

# Annual Dinner

(Given to Western Pioneers by Canadian Pacific Railway)

By GUY WEADICK, High River, Alta.



tendered by the Canadian Pacific Railway to those pioneer cattlemen.

This annual roundup has for many years past been a source of keen enjoyment and interest to the ever-diminishing number of those who are eligible to attend under the conditions specified when the dinner was first inaugurated. This annual testimonial to the oldtimers of open-range activities originally was and still is a sincere effort on the part of the Canadian Pacific to honor the pioneers of the livestock industry and to keep green the memory of the frontier period when the C.P.R., today recognized as the world's greatest transportation system, was itself a young and struggling pioneer institution.

The past few years have seen many of the oldtime range men pass on to their last roundup. Also during the war, when for three years the dinner was suspended, many of those eligible changed addresses. The result is that the mailing list has shortened and there has been some confusion in getting invitations to many whose present address is unknown. So it is the desire of the C.P.R. to bring their list up to date in order that all who are eligible will receive invitations to the 1949 dinner.

## Who Is Eligible?

Many times inquiries have been made as to who is eligible for this dinner—how invitations are obtained, etc. Being quite familiar with the subject, I will, as requested, state the origin, object and general setup of this annual gathering.

In the spring of 1929, while I was manager of "The Stampede" at Calgary and during a conversation with the late J. J. McGuire, then resident manager of the C.P.R. Palliser Hotel, the talk drifted around to the pioneer days, the characters and incidents of that period. It was agreed that although there were various associations of Old Timers and Pioneers in various parts of the Canadian Northwest, there was no Pioneer Cattlemen's organization, for as a class, the early day cattleman and his employees were regarded as "rugged individualists". They generally regarded their operations as rather distinctive from that of other branches of agriculture and were prone to keep pretty much to themselves or sometimes gatherings pertaining to their own industry. As a rule they were not noted for being "joiners". Yet they had

been among the very first to settle and open up the country even before the railway and other agricultural activities had started.

I suggested to Mr. McGuire, that in keeping with the general spirit of recalling in an authentic manner, memories of the frontier days, the very foundation upon which "The Stampede" was originally built, and whose very existence must be credited to the pioneer cattlemen who financed it, that it would be a most appropriate tribute to the pioneer open range men, for the Canadian Pacific to tender them a dinner during "Stampede Week", 1929, at what some of the oldtime cowmen often referred to as the "Big Teepee", when speaking of the company's Hotel Palliser, in Calgary.

A few days later, Mr. H. F. Mathews, then, as now, General Manager of Canadian Pacific Hotels, arrived in Calgary on a tour of inspection. Mr. McGuire told him of our conversation regarding the proposed dinner. Mr. Mathews sent for me and the matter was thoroughly discussed. He thought the idea a good one, remarking that the Canadian Pacific had at all times supported "The Stampede" in its efforts to present in an authentic manner the historical and educational features pertaining to the settlement and development of the west. He said that the company would be proud to act as host at such a dinner, provided I would look after the details of assembling those eligible. He added that the Hotel Palliser staff under the personal supervision of Manager J. J. McGuire would leave nothing undone to make the occasion an appropriate and memorable one.

First of all it was decided to lay out a certain territory which for the most part would embrace what has been recognized as "open-range cow country", the area from which those who could be legitimately classed as open-range men could be invited. It was also decided that certain requirements would be necessary as to eligibility so that only open-range men would be invited, otherwise the very

## P. BURNS RANCHES LTD.

Raisers of  
MARKET TOPPING BEEF  
CATTLE AND COMMERCIAL  
FEEDERS

## REGISTERED HEREFORDS

### HERD SIRES

T. T. Reality 20th -3764998-  
Caerleon Standard 7th -156825-  
BB Super Domino 10th -4936843-  
Dandy Domino 16th -5124782-

### DRAFT HORSES

Various ages and weights  
Percheron Breeding

### SADDLE HORSES

Write, Phone or Wire

## P. BURNS RANCHES LTD.

31 MICHAEL BLDG.

Phone M4646

CALGARY ALTA.

aims for which the dinner was being given would be defeated. As a consequence the conditions governing eligibility were decided upon as follows:

FIRST: Anyone who had been actively engaged in the open-range livestock industry, either as an owner, manager, foreman, wagon boss, cowpuncher, horse breaker, cook or horse wrangler, within the area extending from Moose Jaw on the east to Kamloops on the west, and along a line bordering on the Red Deer River on the north to the International Boundary line between Canada and the United States on the south, previous to January 1st, 1900, and who at that time was at least 20 years of age, was, and

## FOR SALE . . .

ORO DEL SUR, outstanding, choicely bred, racing type, triple registered, Palomino Quarter Horse A.Q.H.A. No. 11292, N.Q.H.B.A. No. 6069, and P.H.B.A. No. 6644, age 5 years, height 15 hands, weight 1,000 pounds. Bred by Roy C. Davis, Cisco, Texas. Pedigree goes twice to the immortal PETER McCUE, greatest Quarter horse of all time, twice to TRAVELLER, once to JIM NED, YELLOW JACKET and GREY BILL.

Also have one weanling chestnut N.Q.H.B.A. registered stud colt, and one weanling Palomino stud colt for sale.

**JOE J. KALLAL**

**R.R.3, TOFIELD, ALTA.**



still is eligible as an honored guest at the dinner.

After the first dinner, it was decided to extend the area to all the open-range territory in Northern British Columbia that extended above the original northern boundary line which ran parallel with the Red Deer River, and it so remains.

SECOND: All those so eligible were requested to send a letter advising their name, present address, and details regarding their eligibility as to their age, portions of the range they worked, in what capacity, for whom, stating brands, owners, foremen and dates. It is from the information thus obtained, that invitations are sent.

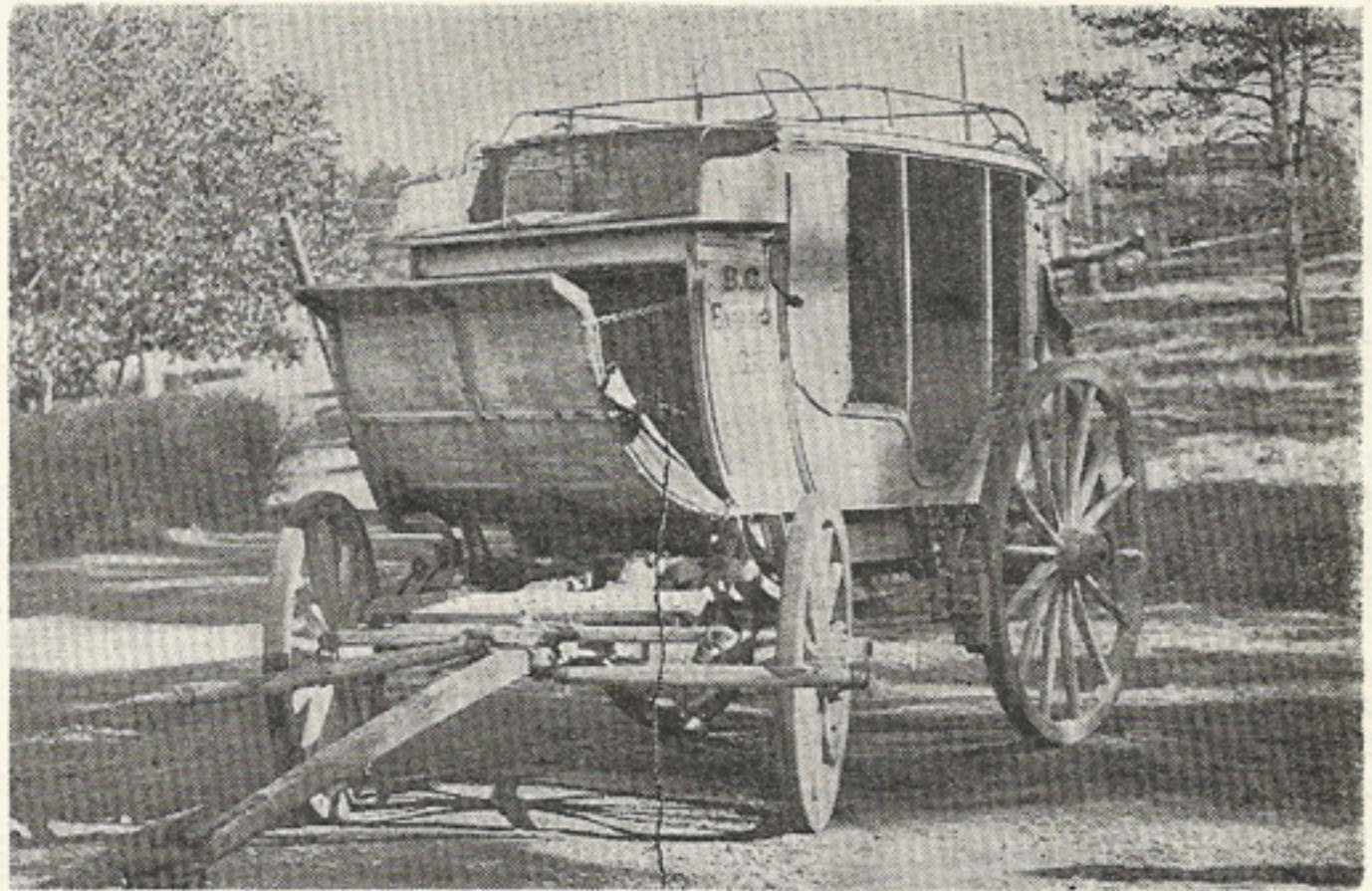
The announcements regarding the dinner were received with deep appreciation and genuine interest by the early day stockmen. Letters containing the requested information came in a steady stream. Following are a few samples of the letters received:

Dear Mr. Weadick: Seeing your piece in the Calgary Herald about the C.P.R. dinner, would say I was the first cook on a roundup in Alberta as I first cooked at the Winder ranch in 1878 for Capt. Winder, whose foreman was Charlie Sharples. Next year I cooked for the Walden ranch, John La Mar foreman; next two years with the Oxley ranch, John R. Craig, manager, Jim Patterson, foreman; this was on Willow Creek. Next for Bill Cochrane, then to the Circle with Howell Harris, manager, and Baldy Buck, wagon boss. Also for the McFarlane ranch on the Kootenay River and for George Lane at the Bar U. For further references, ask any oldtimer in Macleod, where I lived from 1874. (Signed) Edwin Larkin.

Dear Guy: Received yours of June 21st saying the Canadian Pacific will act as hosts to the Old Time Ranchmen of the Canadian Northwest at a dinner they are giving at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 9th, 1929, at the Palliser Hotel. I have much pleasure in accepting.

My qualifications are: I arrived in Alberta in the spring of 1884 and worked for the British American Horse Ranch, a subsidiary of the Cochrane Ranch, the original large one of this country, until July, 1885, after which I have been working for myself, when I took up a ranch west of where Nanton now is, in the latter end of the winter of 1886, and have been engaged in ranching there since. For several years the ranching industry that we were particularly interested in, extended from Sheep Creek on the north to the Old Man and Belly Rivers on the south, the Rocky Mountains on the west to the junction of the Bow and Belly Rivers.

There were a good many outfits taking part in the early roundups on the open range. The one I was particularly identified with, was known as the one conducted by the Mosquito Creek wagon, which represented a combination of the following outfits: Bar XY, owned by Samson & Harford; C C managed by W. E. Cochrane; Two Dot, Harry Alexander, Mgr.; Hull & Trounce, W. R. Hull, Mgr.; Bar S, Walter S. Skrine, owner; Bar D, Blunt & Holmes, High River; P L outfit, George Ross, owner; and the A7, owned by myself. I became wagon boss of this



A stage coach used on the Cariboo Road in the '70's still may be seen at the 100 Mile House, B.C. "Canadian Cattlemen" photo.

outfit on the roundup in 1889 or '90. Trust this fills the bill. I understand that Jack Dempsey, who is now my foreman at the home ranch, will also be eligible for this dinner." Yours truly, (Sgd.) A. E. Cross.

Dear Mr. Weadick: I thank you for the kind invitation to attend the Old Time Range Men's dinner at the Hotel Palliser, on July 9th, 1929. I should like very much to attend if my qualifications permit. I rode for the Douglas Lake Cattle Co., Douglas Lake, B.C., for the years 1898-99. I was 23 years old at that time. The cattle brands at that time were 111, right or left hip,

25 on right ribs, horses, the same on either right or left shoulder. We did not run a chuckwagon, but three pack horses carried the outfit for as many as from 14 to 20 men. Our country was too rough for a wagon, with not sufficient trails to take a wagon where we had to go. Joe Coutlee was captain of the outfit, and Mr. J. B. Greaves was manager at the ranch. I have been ranching since those days—was eight years on Mosquito Creek in Alberta in partnership with Mr. Joe Pemberton, on the Two Dot Ranch there. I came back to Douglas Lake, B.C., in

(Continued on page 169)

## Season's Greetings

Our best wishes to our  
friends and patrons for  
a Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.



## Parslow & Denoon

Livestock Commission Agents

CALGARY - ALBERTA



## C.P.R. DINNER

(Continued from page 129)

1909 and was appointed manager in June, 1910, and am still holding that in the orthodox style. Mr. Greaves, position today. Joe Coutlee is still captain of the roundup and now uses a chuckwagon and drives four horses when he visited the ranch some years later, remarked when he saw the chuckwagon, "These boys will want spring beds next."

Lawrence Guichon, Joe Bullman, Willie Lauder and Jim Friskin are a few of the names I remember who are all eligible. Hoping to see you before long, and join the Old Time Range Men at the dinner. Very truly yours, (Signed) Francis B. Ward.

Dear Mr. Weadick: Having been on my ranch your letter of the 21st inst. was only received on returning here last night, and thinking I am eligible to be a guest at the dinner to be tendered to the Old Time Cowmen by the C.P.R., I hasten to give you my qualifications.

I started in the Pincher Creek country in July, 1883, with F. W. Godsell on the south fork of the Old Man River, then was with Garnett Bros. on the same range; then on to the old Alberta Ranch on Pincher Creek; Dick Duthie was then the manager; next with the 76 on the east end of the Cypress Hills, D. H. Andrews was then manager, and Tom Henderson wagon boss. Worked as a cowpuncher until 1895 when I started in for myself at Rush Lake, Sask., and am still in the business on the north side of the Saskatchewan River, north of Rush Lake.

Thanking you for advising me of the opportunity to participate in this gathering. Yours truly (Signed) Robert Cruikshank.

Dear Weadick: Will you be so kind as to put my name down for the C.P.R. dinner on July 9th, 1929. I started cowpunching in 1883 for the J R outfit at Deer Lodge, Montana. Trained in cattle to Alberta with Tom Lynch in 1884, bringing in the Z and House, and 02 cattle. I joined with the Scouts in the Rebellion in 1885 for General T. B. Strange, manager of the House Ranch, and since that time have been running my own outfit, the D I O. Yours truly (Signed) Bob Newbolt.

There were many, many more letters along the same line. Space does not permit publishing all of them.

The following announcement appeared on the menu card issued by the Canadian Pacific at the first dinner:

## N.W.T. POOL WAGON

Will camp on the Palliser Flats at the Junction of the Bow and Elbow Rivers, Tuesday, July 9th, 1929. Chuck will be ready at 6:30 p.m. Andy Halkett of the C.P.R. outfit will be captain of the roundup. All reps must be at the wagon by 6 p.m. BE THERE! The C.P.R. outfit covers a lot of range. You boys have worked over lots of it and we are sure glad to have you camp with our wagon tonight. We told the cook to do it good. All ranch owners have told cooks to do many things. Sometimes they do it. Put your name down on the list and try to live over the old days. They were good ones. The results of the oldtime range men's

hard work are to be seen all over the Northwestern range. Their early efforts have done much to produce the present prosperity. We are glad you are here, and hope you are.

(Signed) Canadian Pacific

Following was the menu presented at the first dinner in 1929.

## GRUB PILE !!!

"COME AN' GET IT OR WE'LL THROW IT OUT!!"

Alberta Celery and Italian Olives  
Open Range Beef Bouillion and  
Wedding Rice

Dutch Oven Nester Chicken with  
Shamrock Bacon  
and

Cow Camp Corn Fritters  
Canuck Peas with Mint and  
Campfire Fried Potatoes  
Leaf Lettuce and Dandelion Salad with  
Sage Hen Egg Dressing  
Frontier Corn Cake with Golden Syrup  
Water from the spring in the bank  
(if you can beat it, produce!)

Special Notice: After the usual gab during the meal, everybody go up to the bed wagon on the cutbank where augerin' an' irregatin' plans will be gone into in detail. Let's form a Range Men's Association and feed on this camp grounds every "Stampede Week".

And so it has been for the past seventeen annual Old Time Range Men's Dinners during which time about all of the top officials of the Canadian Pacific have been present on various occasions. Among them have been, Presidents, D. C. Coleman, W. M. Neal, W. Mather; Vice-presidents, Grant Hall, A. J. Humphrey, George Walker; General Manager of Hotels, H. F. Mathews, and many, many others of the official staff. Those who have attended from the ranks of old time rangers, are names linked with the pioneer history of the livestock industry in Western Canada. In addition specially invited guests of the C.P.R. on numerous occasions were present. Their names are prominent in the financial, political and industrial world of both Canada and the United States, most of whom have been identified in some way or another with the livestock industry. The press, both from Alberta and further afield, have always been well represented.

## Co-operation Asked

That is the story of the why and wherefore of the annual Canadian Pacific's dinner to open-range cattlemen. As previously mentioned, owing to the passing on of some of the oldtimers over the Great Divide and to the change in addresses of others, it is the desire of the Canadian Pacific that the lists be brought up to date so that some idea will be had as to who and how many can be expected at the 1949 dinner. For that reason, all who are eligible under the conditions mentioned above, are requested to send in as early as possible a letter stating their qualifications, together with their present address. This is desired from all eligible, regardless of whether or not they ever sent letters before. A new and up-to-date list will be compiled. All letters containing such information should be addressed to Mr. Ron Deyell, Manager, Hotel Palliser, Calgary, Alberta.

Anyone knowing any oldtime rangerman who should be at this dinner under the conditions mentioned and who might not be aware of the request for such a letter, will do well to advise such persons to send in their letter of qualifications.

Editor's Note: This dinner was held

## GREETINGS

Sincerest wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a New Year of Peace, Health and Prosperity.

May I, in extending this greeting, also express my thanks to those breeders whom I have been privileged to serve during the year.

"Drop me a line for '49."

**J. W. DURNO**

AUCTIONEER  
License 97-47-48

CALGARY

— ALBERTA

each year from 1929 to 1942 inclusive, discontinued during the war years of 1943-44-45, then held again in 1946-47-48. The next one will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 1949.

—O—

NORMAN WILLANS

(Continued from page 125)

Old Charlie went with it, having previously worked there for W. R. Hull. He was a wonderful cook. For many a rancher or cowboy, a long weary ride was shortened by the thought of the splendid meal which would await him. To the townspeople, whom Mr. Burns often brought out to the ranch for picnics, Old Charlie's culinary prowess was equally captivating. But apart from this he was well thought of by everyone for the fineness of his character. Six or seven years ago when he was leaving for China a party was held in his honor and a presentation made him. He died soon after he reached China.

In 1918 Mr. Willans decided to give up his job of managing the Bow Valley Farm. The war was still on. Their son, Trevor, just entering manhood, was anxious to join up and Mr. and Mrs. Willans decided it would be better if they owned a place of their own. So a half-section a few miles west of Midnapore was purchased from Adison Hone.

During the next four years Mr. Willans continued buying cattle, both in the country and from the commission men at the Stockyards. In 1922 he was forced to give up buying entirely due to failing eyesight. This was a real loss to the Burns Company and indeed to Mr. Willans also.

In 1926 the Willans' bought a house on the North Hill in Calgary and lived there until moving to their Midnapore farm in 1932. Here they have lived ever since. Their eldest daughter, Dorothy, lives with them, and May, who holds a nursing position in Calgary, spends her weekends at the farm.

In 1947 Mr. Willans sold the rest of his holdings, retaining ten acres which include the house and buildings.

During all these years and through all these moves Mrs. Willans has always risen to the occasion whatever it might be. Wherever they have lived, she, with her busy hands, cheerful way and big heart, has made a real home.

Five months have passed since the Willans' Golden Wedding day. During that time Mrs. Willans has paid a visit to friends and relatives at the Coast, making the trip by air. She and Mr. Willans are still bright and alert. They are still very interested in people, are glad to see visitors and welcome them with all the old hospitality.

We salute you, Mr. and Mrs. Willans!