



## *Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies*



BULLETIN No. 1

**T**HE idea was born one rainy day last summer on a bed of white heather under a tent in the Canadian Rockies, about 7,000 feet above sea level. Present or in the immediate neighbourhood were twenty-eight saddle or pack horses, one unsuspecting foal and fourteen trail riders, who had ridden and fished along the Kootenay from the Crossing to the river's unmapped source in Warfield Basin and had landed on the plateau beside Tumbling Glacier, at the head of Wolverine Pass, when the weather called a halt. Then it was that some bright spirit suggested the Order of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

They happened to come up the Wolverine Pass because H. B. Clow, President of Rand McNally and Company, map-makers, of Chicago, had proclaimed it the most wonderful alpine trail he had ever ridden. The pass breaks through a sheer wall of rock, running forty miles north and south and rising from one to over six thousand

feet from its base, with icefields such as the Washmawapta dripping over the crest, or worn out here and there into glacial cirques such as the head of Hell Roaring, Floe and Serac Creeks. The turreted head of Goodsir, the topmost crown of which is 11,676 feet high, rises in a spectacular climax to the northern end of this mighty cliff. Along the Palisades towards Helmet Creek and Goodsir one can trot or gallop along the springy turf of alpine prairies for miles without a let-up except for gopher holes dug up by grizzly bears.

The idea found welcome support among other trail riders to whom it was suggested, and with the generous co-operation of Mr. Clow, who at one time had his whole force of twenty map-makers at work, the various Government maps of the National Parks were co-ordinated and supplemented so as to show all trails known to representative guides.

An Organizing Committee was formed with



*At least it was legible*

his tribe, whose skill and speed astonished not only the army of photographers but also such doughty painters from New York as Belmore Browne, Carl Rungius and Richard W. Kimbel. The Indians proved just as fine dancers as artists, and wild applause followed the whirling figures of Mark Paucett and Buffalo Child Long Lance.

To mark so notable an occasion, a bronze plaque had been prepared of Tom Wilson, one of the outstanding old-time guides of these Canadian Rockies, and Tom himself was prevailed upon to be present at its unveiling. Modesty at first made him refuse, but on receipt of a telegram from Jim Brewster reading "Get here if you have to break your neck," Tom took the train from Enderby and responded to speeches of welcome made by Col. Phil. A. Moore and Mrs. Walcott. Tom's response was brief and to the point. "I am not accustomed," he said, "to extemporaneous speaking unless a cayuse has stepped upon my foot."

The official trail ride on the second day led up the lower trail to the new rest house at Twin Falls and back over the Upper Trail. The weather was more favourable than on the opening day, with the result that there were more riders than horses available. Although some of the glaciers were hidden by clouds, the magnificent panorama of Daly Glacier from the Look-Out Point was fortunately clear, taking away the breath of those who had never ridden this trail before.

Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, of Washington, as Honorary President.

The Yoho Valley was chosen for the first Pow Wow on account of its accessibility, as well as for its majestic beauty, and with the co-operation of the Canadian Pacific Railway the accommodation at the Bungalow Camp at Takakkaw Falls was supplemented with twenty Indian tepees and a large circular tent decorated in Indian fashion as a Sun Dance Lodge. Captain Russell, Superintendent of Yoho Park, supplied a marquee to supplement the dining room of the Community House. Thus was provided accommodation for 150 people, but so great was the interest in the Pow Wow that no less than 207 were counted in the Sun Dance Lodge at the inauguration. Some were able to motor out to Wapta or Field, but not a few slept "at the sign of the beautiful star," which no doubt shone behind the rain clouds, while a few choice spirits sought slumber on the floor of the Community House. Not counted among the 207 was a bear which sneaked during the night into Dr. Walcott's tent and made off with half a sheep.

The decoration of the Sun Dance Lodge was done on the spot by Chief Walking-in-the-Road of the Stoney Indians, assisted by two artists of



*Mark Paucett and Buffalo Child Long Lance*



*Tom Wilson and*

NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

August 11th, 1924

Your letter of August 8th announcing the birth of the "Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies" is quite thrilling. Surely a club or association with so brisk a name should travel far. At all events, I wish it long life and prosperity.

(Sgd.) W. T. HORNADAY,  
Director.



*The Secretary, Hon. President, and  
Tom Wilson*

**THREE  
LETTERS**  
*from the*  
**SECRETARY'S  
MAIL BAG**

*some of his admirers*

CANADIAN NATIONAL  
PARKS

Dept. of the Interior,

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 2, 1924

Your plans for 1925 give one the impression the "The Trail Riders" are destined to be quite a live, enthusiastic institution, conscious of the urge of the mountains.

I will be very glad to cooperate with your Association in any possible way.

(Sgd.) J. B. HARKIN,  
Commissioner.

Calgary, Alta., Sept. 15, 1924

Many thanks for yours of the 11th, containing copy of the new Constitution and informing me that my name has been placed on the list of Members of Council. I feel honored by the latter distinction and shall be happy to do what I can as a member to aid the work of the Association.

(Sgd.) JAMES OUTRAM.



*The parade for the official ride through the Yoho Valley, July 18th, 1924*



Col. Phil. A. Moore paying his tribute to Tom Wilson in the

## A PROPHET IN H

*Tom Wilson has his home just now in Enderby, B.C. Here*

**T**OM E. WILSON left his happy home on the banks of the sleepy soft-flowing Spallumcheen Tuesday afternoon to go as the guest of the C.P.R. to the annual camp of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, being held this week in the Yoho Valley, the most delightful of the Canadian Pacific playgrounds out of doors.

"Mr. Wilson looked as happy as a bridegroom ought to look on the way to the altar—and was a whangsight happier—for he was going to meet Trail Riders of the Rockies who were with him when the Canadian Pacific was a-bornin' and they rode the trails together in the heyday of the pleasures of the out-of-doors and in the dark of the moon and blinded by blizzards that made a bed in the snow dug by bleeding hands look like a haven of rest.

"He is going to meet, for the first time in many years—and possibly for the last time—men of the rugged type whose first words will be 'Hello, Tom!' and whose last, if they were to part forever, 'Good-bye, Tom.'

"It is something to have met and communed with men of that type—it is something—a big thing—to have brought back to one the atmosphere of the Rockies in the smell of the pines. Not much wonder, then, that Tom Wilson should go away with the smile of a monarch, and in his eye the vision of a world to the average man unknown.

"As he himself expressed it in the magazine of the Alpine Club of Canada, 'I would like to be with you on one good long hike, when you get so hungry and tired you can hardly coax your feet to come back to camp with you; and you wash up, and the cook hits the dishpan with the big soup spoon and yells, "Come and get it!" and—Gee, the whole world looks brighter.'

"That's the spirit of the camp Tom Wilson is going to. Do you wonder, then, that he should carry with him the smile he wore?"

Here is a story that Tom Wilson tells, and is characteristic of the stories which will be told in camp as these pioneer Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies sit around the fire putting logs on now and then in memory of the incidents of camp life of the long ago:



*Tom is gl*



the Sun Dance Lodge, Takakaw Camp, Yoho Valley, July 17th

## IS OWN COUNTRY

is an extract from the "Enderby Commerce" of July 17th:—



lad he came

"The first C.P.R. exploring parties for the Rockies reached Calgary on the afternoon of July 3rd, 1881, under the command of Mr. Hyndman, C.E., who was appointed assistant to Major Rogers for that season. It is sometimes easy to remember dates of over forty years ago. That night was very dark and the skeeters very bad. The horses and mules were all bedded down around the smudge, about 200 yards from camp. At midnight all was still, when seven or eight Americans, who had kept awake for the purpose, turned loose a double volley with rifles and revolvers to salute the Fourth of July. There was a wild time in camp for a few minutes—men falling over guy ropes, yelling 'Indians!' etc., etc. Some had nothing on to protect them from the skeeters. The herd of horses and mules stampeded up the old Edmonton cart trail. Then out of the darkness came sounds as if someone was being choked. It was Eph Woolsey, the night herd, whose saddle horse had broken away. Eph was in a hurry to broadcast his opinion and the pedigree of the firing squad.

"We camped at Big Hill Creek on July 6th. That morning I had taken a saddle horse and ridden ahead and caught some fish, one between nine and ten pounds. The outfit was late in getting to camp, about 9 p.m.; every one hungry. I had my fish cooked long before the cooks had supper ready for the bunch. I divided the fish up between Mr. Lett, C.E., Sproat, C.E., Ben Pugh, Johnson Stephenson and myself. Lett and Sproat went into their tent, got some hardtack, lit a candle and started to eat, breaking one of Chief Hyndman's holy commandments. Hyndman called them out of their tent and fired them in front of the whole bunch. There was a strike (first in Alberta) on the next morning, the men of Lett's and Sproat's parties standing by their chiefs. The deadlock lasted two days more, and then the Transport Boss, Mr. Burdick, stepped in and told Hyndman that he proposed to take the whole party on to the Gap, where we were to meet Major Rogers, and let the Major settle the dispute—who sure did, to the delight of everyone. Well, that trout I caught must have cost the C.P.R. over two hundred dollars a pound, and, as usual, the producer got very little out of it."



*Mrs. Charles D. Walcott*



*Chief Walking-in-the-Road and his assistant artists*



*On Look Out Point*



*A silhouette on the Upper Trail, Yoho Valley*



*At Twin Falls Rest House*



*Dr. Russell Fowler on the Upper Trail*



*On the good old Rocky trails—crossing a slide*



*With that amazing background of Takakaw*

OUR intention is to issue a Bulletin in connection with the Trail Riders about once every two months. Contributions from members in the shape of photographs, short articles or suggestions will be welcomed by the Secretary-Treasurer, J. M. GIBBON, Room 324, Windsor Station, Montreal, Que.

# MEMBERSHIP LIST TO OCTOBER 15th, 1924

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 Brewster, Miss Fern, Banff, Alta.  
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 Tait, P. L., Toronto, Ont.

(Kindly advise the Secretary-Treasurer of any mis-spell names or incorrect addresses)