



SPECTACULAR SNOWDRIFTS form a panoramic backdrop for trail riders at their camp site in the Rockies. Over 30 riders were directed on the ride-of-a-lifetime by the chief guide, pictured in the centre.—(Photo by Wendy Thomson)

the painted box



By Wendy Thomson

Notes from an associate member of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

Today is Thursday, our fifth day up in the Canadian Rockies, and so far I've got no work done. Since tomorrow is the day they load up the horses to start the descent, I figured I'd better get with it.

This morning's ride out from base camp has brought us to a small mountain lake where, simply because nobody thought we would, friend Alice and I went for a swim — a short one, but a swim, nevertheless. The water was cold, but marvellously refreshing after all these days of dust from the trails and smoke and soot from the fires. In the mud at the edge of the lake, there were moose tracks going halfway around.

This is a great crowd we're with. 32 people ranging in occupation from CBC script writers to ex-marines, in experience from people from California who have a thoroughbred ranch to a girl from Toronto who had never been on a horse before and ranging in age from 12 (Annie Busick, Calistoga, California) to 81 (Charlie Whittaker, Edmonton, Alberta who goes on at least one ride every year).

After the first day, any shyness there was disappeared and it's now oddly like an extremely large family. There are the usual annoying incidents and a few stupid stunts, but nobody pays too much mind.

The first day's ride was so bad that it broke the ice completely. During the whole afternoon of the trip to base camp, it poured and people were switching and swapping clothes right and left, top and bottom, but there were remarkably few complaints.

Camp was the most welcome sight imaginable, about a dozen teepees (real ones) set up in a small clearing between two mountain ridges. There's numerous tents around for the guides and for cooking, eating, and whatnot.

Our teepee (Alice's and mine) is fairly big, small enough that we're sometimes falling over one another yet large enough that we seem to spend a fair bit of time trying to keep it tidy. There's a small fireplace in the middle (it went down below freezing the first night here) two blocks of wood we brought in for tables, our two sleeping bags, and two huge piles of junk apiece that we've dumped out of our duffel bags and can't seem to get back in again.

I'm trying to think of what to write next in order of importance, and it's a hard decision — horses, trails, guides, food, entertainment, or what. Maybe I'll just go in that order.

It was quite amusing to find that Heart, the horse assigned to me for the week, was a big black mare, much like my own Black Velvet. It was while in motion that the differences hit me (and I mean that literally) while Velvet is much like her namesake, smooth but with a punch.

Heart is like a cross between a plow horse and a mountain goat — and I ever appreciate it! All these horses forge up and down track I would hesitate to navigate on my hands and knees, and they often do it at a fair speed.

At first, I held on for dear life, the second day I held on because I was so stiff I would have fallen off, the third day I spent in camp being sick, and after that I had marvellous rides. It sometimes takes an effort not to try to "oversteer", but generally it's best just to point Heart in the general direction and let her pick her own footing.

It's truly amazing at how seldom she slips. She does have her little idiosyncracies, though. For some reason or other, she's decided against getting her feet wet, too often, and jumps half the streams we come to, (of which

there are many) and her jumps, like her canter, are those of a plow horse. And every now and then she decides to head straight for the nearest horse, even tho' it has completed climbing a zig-zag trail up a cliff side and the "straight" way is straight up. The names of the horses are quite something, aside from the usual "Blondie", "Blackie" and "Dynamite". There's oddball tags like Applejuice and Bullman, and things like that, and there's every color imaginable, pintos, pintos, palominos, greys, blacks, plenty of chestnuts and bays, a few speckled white, a yellow dun, a grulla. One remark that amused me when the horses were being allotted, came from a buxom blonde who was answering a friend's question about one of a gold color. "Oh, that's a horse trying to be a palomino" she replied "but he hasn't got his stripe" (??) I guess we just don't read the same horse books.



DRENCHED RIDERS and horses went through soaking rain to reach camp the first day of the trail ride. Camp was a welcome sight for the 32 riders, one of whom had never even been on a horse before.—(Photo by Wendy Thomson)

New secretary in town office

Heather Ann Dumarsh is the new secretary in the town office. She will be replacing Mrs. Lorna Marshall who is leaving in August. She attended Guelph Business College after leaving Acton high school.

New secretary library board

William Mullen, the new personal loans officer at the Bank of Montreal, is the new secretary-treasurer of the library board. He replaces Doug Copeland, who is moving from town.

A RASH OF thefts from unlocked cars has been reported in Milton.

Important news weekly style

It's the season for news....

Not news of important decisions and meaningful meetings, but the season for happy visits, family reunions, trips and holidays at cottages.

This is the kind of news that weekly papers specialize in, and if we had the time, we would contact everybody to ask for their items on holidays and callers. But we can't...so won't you please phone or write out any items of interest which you might have this summer?

Other than the horses, we've seen very few animals. A pair of bald eagles flew up from a nest on Monarch Ridge, a pair of whistling marmots ran up a shale slope, before disappearing in a rocky hole, and numerous gophers play peek among the rocks, but we've seen only tracks of elk, deer and moose. A porcupine invaded the camp one night and did a fair bit of shuffling around before the guides tore themselves away from whatever they were doing to dispatch it.

And another night, I had to go for a short walk around 2 a.m. and heard odd noises around the cook tent. In the morning it was casually mentioned that there had been a bear in camp that night. I'm still waiting for the expected reaction to set in, but the only thing that came to mind at the time was "Well, isn't that to be expected?" and "Now, was what I heard a big bear whuffle or a small bear whuffle?"

Free Press Women's Page

Betty Ramsey, Ken Brown married at Eden Mills

In Eden Mills Presbyterian church on June 6, Betty Laverne Ramsey and Kenneth Wilbert Brown were married by the Rev. D. R. Sinclair, Rockwood. Baskets of yellow and white glads and mums decorated the church and Mrs. Donald Blacklock played the organ.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ramsey of R. R. 1 Campbellville and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Brown of R. R. 2 Acton.

The bride wore a floor length dress of white peau de chamele with lace bodice and long lace sleeves and shoulder length veil. She carried yellow roses and stephanotis.

Attendants in mauve
Maid of honor was Miss Elaine Perry, Guelph, cousin of the bride; the bridesmaid was Mrs. Joan Ramsey, R. R. 4 Rockwood,

the bride's sister-in-law; and the junior bridesmaid was Miss Dianne Brown, R. R. 2, Acton, the groom's sister.

The attendants all wore long mauve polyester gowns with white creme accessories and carried yellow and white mums trimmed with mauve ribbon.

The bride's father gave her in marriage. Groomsmen were Chris Denny, Rockwood and the ushers were Brian Smith and John Ramsey, the bride's brother.

The reception was held in the church hall with guests attending from Guelph, Acton, St. George, Toronto, Carleton Place, Oakville, Hornby, Riverfield, Quebec and Farnham, Quebec.

Grandmother made cake
The bride's grandmother, Mrs. Mary Brodie of Markdale, made the wedding cake.

The bride's mother received wearing light blue with white accessories and pink sweetheart roses. The groom's mother assisted wearing pink and white lace with white sweetheart roses.

The couple left on a wedding trip to North Bay and Sudbury, the bride wearing a mauve dress with black accessories and an orchid corsage.

She had made both her wedding gown and going-away outfit. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are living on Lakeview Ave. Acton.

Showers held
On May 5 a miscellaneous shower was held at the home of Mrs. Marion Breen, Fergus, given by fellow office workers. On May 11 a community linen shower was held at Eden Mills Presbyterian church. Miss Elaine Perry of Guelph held a miscellaneous shower.



BETTY RAMSEY and Kenneth Brown were married in Eden Mills June 6. They're living in Acton.—(Photo by John Harrison)

Free Press Personals

Mrs. William McGladrey of Vancouver, B.C., visited with her sister-in-law, Mrs. James McGladrey recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dodds, Mr. and Mrs. W. Duval Jr. and families holidayed in Muskoka last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lambert, Mrs. John Lambert and Miss Dorothy Simmons visited on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morris and family in St. Catharines.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hargrave arrived home from a three week charter flight trip to England on a visit to the latter's mother and family. The weather was lovely and both had a grand time.

Mr. and Mrs. David Papillon and Kimberley, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stuckey and Pauline spent last week at Dunchurch.

Mr. and Mrs. Hector Lambert have returned from an enjoyable holiday spent in Western Canada and Vancouver and Victoria. They travelled by plane and bus.

There was a very brief and very shorthanded council meeting in St. James Park, London, when clerk-administrator Joe Hurst and Mrs. Hurst met councillor G. W. McKenzie and Mrs. McKenzie by chance!

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Parsons of Beeton visited Mr. and Mrs. Pringle on their return from a cruise of the Mediterranean around Greece and attending a Seed Convention in Amsterdam, Belgium.

Donald Pringle, his wife and daughter Ann, visited Mr. and Mrs. Pringle after attending a mine convention in Madrid and having a month's travel in Spain.

Mr. Ross Watson of St. Catharines was a guest of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Charles Watson, Acton.

Mr. Frank Browning of Toronto visited with Mrs. G. A. Dills last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan of Duncan's Variety have returned after a two weeks' camping vacation near Peterborough.

Sandra Denny left last Wednesday by plane to spend a few weeks as a guest of Miss Mary Keates, Sydney B.C. who formerly lived in Acton.

Two and a half year old David Hargrave Jr. is expected home this week from Centenary Hospital, Scarborough, where he has been a patient since June 12 following an electrical burn to his mouth June 10. He underwent repair work July 21 to be followed with plastic surgery in various stages as he grows older.

Nancy Reid has new post

Miss Nancy Reid, formerly of Acton, is now a Hospital Careers consultant with the career department of the Ontario Hospital Association. A graduate R.N. from the Guelph School of Nursing, she was formerly with Air Canada.

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Happy birthday
Happy Birthday from many friends in Acton to Miss M. Z. Bennett, who celebrates her 90th birthday Tuesday of next week. The former principal of the public school, she is now living at Parkwood Manor in Waterloo.

William Stuckey PHOTOGRAPHY
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