Veteran Canadian Rancher's Cattle Drive is Family Affair

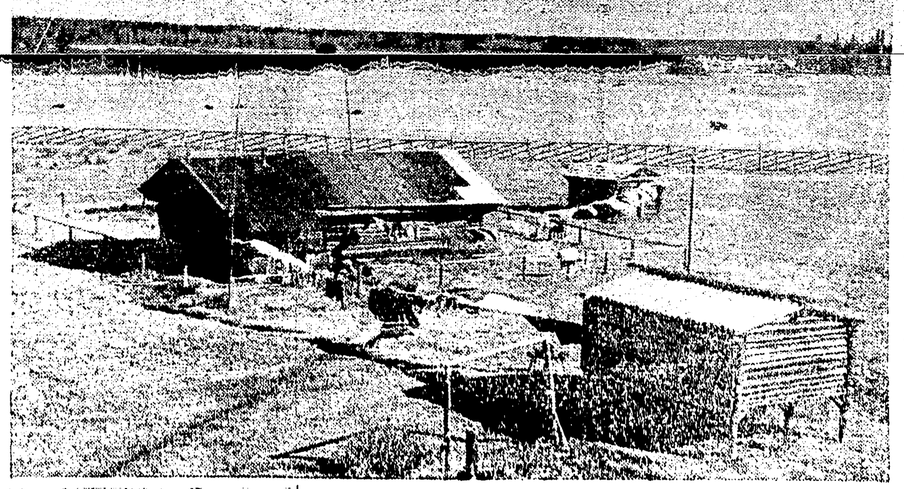
Every September Floyd "Panhandle" Phillips leaves his isolated ranch in central British Columbia on his annual cattle drive which will take him over mountains and swamps, across rivers and countless brooks, in all kinds of weather on the strenuous 200-mile trek eastwards to Quesnel. It is believed to be the longest, toughest beef drive in North America. But Phillips and his family take the journey in stride for it is one of their rare opportunities to see something of the world beyond their ranch which has been called the most inaccessible in Canada.

Canada's youngest cowboy, 6-months-old Robert, takes his daily dip. Weather on the trip varies from balmy to bitterly cold depending on progress through the winding trail over the Itcha mountains.

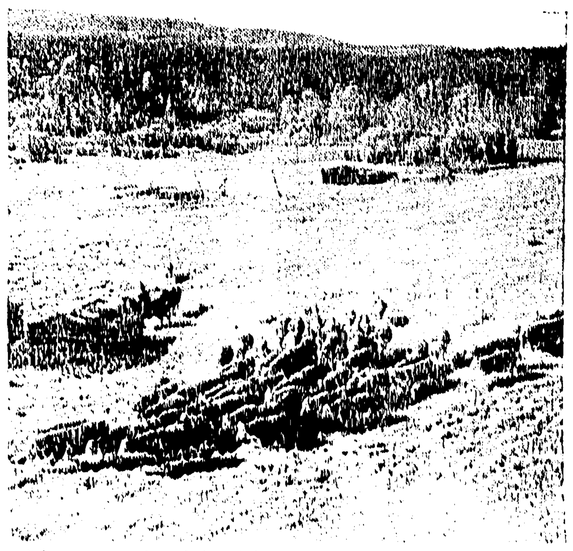
While wife Betty prepares a hearty stew over a gas stove, Floyd enjoys a mug of hot coffee beside their camp-fire. Phillips has ranched in Texas and Wyoming, settled in Canada 20 years ago.

Mrs. Phillips, the baby and daughter Diana ride in the wagon while Floyd and his 12-year-old son William ride with the herd. Cattle set the pace at about 10 miles a day.

National Film Board of Canada Photos by Richard Harrington



THE PHILLIPS' ranch, surrounded by mountain ranges, is 60 miles from the nearest store or post office. Visitors are almost unknown but the family agrees that life out on the range is primitive but pleasant. The Phillips leave home on only one other occasion during the year, an annual July expedition south to the Anahim Lake Stampede.



After a couple of days' layover at the abandoned Indian village of Kluskus, "Panhandle" starts his herd up again. He never hurries his cattle, allows extra time in case of accidents or stampeding.

Lumber report "hasty"

VANCOUVER (CP)—The British Columbia Lumber Manufacturers Association said Thursday night it had been hasty in reporting that Australia will "substantially" reduce import restrictions on Canadian lumber.

J. S. Johannson, president of the association, and its manager, L. R. Andrews, returned here Wednesday from Montreal and are reported to have said Australian delegates to the Commonwealth trade conference assured them of the import restrictions.

They were quoted as telling reporters that Australian delegates said their country would allocate more dollars for the purchase of Canadian lumber in a move that could increase Canadian lumber exports to Australia by 25 per cent or more.

An association spokesman said the report was at best "premature." He said the association has every hope that the restrictions will be lifted, but had received no definite assurances on the point from Australian delegates.

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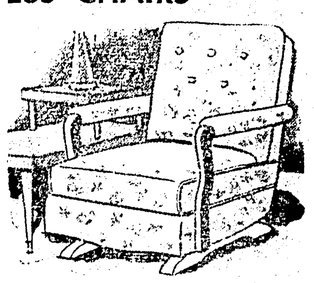
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