

Home Quarter

STOCKMEN'S MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Winter 2021



CORRAL NOTES

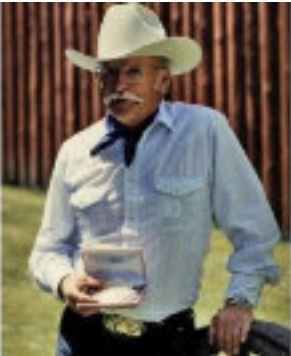


Bar VL
L.R cattle
Winston
Parker's
brand

As we head into the home stretch of 2021, I hope you get a chance to relax and look back on the year that was, and look ahead to 2022. The Stockmen’s had a year where we rolled with the COVID punches. Early in the year we took the forced closure as an opportunity to reorganize our space so when visitors were able to join us in the summer we had a fresh new look. The Stockmen’s had another successful To-Go Dinner and Online Auction and were able to raise over \$37,500! These funds allow us to continue to tell the story of the pioneers that have stewarded this land while raising livestock on the prairie grasslands. I have taken time to reflect on the year that was, and have taken stock of the many men and women that are no longer with us. I think of how we go to great lengths to back up our computers, the pictures on our phones and wonder if we should focus a little more on all the “data” and knowledge that is tucked away in the minds of those people that have spent more than a few decades learning the lessons from this land. A couple pioneers come to mind for me. One is Winston Parker who passed away just over a year ago on November 26, 2020 at the age of 102. Winston came into this world during the middle of the Spanish flu on July 18, 1918 and left us while we were trying to figure out how cope with COVID. In between the two world pandemics, his colourful life would make you think he was the Forrest Gump of ranchers. Winston broke many a horse, raised and trailed some fine bovines and served his country in the RCAF being shot down and enduring a POW camp, and surviving the 1000 km Death March. I was lucky enough to scratch the surface of Winston’s “hard drive” in the spring of 2019 as he shared stories over coffee. For those of you not lucky enough to have known Winston and hear from him first hand, he had the forethought to capture his colourful life in his autobiography, Saddles and Service. We have a copy of this great read in our Bert Sheppard Library. Another notable Albertan that will be missed is Paddy (Alan) Brown. In 2003 he was inducted in to the Canadian Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, a fitting tribute to a cowboy born in Cochrane in 1928. His hat is one of many that hangs in the rafters of the Stockmen’s; if only the hats could talk. As you take the time to enjoy the Christmas season and reflect on the year that was, it is my hope that you take the chance to connect with those people in your life that have accumulated countless miles on the back of a horse so that you get a chance to tap into the true treasures that

are still among us. To all of you and your Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Saddle Up,



Paddy Brown



Winston Parker

Bunkhouse Philosophy by W.R. Cochrane, Cowley, Alberta

Reprinted from Canadian Cattlemen, December 1950

The radio and press have started reminding us that the days are getting fewer for shopping. The canned music maestros are playing records about reindeer and suchlike so it must be getting along about Christmas time again. We reckon it won’t be long now before they start recapitulating events of the past year. The cattlemen will be keeping tabs on the weather during the last month of he year and won’t do much dreaming of a White Christmas, as every day that their charges can rustle on the range without having to poke their noses through a blanket of snow means a couple of days off t’other end of the winter. However, the folk of the range like to see the festive season roll around just the same as other folk, and during the past year or so you have been able to see quite a few electric-lighted Christmas trees appearing in the windows of ranch houses. Some have even extended their illuminating facilities to include the outlying edifices, which is a great boon for guests whose unaccustomed feet might have a tendency to wander from the beaten path in the dark of the moon.

It’s sure nice to see the people of the range getting some of the modern conveniences after all the years of just putting up with things. If the cowman’s economic status had permitted more up-to-date modern equipment some years ago, a lot of the young folks of those days might not have gone seeking their fortunes in other lines of endeavor and the production of beef would have kept more in pace with our rapidly expanding industries. It is a well-known fact that shortage of efficient help has had a lot to do with keeping production down.

While the trend of the times has changed some of the methods of doing the chores about the ranch, we reckon the Yuletide spirit doesn’t change much as the years go by. Folks like to forget any troubles and cares that might be bothering them and usually enter into the holiday festivities joyfully. In the old days, which are now referred to as the horse and buggy days, there were a lot of bachelors in the country and the holidays season was welcomed as a good break in the sometimes monotonous job of holding down the old homestead and eating their own cooking. Some went visiting their friends who womenfolk to build the Christmas and New Year’s Dinners, while others headed for the tavern in the town where the spreads put on in those days were something to reminisce about for the whole next year. Although most of the boys could do a durned good job of plain cooking, they sure did like to get somewhere at holiday time where the fancy kind was dealt up and the loads they took on were indisputable evidence of their Paul Bunyan appetites.

There is a lot to be said for the good old-fashioned gatherings that took place at Christmas and New Year’s in the old days. Nowadays folks can hop into their modern high-powered cars and go long distances for their holiday dinners with their friends and families and get back home to their own abode to roost. But when the country was young and the bunchgrass-fueled transportation was in vogue, which consisted of either saddle horse or team and democrat, arrangements for the gatherings had to be made so as to provide for a more extended visit lasting for several days. We may be branded as being sort of old-fashioned and behind the times, but by golly, having participated in some of those old social visits, we sort of reckon they had something about them that has been lost sight of these days. Well, not altogether lost either, as we see signs of some of the old customs returning after being sort of in the discard for years; for instance, the old dances.

In those good old days it was never very hard to get up a dance on short notice, for where a few were gathered together there was usually fiddler not too far away who was very willing to supply the music and most of the boys could call a square dance. We remember one dance that had been arranged in town one Christmas for which as it was to be sort of a special occasion, and orchestra had been engaged from a neighboring metropolis. The folks from town and the surrounding ranches all turned out in force but the orchestra failed to show up. The call went out for music, as the evening was wasting, so one of our cowboy friends reckoned if someone would rustle a fiddle he could manage to negotiate a tune. An instrument was obtained, and a tune it was, for Hank could only play the Circassian Circle. But Hank was an artist and must have practiced long and diligently in the homestead shack for he had her down pat and could adapt his one tune to any known dance. We danced square dance, two-steps, waltzes, schottisches, polkas, glides and everything anyone suggested- all to that famous old tune usually used for the Circassian Circle; and everyone had a bang-up time.

STOCKMEN’S NEWS & EVENTS

OCTOBER

Stockmens Annual Dinner & Fundraiser was a huge success! The event consisted of a hot meal to go with meals prepared by Patsy’s Place, and enjoyed by 262 people; along with an online auction run by TEAM Auction sales that raised over \$37,500. Thank you to all donors, buyers and volunteers!



Cowboy Coffee takes place every Thursday at 1000am. Everyone welcome. We are following the Alberta health protocol.

NOVEMBER

4 groups of grade two classes from Glenbow and Bearspaw schools were treated to a history talk and tour of the Stockmen’s by Don Hepburn. During these events, Stockmen’s saw over 150 youth and 27 adults come through the doors!

Pioneer families were honoured at a press conference to promote the proposed trail from Calgary to Cochrane. Stockmens was proud to provide decor and our very own Scott Grattidge spoke about the Haskayne, Robinson and Harvie families and their brand history.



Stockmen’s received a grant from the Alberta Pioneer Legacy Fund at Calgary Foundation to support our organization’s charitable activity.



Pearl Collins has donated a trophy saddle won by the late Bill Collins for the 1951 Canadian Tie-Down Roping Championship. This is the first of four saddles he won, being the Canadian Champion in 1951, 1952, 1956, 1957.

DECEMBER

Stockmen’s is excited to announce our new website stockmens.ca. The old website will slowly phase out and link you to the new one.

Memberships for 2022 are now due, at a cost of \$25 per member or \$50 per corporate membership. Stockmen’s welcomes new members and are very proud of our long term members, who have been with us since 1980!

RECIPE FEATURE

Mrs. Evelyn (nee Metchette) Pallister, came to Alberta from Ireland and married Guy Pallister in 1915, settling in southern Alberta. She had thirteen children through the years 1915-1937. Every Christmas, Mrs. Pallister made this recipe for her children. It was saved for this special occasion due to the cost of the ingredients.



SON-OF-A-GUN-IN-A-SACK

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 ¼ c. flour | 4 eggs, well beaten |
| ½ tsp. cinnamon | ½ to 2/3 c. milk |
| ½ tsp. nutmeg | 2 c. raisins |
| ¼ tsp. mace | 2 c. currants |
| ¼ tsp. cloves | 1 ½ c. chopped fruit peel |
| ½ tsp. salt | ¾ c. chopped blanched almonds |
| ½ tsp. baking soda | 1 c. halved glace cherries |
| Dissolved in warm water | ½ c. honey |
| 1 ½ c. brown sugar | ½ c. fruit juice, wine or brandy |
| 1 ½ c. stale breadcrumbs | 1 ½ c. shredded suet |

Mix ingredients together. The amount of milk will depend on the staleness of the crumbs. Fill well-buttered mold or bowl 2/3 full. Cover with strong paper and steam for five hours. Steam for ½ hour before serving. Serve with Brown Sugar Sauce (1 tbsp. cornstarch, 1 c. brown sugar, 1 c. water. Cook over medium hear, stirring constantly. Add butter and vanilla or rum extract after cooking). Enjoy!

Bunkhouse Philosophy...continued from page 03

As we grow older some of us now might be found wanting if we attempted to substantiate our claims to trip the light fantastic with the oldtime grace and ease, but in bygone days most of us could shake a fairly mean hoof at these famous old dances which are now becoming so popular again. We believe also that we had greater staying qualities, as we started as soon after supper as could get the crowd rounded up and waited till the dawn of a new day would light us home.

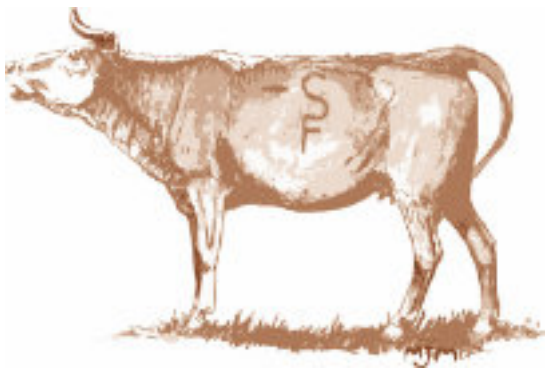
At the annual roundup of the Southern Alberta Pioneers’ and Old Timers’ Association in Calgary, Mayor Mackay very fittingly paid tribute to the pioneers and their customs for providing the oldtime spirit that was handed down to the present generation, who in consequence thereof were enabled to carry to the east such a good demonstration of the spirit of the West in 1948 and 1949. The Association urged their members to write up a history of the events of the pioneer days. Let’s all assist them in every way we are able so that Alberta may never forget our rangeland pioneers and our Province may be unique in preserving and keeping alive the gold old Western hospitality and customs made famous by our first settlers.

Alberta has come a long way since the first settlers arrived in what was then a part of the North West Territories. Our livestock and grain have captured an imposing list of honors this year in national competition. May you all have a very Merry Christmas and in the New Year may the laurels already won be substantially increased.

INVITATION TO SUBMIT CONTENT! DO YOU HAVE
A STORY, PHOTO, POEM OR NEWS YOU WOULD
LIKE TO SHARE IN THE NEWLETTER? PLEASE
SUBMIT TO STOCKMEN'S BY MAIL OR EMAIL.



A MEMBERSHIP TO THE
STOCKMEN'S - WHAT A
GREAT GIFT IDEA!



2022 Membership Form - Stockmen's Memorial Foundation

Name: _____

Ranch/Brand: _____

Mailing Address : _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

I want to volunteer: YES ☐ NO ☐ Send Newsletter Electronic ☐ or Mail ☐

Membership fee is \$25.00 per person or \$50.00 for Corporate Membership.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
E-transfer Cheque (made out to Stockmen's Memorial Foundation) Visa MasterCard

Card number: _____ Exp date: _____

Signature: _____

Send form back to... 101 RancheHouse Rd, Cochrane, AB T4C 2K8

Email: library@smflibrary.ca

All information is used only for SMF correspondence!

STOCKMEN'S



The Stockmen's would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for making the Stockmen's Fall Dinner and Auction a success with over 262 meals served and \$37,500 raised. These funds allow us to continue to share the rich western history of the livestock industry in Alberta through our extensive collection of artifacts, Western art, Library of books and periodicals as well as the archives of cancelled brand files for Alberta.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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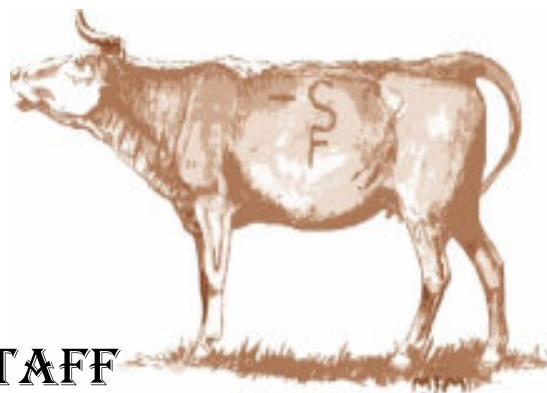
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