



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Release

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, MONTREAL

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CARIBOO COWBOYS GATHER FOR
CENTENNIAL STAMPEDE AT WILLIAMS LAKE

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32ND ANNUAL AMATEUR EVENT DRAWS RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES

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Williams Lake, B.C., July, 1958.

At Williams Lake along the old Cariboo Trail in the heart of British Columbia the annual stampede draws the working cowboys from the range for three days of roping and riding. Residents of Williams Lake gather to enjoy the fun and many Indians come from reserves all over the interior country to take part in the show, some travelling up to 300 miles by wagon and saddle horse.

The festivities open with a street parade through the town, and although the weather is wet, it doesn't succeed in dampening the spirits of participants or onlookers. The parade is lead by the colour party and pipe band, followed by cowboys and horses, and of course the stampede beauty queens.

At the stampede grounds the cowboys get ready for the show, testing their saddle and stirrup lengths. Then the bronc riding contest gets underway as horses and riders leave the chute. The local cowboys show they are no "amateurs" when it comes to bronc riding. The cowboy is king -- at least as long as he can stick to the back of a bucking bronc -- and it's a rough ride.

Following the bronc and wild steer riding competitions is the wild cow milking contest. A rider must rope a cow then his assistant on foot must get enough milk in a small bottle to be poured and bring it to the judges.

On the last day of the stampede the grand parade of flag bearers and contestants took place, closing the 32nd annual staging of this event.