1874 TREK

Hamilton Junior High Lethbridge, Alberta

Souvenir Publication

Compiled by Recruits of TREK 73 and 74

Directed by

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* see page 47

First Edition

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OUR STORY

It's hard to believe that just thirteen years ago in 1961 Mr. Bruce Haig'started out in a traditional classroom, where kids sit in neat rows, are given assignments and detentions when they don't follow the instructions.

After seven years of playing this game, Mr. Haig decided he didn't like the rules, so he decided a change of scenery was necessary. Either good fortune or fate brought him to Hamilton Junior High. Here he began to teach Language Arts in which the students were given the freedom to pick their own projects according to their interests.

Mr. Haig, finding the kids quite interested in this type of class, decided to expand it. He brought his own camera and photographic equipment to school for the students' use? This also worked out well. Because the equipment in a way belonged to the students, there was very little damage or theft. It was the relaxed atmosphere and the freedom which had changed the attitude.

This project was going along so well that the students' council bought Mr. Haig a camera to use in place of his own. Says Mr. Haig, "Our world is becoming more and more visual-oriented, yet our schools continue to depend largely on print. It was only natural that students would react positively to creating with film."

By 1971, with the aid of the new principal, Mr. Ken Smith, and a counselor, Mrs. Daw, Mr. Haig was able to get the approval of the school board and a grant of \$3000.00 for equipment.

The students began doing projects on such subjects as pollution, war and inflation. Those students who could not think of projects went to Mr. Haig for Suggestions. One of Mr. Haig's own interests is history; therefore he was happy to suggest a history project for anyone showing interest. The students went on field trips to garbage pits at old N.W.M.P. posts and found parts of old uniforms, buttons, shells and bottles of little worth but of great interest. Enthusiasm reached the point where a decision was made to try and retrace the trek of the North West Mounted Police from Dufferin, Manitoba to Fort MacLeod. So, as well as his regular audio-visual course, Mr. Haig also took charge of a course called "Trek".

The "Trek" course involved twenty students, all with the intention of making the trip. In order to make it as much like times past, a system of rank and privilege was developed. In this system the students strived to gain hours and progress up the ranks. By the time

the trek was to begin, three students had reached the rank of officer and therefore took more part in decision making as well as having more privileges.

The original trek was financed by the students themselves, through bottle drives, selling "Buffalo Chips", (a Buffalo Chip is a souvenir button designed by the students, and sold as a momento of the 100th anniversary of the R.C.M.P.) and researching the lives of the original men for biographies. These were also some of the ways that the students earned hours.

Mr. Haig's room has changed with new people and conditions. Desks gradually were replaced with tables and chairs. The chairs squeaked so they were removed and a multicolored rug was sewn together from collected scraps. The sounds in the room echoed so egg cartons were put on the walls and ceiling. Who knows, in two more years the room may again be completely different.

The room is open from 8:30 until 5:30 and students make good use of it. Some might be using the three movie projectors to make a project and then expand this be adding sound through the quadraphonic system. Others could be putting together a project using some of the 22,000 slides' collected and the many projectors found in every corner of the room! Still others may be painting slides to use for visualeffects.

As one of the students who was fortunate enough to have participated in this project and to have seen it grow in such a short time, I feel it has been a most valuable experience.

Karen Parker Staff Constable TREK 73

Hamilton Jr. High's RCMP project gets \$21,593

Hamilton Junior High School has been awarded a grant of \$21,593 for the preparation and showing of a travelling audio-visual exhibit dealing with the early years of the RCMP.

The grant, made by the RCMP Century Celebrations Committee, is part of celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the RCMP.

The project will be headed by Bruce Haig, Grade 8 and 9 social studies teacher and will involve students from these two grades as well as volunteers and paid assistants.

This winter the group will collect exhibits, shoot film and do research and next summer the exhibit will tour the province for the showing.

Mr. Haig, an audio visual specialist at Hamilton Junior High, has been working with his students on research of the RCMP and Northwest Mounted Police.

Members from his audio visual classes last May took a 10-day field trip from Dufferin, Man. to Fort Macleod commemorating the trek west 100 years ago of the RCMP.

The exhibit will become the property of the Alberta RCMP Century Celebrations Committee which will transfer it to a museum of its choice.

The school will receive an initial grant of \$11,000 from the committee with the balance to be paid in the 1973-74 fiscal year subject to the receipt of a firm schedule of the itinerary planned for the exhibit and interim progress report both of which must be approved by the committee.

The project will involve about 80 students in the first semester and about the same number in the second semester, says Mr. Haig, and a small number of students during the summer when the exhibit is being shown.

The first stop on the itinerary is Monday in Fort Macleod when the group will be looking for the original site of the RCMP outpost which got washed away in a flood.

The Lethbridge Herald

Lethbridge, Alberta, Saturday, October 13, 1973

TREK 1973 BIOGRAPHIES Legend: ? - Confliction Information					of ce	
Name	Age	Rank according to Hours Logged	Previous Occupation	Next of Kin Hometown	Yrs, (Servi	Comments
BEVAN Bruce	14	Inspector	Student	Dr. G. Bevan Lethbridge	1	Kept up the spirits of the company
HOBBS Betty	15	Inspector	Student	Mr. E. H. Hobbs Lethbridge	2	Only female officer
KASKIW Garry	14	Staff Const. 121-160 hrs	Student	Mr. L. Kaskiw Lethbridge	1	Quiet? Proved him- self by finding hidden history
LENDRUM Duane	15	Acting Const	Student	Mr. L. Lendrum Lethbridge	1	Exceptional abilities with photographic equipment
RICKABY Danny	14	Acting Const	Student	Mr. Rickaby Lethbridge	1	Sustained injury due run-in with barbed wire
TILLEY Janice	14	Chief Const 160+ hrs	Student	Mr. F. Tilley Lethbridge	2	Had a jolting ride upon a run-away horse
NIILO Allan	15	Constable	Student	Dr. L. Niilo Lethbridge	1	Roche Percee hasn't any hidden crevices now
BAMBRICK Dixie	14	Staff Const 121-160 hrs.	Student	Mrs. Bambrick Lethbridge	2	Kept account of trip through her diary
H0YT John	15	Assis. Com. 341-380 hrs	Student	Mrs. Hoyt Lethbridge	2	Attained highest possible rank
HOUSE Kevin	14	Sub-Const 0-40 hrs	Student	Mr. House Lethbridge	1	Sustained first injury
KNIGHT Paul	16	Sub-Const 0-40 hrs	Student	Mr. Knight Lethbridge	2	Company work horse
MICHIE Steven	15	Staff Const 121-160 hrs	Student	Mr. Michie Lethbridge	1	Pulled van out of many a difficulty with his Atlas
PARKER Karen	14	Staff Const 121-160 hrs.	Student	Mrs. Parker Lethbridge	3	like strength Spooked at nocturnal noises
MARTENS Corne	?	llustrator 'Henry Julien'	Artist	Mrs. Martens Coaldale, Alta	1	Recaptured beauty of trip
STANFORD Nunham	?	Quartermaster "Chas.Nicolle"	Vice Principal	Mrs. Stanford Lethbridge	1	Exceptional cook
COULTER Donna	?	Doctor ''Kittson''	Registered Nurse	Sgt.H.K.Coulter R.C.M.P.	2	"Doc" (kept us in good health)
HAIG Bruce	?	Commissioner "French"	Teacher	Mrs. B. Haig Lethbridge		The Bearded Wonder