. 4

# Saddling up

## For the 100th Anniversary Celebrations

As the oldest riding organization in Canada TRCR wishes to create a legacy that will speak to its long contribution to Canadian western history and culture. The following projects have been selected and we need your help to make it real.

The best part is that you can help and be part of the celebration wherever you live in the World.. Zoom meetings are making it possible for everyone to participate. Interested! Want to know more! Have questions? Suggestions! We want to hear from you. Contact [admin@trail-rides.ca](mailto:admin@trail-rides.ca)



### TRCR Museum Exhibit -- Call for Exhibit material.

In 2023 the [Whyte Museum](#) in Banff will host a large exhibit on the history and legacy of the TRCR.

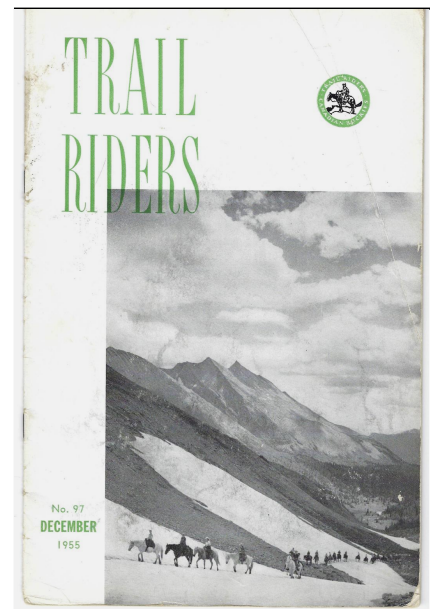
We are asking all current and previous members and anyone associated with Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, to either donate or loan any photos, books, brochures, wearables, paintings, illustrations, video, music or sculptures to the exhibit. If you are loaning us memorabilia from your collection, rest assured, it will be secured and returned to you.

Simply click on the link below to upload the files to our secure server.

<https://filerequestpro.com/up/trcr-centennial>

For more information please email: [admin@trail-rides.ca](mailto:admin@trail-rides.ca)

Phone:1-844-560-5522 (North America only)



## TRCR Youth Legacy Program

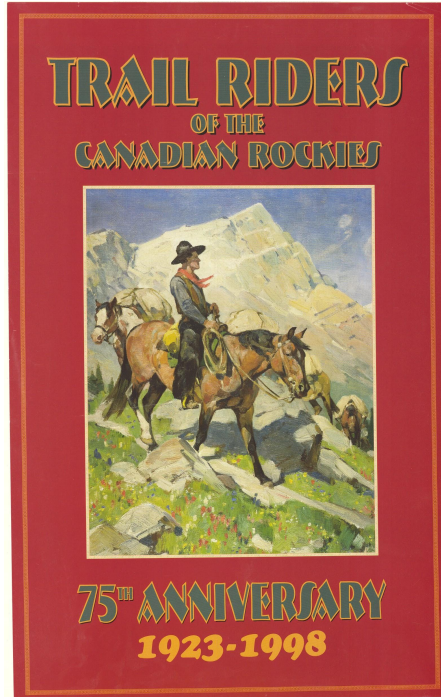
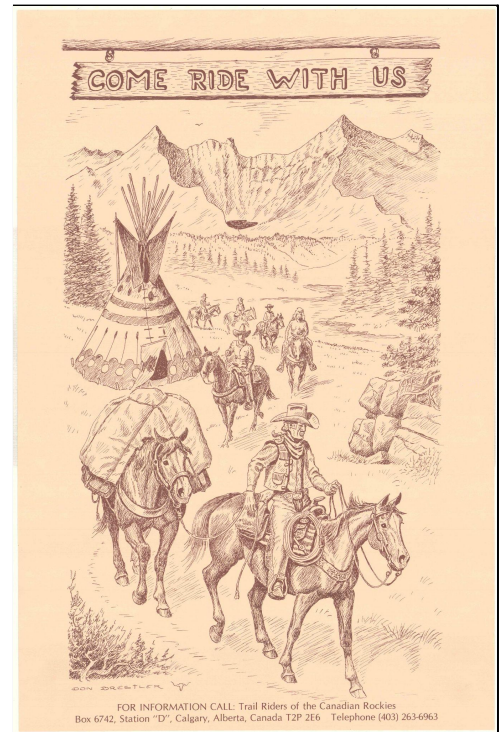
TRCR will invest in the education of youth who would not typically have an opportunity to explore our local National or Provincial Parks. There are five areas of study as part of this education program: climate change, indigenous heritage, wildlife conservation, botany, ecosystems, and capturing nature on photo and video.

Each year, underprivileged youth will have an opportunity to attend a workshop on one of these five areas. These three nights, four days workshops will be held at an Outfitter's camp in the Rockies. Each workshop will have an expert in one of the five areas of learning. Up to nine youths will be chosen for each workshop.

TRCR proposes to partner with registered charities caring for underprivileged youth, environmental experts and outfitters.

Interested to be part of the steering committee and create a lasting legacy benefiting youth?

**Contact:** [Kevin MacDonald](mailto:kevin.macdonald@trail-rides.ca) kevin.macdonald@trail-rides.ca



## TRCR Coffee Table Book

100 years of stunning photography and epic riding stories in the great Rockies. A book crafted with elegant design on quality paper material. Are you interested to become involved as a writer? Editor? Designer? Researcher? Coordinator? Marketer?

**Contact** [Renée Delorme](mailto:reneetr-cr@gmail.com) reneetr-cr@gmail.com

## Fundraising Committee

Supporting the Centennial's activities will require some financial support. Many ideas and opportunities have been identified already with a clear path to make them reality. Your help in supporting these efforts will ensure TRCR success in delivery quality and memorable Centennial programming. Interested?

**Contact:** [Kevin MacDonald](mailto:kevin.macdonald@trail-rides.ca) kevin.macdonald@trail-rides.ca

# You can now order your TRCR's 100'th Anniversary Buckle



\$185 (GST included)

Celebrate a century of Canadian alpine riding with a quality piece of functional western art. The buckle is custom designed by Olson Silver Company in High River, Alberta, and is a blend of solid Nickel, Bronze, and Copper

The buckle is 2 ½" x 3 ½" and fits the standard 1.5 inches size belt.

If you are not into western belt, this beautiful buckle can proudly be displayed in a framed box as an art work.

This is the perfect gift to yourself or a fellow rider.

A reminder of the amazing rides and legacy of TRCR

**To order** - Email [admin@trail-rides.ca](mailto:admin@trail-rides.ca) and provide us with:

- Your name and shipping address
- Number of buckle you wish to receive and
- Your preferred payment option: E-transfer, cash or cheque

Shipping costs are extra but will be kept at a strict minimum.

# Archival Highlights: Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies

By Kate Skelton, Processing Archivist

In 1923, John Murray Gibbon invited several friends on a packing trip expedition along the Columbia River. John's outing was a hit, and it quickly developed into what is now a well-known organization — the [Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies](#).



Image 1

With the help of their official sponsor, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the Trail Riders expanded over the following two decades to include multiple yearly trips with dozens of riders. By 1947, over 2,000 people had attended at least one trail ride.

Expeditions with the Trail Riders quickly became a cherished annual tradition, with new routes picked each summer. In its early years, the Trail Riders' trips attracted mainly locals, including some well-known names from the Banff community. Participants included the Whyte Museum's founders, Peter Whyte and Catharine Robb Whyte; artists Carl Rungius and R. H. Palenske; outfitter and guide, Walter Nixon; members of the Brewster and Moore families; and botanist and photographer, Mary Schäffer.

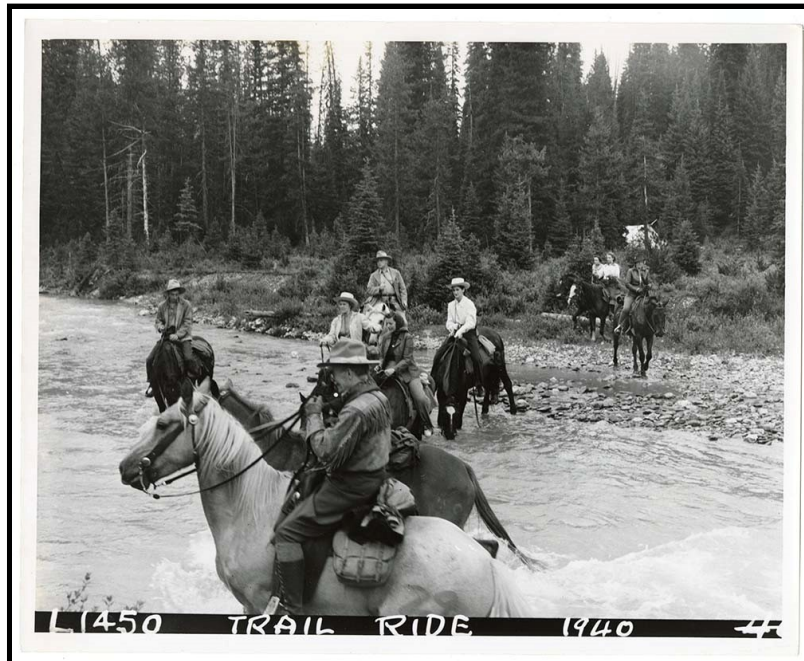


Image 2

Part of what attracted so many people to the Trail Riders was the lasting sense of community and companionship which riders felt. Trail rides were multi-day experiences that offered entertainment, comforting food cooked over a campfire, shared interests, and a sense of camaraderie. Trail rides were an opportunity to step away from everyday life and appreciate the wilderness and rough terrain of the Canadian Rockies.

One [photograph album](#) in the Whyte Museum collection, which was compiled by trail rider Jeanne Nelson in 1943, captures the spirit of these trail rides. Along with over 110 photographs which she took during her two rides that summer, Jeanne also included complete lists of the participants on each trail ride. These lists contain dozens of signatures which she collected from her fellow riders during their short time together.

The Trail Riders adopted several traditions over the years as their popularity continued to rise. One big tradition during their packing trips was music. In the early days of the Trail Riders, live performances often filled the evenings once the day's riding was done.

*Muriel V. Adair*  
*E. J. ...*  
*A. F. Lincoln R.A.F.*  
*Anne Harbison*  
*Anne Baetjer*  
*Laidlaw*

**:: PASSENGER LIST ::**

✓ Arnott, Mr. Frank M. ....	Toronto, Ont.	✓ Hadden, Miss Muriel .....	Okotoks, Alta.
Bell, Mrs. Sue .....	Calgary, Alta.	Hanley, Miss Olive .....	Montreal, Que.
Bennett, Mr. Wilfred .....	Calgary, Alta.	✓ Harbison, Miss Anne .....	Philadelphia, Pa.
Bethall, LAC A. F. ....	R.A.F. England	Harbison, Miss Helen D.,	Philadelphia, Pa.
Bickley, Mrs. Robert .....	New York	Hawkesworth, LAC G. M.,	R.A.F., England
Baetjer, Miss Anne .....	Baltimore, Md.	Hoffmeyer, Mr. Keith ..	Indianapolis, Ind.
Campbell, Miss Janet .....	Spokane, Wash.	Holdroyd, Mr. Peter .....	Toronto, Ont.
Cobb, Mr. Levi S. ....	Bridgeport, Conn.	Hollander, Mr. Sidney .....	Baltimore, Md.
Coleman, H. T. ....	Winnipeg, Man.	Hollander, Mrs. Sidney .....	Baltimore, Md.
Clark, Dr. D. A. ....	New Westminster, B.C.	Hutchison, Mrs. Dorothy,	Edmonton, Alta.
Clark, Mrs. D. A. ....	New Westminster, B.C.	Jackson, F. L. A. E.,	R.C.A.F., Calgary, Alta.
Cromwell, Mr. Eaton .....	New York, N.Y.	Jansa, Mrs. Helga .....	Pasadena, Calif.
Davidson, Miss Jean .....	Medicine Hat, Alta.	Keith, Mrs. Kate .....	Seebe, Alta.
Devereaux, Miss Kathleen,	Ft. William, Ont.	Kimmit, Mr. ....	Lethbridge, Alta.
Diverty, Mr. Marshall H. .	Woodbury, N.J.	Kimmit, Mrs. ....	Lethbridge, Alta.
Diverty, Miss Jane .....	Woodbury, N.J.	Knight, Miss Ethel .....	Banff, Alberta
Dougan, Miss A. L. ....	Victoria, B.C.	Jones, Miss Margaret .....	Morrison, N.J.
Elsasser, Mr. Henry .....	Winnipeg, Man.	Laidlaw, Mr. Fred .....	Winnipeg, Man.
Englehardt, Miss Georgia	New York	Laird, LAC L. E. ...	(RNZAF) New Zealand
Eschhausier, Mrs. Vickie	Seebe, Alta.	Lauer, Miss Edith .....	Baltimore, Md.
Farries, Miss Bea .....	Calgary, Alta.	Linder, LAC A. F. ....	(RAAF) Australia
Fisch, Miss Rosamond ..	Minneapolis, Minn.	Macarow, Mr. P. D. ...	Montreal, Que.
Fellowes, Miss E. Barbara	Toronto, Ont.	Mallinson, LAC R. J. D.,	(RAAF) Australia
Fleming, Mr. D. C. ....	Calgary, Alta.	Mason, Mr. Henry L. ....	Rochester, N.Y.
Foote, Sgt. J., R.C.A.F. ...	Calgary, Alta.	Massie, Miss Muriel E. .	Edmonton, Alta.
Fuerer, Mrs. ....	Los Angeles, Calif.	Mather, Ralph J. ....	
Gibbon, Mr. J. M. ....	Montreal, Que.	✓ Mercer, Mrs. Agnes .....	
Gill, Mrs. William .....	Calgary, Alta.	Nelson, Miss Jean .....	
Gillespie, Dr. A. T. ....	Ft. William, Ont.	✓ Nichols, Mr. Graeme .....	
Gillespie Mrs. A. T. ....	Ft. William, Ont.	Nickell, Miss Colleen .....	
Goldsmith, Miss Faith ..	Los Angeles, Cal.	Oliver, Mrs. Davina .....	
Gow, Dr. Robert .....	Banff, Alta.	✓ Palenske, Mr. R. ....	
Graves Mrs. Sid. ....	Banff, Alta.	Patton, Mrs. ....	

E. & O.E. LIST AS AT DATE JULY 27th, 1943

**PASSENGER LIST (Cont.)**

Pudor, Mr. O. M. ....	Puyallup, Wash.
Purser, Sgt. Stan. R.C.A.F.	Edmonton, Alta.
Ramsay, Miss Helen .....	Edmonton, Alta.
Rawlings, Miss Pat. ....	Seebe, Alta.
Roberts, Mr. Edward J. ...	New York, N.Y.
Roberts, Mrs. Edward J. .	New York, N.Y.
Roberts, Mr. William E. .	Lansdowne, Pa.
Roberts, Mrs. William E. .	Lansdowne, Pa.
Royer, Miss Frances .....	Montreal, Que.
Rungius, Mr. Carl .....	Banff, Alta.
Sanford, Mrs. Percy .....	Calgary, Alta.
Sieburth, Mrs. Mary .....	Vancouver, B.C.
Skinner, Dr. C. W. ....	Regina, Sask.
Spalding, Miss Kay .....	Calgary, Alta.
Staples, Miss Cynthia .....	Calgary, Alta.
Stewart, Miss Jean .....	Ft. William, Ont.
Thomas, LAC S. F., (RNZAF)	New Zealand
Vallance, Mr. Sidney .....	Calgary, Alta.
Vallance, Mrs. Sidney .....	Calgary, Alta.
Vallance, Mr. Peter .....	Calgary, Alta.
Wright, Miss Emma .....	New York, N.Y.

Craig & Canyon Presses, Banff

Image 3 and 4

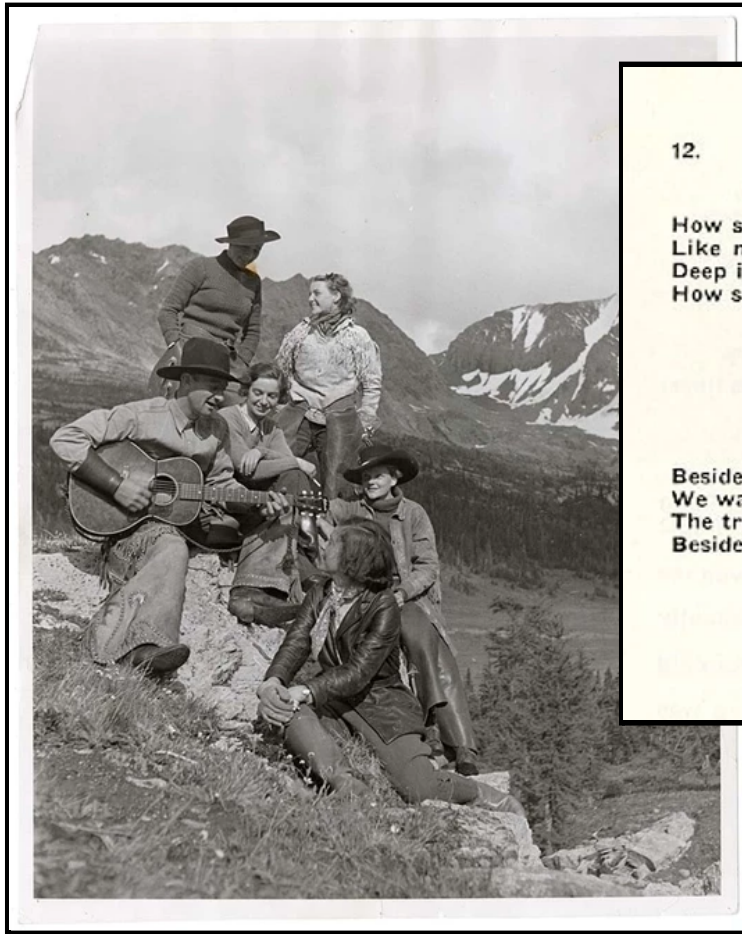


Image 5 and 6

12. **O LAKE O'HARA**  
(Tune—*O Sole Mio*)

How sweet the moonlight on the lake that lingers  
Like molten silver thrown from fairy fountains ;  
Deep in the forest in a rim of mountains,  
How sweet the moonlight on the lake that lingers!  
O Lake of dreamland,  
This kiss I throw !  
O Lake O'Hara,  
I love you so !  
O'Hara, O Lake O'Hara,  
I love you so, I love you so !

Beside the campfire when the night has fallen  
We watch the stars between the treetops stealing,  
The trails of heaven in the lake revealing,  
Beside the campfire when the night has fallen.  
O Lake of Dreamland,  
This kiss I throw!  
O Lake O'Hara,  
I love you so!  
O'Hara, O Lake O'Hara,  
I love you so, I love you so!

Canadian country musician [Wilf Carter](#) (1904 – 1996), also known as Montana Slim, performed for the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies for several years starting in 1932. Carter grew into a Western music icon over the following years, ultimately recording over 40 albums during his career and gaining a spot in the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. In later years, the Trail Riders also created [song books](#) which held a mix of popular camping tunes and new songs written by the riders and staff.

For photography lovers, another special tradition was the [Townsend Trophy](#) competition. In 1929, Reginald Townsend (one of the Trail Riders' original founders) donated a silver trophy as a prize for the best photograph from the year's excursion. From then on, the photo competition became a much-anticipated yearly event, highlighting wildlife, Rocky Mountain landscapes, and riders' personal antics.

Other camping traditions included "Stunt Nights", which gave riders an opportunity to showcase their talents- these ranged from musical performances to comedy skits, complete with makeshift costumes. When the year's rides were done, annual "pow-wow" and "roundup" events were held to celebrate the end of another successful season.



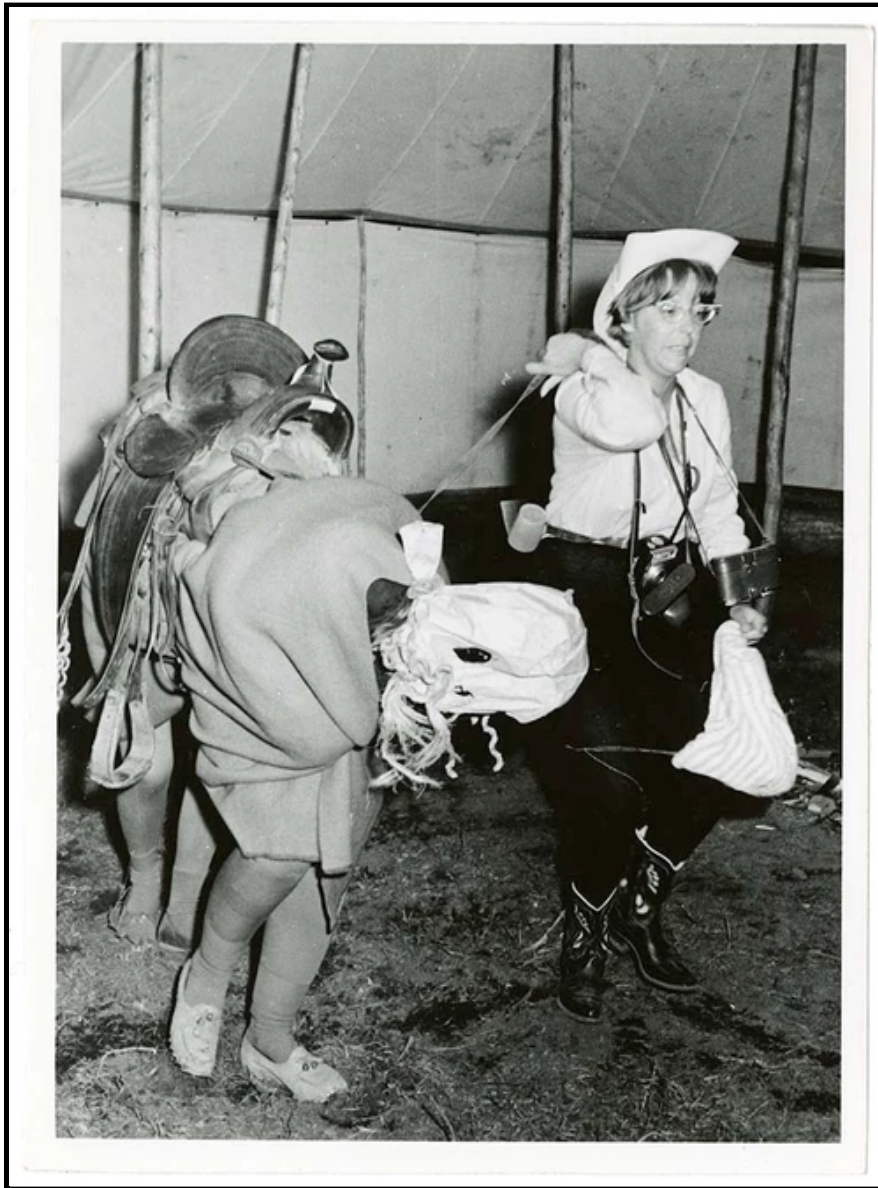


Image 7

Today, nearly one hundred years since John Murray Gibbon and his friends went on that first packing trip, the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies continues to welcome riders from around the world. The organization is no longer sponsored by Canadian Pacific, and trail rides have since expanded to include some areas outside of Banff National Park, among other changes; however, the fundamental spirit of these trail rides has remained the same.

Between 1990 and 2015, the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies donated an incredible collection of original materials to the Whyte Museum Archives, including over 3.3 metres of textual records, 10 albums, and nearly 1200 photographs.

These materials were recently processed via the Archives Society of Alberta Access to Holdings grant received in December 2020.

The ASA Access to Holdings grant program has been instrumental in helping to fund the processing of archival records in the Whyte Museum Archives since 1995. Unfortunately provincial funding towards this program was cancelled in 2020/21. We thank the Archives Society of Alberta

for their ongoing support, and hope that this important grant program will resume in the future.

**Trail Riders Wind** 1936  
**Up With Big Pow-  
Wow on Tuesday**

The annual ride of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies came to an end on Tuesday afternoon, the official farewell of a pleasant five days' ride culminating in a pow-wow on the flats to the east of Hillsdale Tuesday evening, when Trail Riders augmented by number of members and non-members from Banff and Lake Louise spent a very pleasant evening, following an excellent supper.

Immediately following supper President George Vaux, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., sounded the "call to assembly," and everyone met in the big teepee tent. The first order was business, Pres. Vaux calling upon J. M. Gibbon, secretary-treasurer, to read the financial statement, which showed the organization to be in a first class financial position, and during the past year to have added to the cash balance.

Pres. Vaux announced that the nominating committee had made the following selections as officers of the organization:—

R. H. Palenske, artist photographer of Willmette and Woodstock, Ill., (near Chicago) had been named as president, graduating from the vice-presidency.

William N. Bardwell, of Barrington, Ill., was elected as vice-president.

J. M. Gibbon, Montreal, secretary-treasurer, with L. S. Crosby, western secretary.

Miss Gilda Dick, Calgary, J. Locke Malkin and Dr. Prowd, of Vancouver, to the Council.

H. Travers Colman, of Vancouver, was named for the executive.

Geo. Vaux, retiring president, was added to the Trail Committee.

The above nominations were confirmed by unanimous vote of the members, following which Pres. Vaux turned the proceedings over to the new President, Mr. Palenske, who in a few brief remarks

thanked the members for the honor conferred, and suggested that a hearty vote of thanks be extended to the men who had been responsible for outfitting the ride, the packers, cooks, etc., and this was carried by a hearty clapping of hands. An amendment to the constitution was carried, whereby it is now possible for a member, on the payment of \$25.00, plus \$1.00 for a life membership certificate, to become paid up, with no further dues-paying obligation.

Following these items of business Miss Frances James, soloist of the Banff Springs Hotel, favored with a number of vocal selections, followed by community singing from "Songs of the Trail Riders."

Supt. Jennings welcomed the new as well as the old members of the organization to the Park, and in doing so thanked the Trail Riders for their co-operation in abstaining from smoking while on the trail, as in doing so they had avoided the dangers of a timber fire breaking out, which at the present time was a real menace owing to the extreme dryness of the forests. In closing he expressed the hope that all would be back again for the next ride in 1937, which in all probability would be to Mount Assiniboine, one of the finest rides in the mountains.

George Fisher, the yodelling cowboy, gave several selections, which were much enjoyed.

Mr. Bardwell, the new vice-president, spoke briefly, in which he sentenced the men of the party to the use of razors, and the ladies to the use of lipstick.

Miss James again favored with several solos, followed by Miss Gilda Dick, of Calgary, in a Hawaiian dance, in which she showed unusual talent as an interpreter.

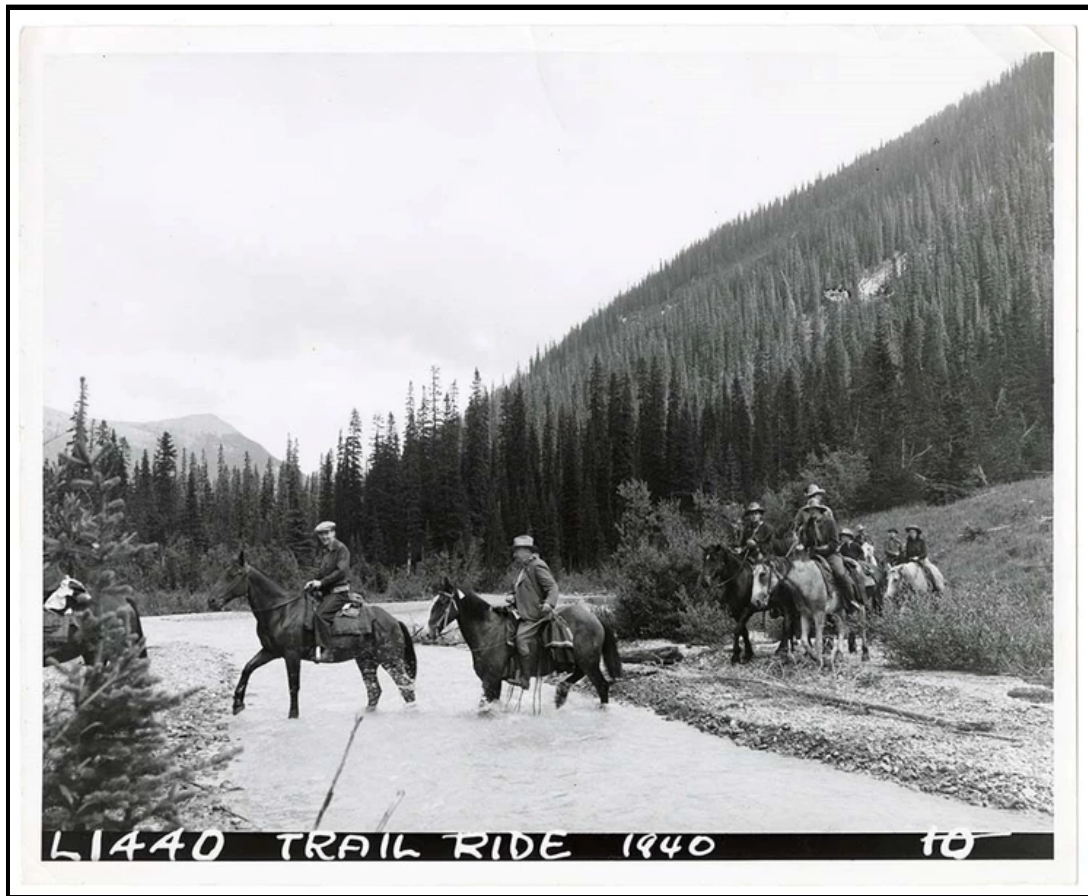
Travers Colman, of Vancouver, staged a one-man wrestling bout, which brought forth roars of

laughter from the audience. It was an exceptionally good turn. The wrestling bout was followed by an imitation, by Davie Woods, of the last fight of the Baron Richtofen, the great German air ace, with Roy Brown of Edmonton, in which the Baron was brought down. The screeching of the planes, the exhaust of the engines, the staccato barks of the machine guns could be heard as the planes zoomed and swooped. Now and then Davie would forget which hand held the Richtofen plane and would ask for directions, giving a touch of comedy to a dramatic performance. The turn was well received.

An Indian dance was the next item. Two Indians, Jacob Two-Youngmen and one other, with Claude Brewster put on the turn, the latter doing the dancing, and right well had he learned the intricate steps of the Indians. Col. Moore told a humorous story, Auld Lang Syne was sung and the President then called for the singing of the American and British national anthems, bringing to a close the 1936 Trail Ride and a very pleasant evening.

Image 8

The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies collection and more can be accessed online through [our website](#). For in-person access, the Whyte Museum Archives and Special Collections is currently accepting appointments from 1 - 5p.m., Tuesday to Friday. Information about upcoming projects celebrating the Trail Riders' 100th anniversary in 2023 will be released closer to the date — stay tuned!



Images 9

Image 1: Unidentified trail rider with horse, ca. 1960. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies fonds (V635/III/PA-303)

Image 2: Carl Rungius with camera during trail ride through Wolverine Plateau and McArthur Creek, 1940. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies fonds (V635/III/PA-35)

Images 3 and 4: Passenger list from Jeanne Nelson's Mt. Assiniboine trail ride album, 1943. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies fonds (V635//PD-2/1)

Image 5: Musician Wilf Carter performing for trail riders, ca. 1934. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, George Paris fonds (V484/96/PA-1100)

Image 6: "O Lake O'Hara", Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies song book, ca.1950-1960. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies fonds (M545//6/3)

Image 7: Stunt night performance, ca.1960. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies fonds (V635/III/PA-330)

Image 8: "Trail Riders Wind Up with Big Pow-wow on Tuesday", 1936. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies fonds (V635//PD-1/5)

Image 9: Trail riders crossing river on horseback, 1940. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies fonds (V635/III/PA-26)

Sources:

Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. "Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies". Accessed September 1, 2021. <https://archives.whyte.org/>

Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies. "History: Historical Highlights of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies". Accessed September 1, 2021. <http://trailridevacations.com/history/>

Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies. "Photo Contest". Accessed September 1, 2021. <http://trailridevacations.com/photo-contest/>

• **OFFICIAL 1934** •

# TRAIL RIDE

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