



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Release

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, MONTREAL

Producer: Isobel Kehoe
Camera: Ross Beesley

Prod. #59-323-10
600' fine grain pos.

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THE DRIVE

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CANADA'S CATTLE KINGDOM

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A MAGNIFICENT WESTERN CANADIAN PANORAMA -----
BIG BUSINESS ON THE BIGGEST RANCH IN CANADA

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Douglas Lake, December, 1959.

In December, 'get along little dogie' really takes on meaning at Douglas Lake, Canada's largest cattle ranch. On this 510,000 acre cattle kingdom, spaces are so vast that cowboys ride for days without reaching its borders. Rounding up 14,000 head of cattle for big drives from the snow covered summer pastures to the home range winter grazing grounds is a mammoth job which takes weeks.

Situated in the southern third of British Columbia in the interior of the province near the town of Merritt, Douglas Lake is the last great western frontier. It is cowboy country with rolling hills and lush grazing grounds. Time on the range moves with the pace of the placid white faced Hereford herds --- one of the world's top breeds.

In the late fall snow covers the summer grazing grounds and the cattle drift down from the hills with their calves into natural sorting areas. Hard-working, hard-driving cowboys spend days "cutting out" cows with steer calves and heifer calves. With a herd of about 2500 they start the two-day drive to the home pasture area.

From the snow covered hills the magnificent herd ambles along at an even pace for the long drive. Starting about 7 a.m. the drive goes on until early evening. Driving 2500 bawling cows and calves in a herd keeps the cowboys and their horses on the move every minute. The drive is strung out for a mile as they move along the trails through the valleys.

On the second day cold air from the mountains and the warm air from the valleys creates a fog which settles over the herd. The effect of the fog with the driving cattle and horses and riders creates a scene rarely photographed.

The dampness in this valley chills the cowboys and it's time for a coffee break. Riding in through the fog, the four horsemen are glad of the open fire and a chance to warm hands and insides with the steaming brew.

Two days later the big drive reaches the home range grazing grounds. Crossing a highway bridge the cattle are pushed in order not to hold up traffic. A stream of cattle pours through the final gate and into the home pasture. Here they will remain all winter -- to eat grass as long as possible and be fed hay as the snow finally covers even these green fields.

A magnificent Western Canadian panorama --- big business on the biggest ranch in Canada.

SHOT LIST - CATTLE DRIVE - 600 ft. fine grain pos.

1. LS Cattle scattered over summer range.
2. CS Cow with calf, cattle in BG.
3. LS Cowboys starting to round up cattle.
4. MS Cowboy rounding up cattle.
5. CS Cowboy.
6. MS Cowboy "cutting out" cows and calves.
7. MS " " " " "
8. CS Cowboy watching.
9. MS Separating cattle.
10. MS Cowboy drives cow and calf to join group.
11. MCS Cows and calves.
12. LS Cattle ready for drive.
13. MCS Cowboy opens gate.
14. MS " " "
15. MS Drive begins.
16. CS Cowboy.
17. MS Two cowboys watch as cattle move through gate.
18. MCS Cattle moving.
19. MCS-RA " " , cowboy canters by.
20. LS Cattle and cowboys move away from camera over hill.
21. MS Cattle on the move.
22. VLS Cattle drive -- stretched out over a mile.
23. MS-HA Cowboys keeping cattle moving.
24. MS-HA " " " " , pan to LS cattle.
25. MS Cowboy rounds up errant calf.
26. MS As calf is brought back to join herd.
27. CS Cowboy lights cigarette.
28. CS Another cowboy.
29. LS (rear shot) cattle moving.
30. MS-RA Cattle moving, 4 cowboys riding behind.
31. MS Cowboy opening gate.
32. MCS Cattle start through gate.
33. MS Cattle moving along path.
34. LS Pan Cattle waiting in field.
35. MS Cowboys ride up in fog, dismount.
36. MS Cowboys making fire.

37. MS Horses grazing.
38. MS Cowboys around fire.
39. CS Cowboy having sandwich and coffee.
40. CS Another cowboy.
41. MS Group of cowboys.
42. LS Pan ranch and winter range.
43. LS Cattle moving again.
44. MS " "
45. MS Cattle crossing bridge.
46. MS " pass lake.
47. CS " " "
48. CS Cowboy smiling.
49. CS Another cowboy.
50. MS Pan cattle reach winter range.

16.12.59.

NEWS OF THE DAY
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PRESIDENT IN LAND OF ASLANS

Oriental pageantry attends President Eisenhower in a land whose very name evokes the color and mystery of Asia - (PAUSE) Inida! Meeting in New Delhi with Prime Minister Nehru and other leaders of modern India, the President's deepest concern is with contemporary problems and the quest for peace - issues that are the same everywhere. But small touches that are uniquely Indian lend color to every occasion. At one of the world's most crowded garden parties - with his son and daughter-in-law sharing the spotlight - Ike is seen by more than seven thousand guests on the normally spacious lawns of the Presidential Palace. From a brightly-decorated elephant, for the unofficial First Lady of the trip - young Mrs. Eisenhower - an appreciative eye..... and a garland of flowers. Her husband, Major John Eisenhower, shares the floral tribute. Then the young Eisenhowers are treated to a 20 minute ride in the style of the old maharajahs. The couple have proved that they can enter into the spirit of things with a smile - a valuable aid to the President on his momentous mission of good-will.

GOTHAM SOCIETY DANCES FOR CHARITY

Europe's most titled noblewoman, the Duchess of Alba, and her husband the Duke, are guests of honor at the fifth annual Imperial Ball. The Premier Grandees of Spain preside over a fete attended by eight hundred socially prominent guests at New York's Hotel Astor. Titled both through inheritance and marriage, the lovely peeress is in fact a duchess sixtimes over. Here, at the drawing for the evening's grand prize, Her Excellency does the honors. The lucky winner of a truly imperial bounty is Mrs. Clyde Weed of New York, who comes up to collect her prize. In previous years the drawing has been conducted by, among other, Princess Grace of Monaco and the Begum Aga Khan. This outstanding social event of the season is held for the benefit of the Hospitalized Veterans service.

CANADA'S BIG CATTLE ROUNDUP

The real West still lives. At Douglas Lake, Canda's largest cattle ranch, the winter roundup still calls for genuine cowboys on horses to drive the cattle as their fathers and grandfathers did before them. Fourteen thousand head of cattle have to be driven home to pasture before the summer grazing grounds are hopelessly covered with snow. Cold air from the mountains and warm air from the valleys create fog scenes rarely photographed. It's a relief to stop and make a fire for a coffee break, before the two-day long drive resumes its slow pace. That sure was good, but the 25 hundred Hereford in this herd will never get there unless we push on. The distances are great on this 510-thousand-acre cattle kingdom, and the men must stay alert to keep the herd intact until that winter home is reached.