

Columnist finds snow in July on trail ride in Rockies



CAMP BOSS Ron Warner splits firewood at the base camp at Shadow Lake in the Rockies. The 45 trail riders sleep in colorful teepees. (Photo by Wendy Thomson)



New post for Alan Rimmer

The board of directors of the Student Christian Movement of Canada has appointed Alan Rimmer to the position of general secretary of the S.C.M. of Canada. Mr. Rimmer will succeed the Rev. Vince Goring who has held that position for the past year.

Mr. Rimmer, 38 years of age, comes to the Student Christian Movement from the Conestoga College of Applied Arts and Technology, Kitchener, where he has been a teacher for the past three years. Prior to his work at Conestoga College, Mr. Rimmer helped to found and operate the Everdale Place, one of Canada's first "Free Schools".

Mr. Rimmer is a graduate of the University of British Columbia in Zoology and Geology. After graduation from U.B.C. he studied theology for two years at Union College of B.C. during which time he was active in S.C.M. activities at U.B.C.

Prior to his work in education in Ontario, Mr. Rimmer travelled extensively throughout Canada in connection with his work in mineral exploration. He left that work in order to teach high school in Botwood, Newfoundland. He left Newfoundland to work, in an interim capacity, as Study Secretary for the S.C.M. of Canada. He was NDP candidate for Wellington-Dufferin riding in the last two provincial elections.

Father Bennett

Rev Michael Bennett took the services at St. Joseph's on the weekend, while Rev. Gillen was away.

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By Wendy Thomson

I wish I could have taken pictures of our ride into camp. Who would believe a saga of 45 horses trekking eleven miles in a snowstorm, over Gibbon pass (altitude 7,500), through snow up to three feet deep in spots. And me without my earmuffs.

It was a fascinating experience, especially for July. I was on one of the 10 horses acting as "snowplow" for the rest of the train. This year, my horse is Nicky, a part Arab which I'd admired in '71, ridden by one of the guides. He's marvellous and does everything asked of him (Nicky, not the guide) and we get along marvellously.

Base camp is by Shadow Lake, a very picturesque spot, but by the time I reached my tepee, I was more interested in warm, dry clothes than scenery. (Brief pause while I throw another log on the fire.) And this morning's viewing had the added attraction of small drifts of snow around each tent.

The lake was still frozen partly over, and of course the snow around it was enjoyed by all the girls who made snowballs to throw at the guides, and the guides who picked up the girls and dumped them in the snowbanks. Me, I behaved myself, made only one snowball and gave it to someone else to throw.

Read articles
About 20 people are here because of my articles on the Trail Riders (including Jean and Rita Middlemiss of Fergus) and I was wondering if they felt a let-down due to the weather, but everybody is quite intrigued with this real experience of "roughing it".

Today, the 10th, we rode 7 miles to Haiduk Lake, stopping to lend our doctor's aid to a park ranger who had been kicked in the knee by his horse.

This afternoon the sun finally came out and stayed, and we all had a huge supper (homemade chicken noodle soup, salad, biscuits, beef stew, carrots, potatoes, jelly and apricots, and cookies) while basking in it.

Hungry friend
Then there was an uproar from the cook-cabin. The guides were sitting on the steps eating, and a marten came out from under, grabbed a biscuit and made off with it! I'm going to try and get a picture of it now and fold this up for the pony express.



TRAIL RIDERS guide Don Heather fishes in Haiduk Lake. There were 45 people on the ride, which Wendy Thomson describes in her column today. (Photo by Wendy Thomson)

Free Press Family page

Teacher says

Hunches related to witchcraft

Psychic experiences—even hunches—are closely related to witchcraft, explains Mrs. Vicki Brandon, witchcraft teacher at Sheridan College. Almost everyone has had some experience, she thinks.

The magic that came from old witches is really psychic energy, she explains. Man knew he possessed this energy for years but few wanted to believe it.

"Witchcraft" course would teach them how to be witches and warlocks, she says.

"The kids are so gullible. They'll swallow anything," she says. "What I started out to do was say let's look at this and see what's real and what's nonsense. I want to get away from the witchcraft label because they think I'm teaching them how to be witches. This is just what I don't want."

With elaborate church rituals disappearing, people are now turning to witchcraft and Santanism as suitable alternative, says Vicki Brandon.

The magic used by old witches in their rites was real, she says, but their modern counterparts just use the ceremonies as a gimmick for sensationalism and notoriety.

Little Known

Little is known about this psychic energy except that it operates within our brains and forms our sixth sense, Mrs. Brandon says. This psychic force is at work when we have a hunch or feeling about something which can't be logically explained, she adds.

Spirit

One phenomena now attributed to psychic energy is "doppelganger"—when you think you are meeting your life-like spirit just before death.

"It's a terrifying thing when it happens to you," she says. "It used to be taken as a death sign that this spirit had taken your appearance and when you met it meant you were going to die."

Almost died

"Sometimes, they're out of the body clothing in the air and they look down and there is the bleeding body and they say to themselves things like 'I must be dead.' And then they'll be back inside the body hurting and everything else."

"Doppelganger" can also occur when you are extremely tired or suffering a high fever she says. "I saw myself once and I almost died."

Gullible

Sheridan's course will be renamed "psi" a short form for psychic phenomena because too many students think that a

Y closes for summer

Program co-ordinator Gloria Browne's visions of day camp and bustling summer program in the Y have come to nothing. At a meeting Monday evening, members of the Y board decided that, due to lack of attendance, the Y will be closed till the end of August. Just a handful of youngsters were taking advantage of the summer programs offered, disappointed Mrs. Browne explained.

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Puppet show at Terra Cotta

Blue-Green Algae, that foul villain, Phineus Phish, Clarence T. Clam and Rush-Rush Executive, the business tycoon who recovered his sense of smell during vacation will all be characters in the puppet show at Terra Cotta Conservation Area on July 24 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. "Ecologiee" is a touring environmental puppet show. The

aim of the project is to impart to children a simple anti-pollution message through the entertainment medium. "Ecologiee" is staffed by six Humber College students from the Creative and Communication Arts division. These students are responsible for writing the scripts, construction of the puppets and sets as well as performing.

The show is sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment under a SWEEP grant. The Information Services Branch of the Ministry is directly responsible for the puppet show.

Children always love to get involved in a puppet show. If they are involved in a bit of painless education on the problems of the environment, then so much better.

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