Canadian Cowboy Poetry
Events To Attend

If you are travelling in the West this summer, do try to attend one of the many cowboy poetry events. The first Gathering, and still the largest, at Elko, Nevada, occurs during the dead of winter, an authentically old-time gesture, since wintertime is slack season for agriculturists and, therefore, the time of the greatest cultural activity, but it makes it a little less accessible for many vacationers. A number of Canadian poets read at Elko each year, and a handful of Canadian musicians, notably singer/songwriter Ian Tyson and mandolinist Dave Wilkie, are welcomed regulars. For more information on this and other U.S. gatherings, write the Western Folklife Center, P.O. Box 888, 901 Elm Street, Elko, Nevada, 89801

Here are the addresses and dates of the Canadian Gatherings on which we have data at press time.

The Second Annual O'Keefe Ranch Cowboy Poetry Roundup and Trappings Show. Vernon, B.C. May 22, 23, 24, 1992. Reading/concerts will be held Friday evening (tickets $10.00), Saturday afternoon ($4.50), and Saturday evening ($20.00 ticket includes a barbecue dinner, two hour reading/concert, and dance, for which the music last year was Hod Pharis and the Plainsmen, an excellent Country & Western group. Sunday morning there will be a Cowboy Church Service. The Trappings Show continues through Sunday afternoon, to be concluded with an Auction and Raffle (tickets $4.50). Weekend passes cost $30.00. For more information phone (604) 542-3168 or write

Jake Conkin
Old Cutter Ranch
S.2 - C.1 - RR#1
Slocan Park, B.C.
VOG 2E0

There is also the possibility that events will occur at the Historic Flat Creek Ranch and at 100 Mile House, both in B.C. Conkin should be able to supply details about these as they become available.

The Calgary Stampede has included a Cowboy Poetry Review in the list of its attractions during the last two seasons. The Review was offered two nights each year, and each night featured a different lineup of poets. In 1992 the Stampede will run July 3-12.
For more information write
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
P.O. Box 1060
Station M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 2K6

The Wood Mountain Cowboy Poetry Gathering has been tentatively set for August 1-2, 1992. The organizers of this event are also preparing an anthology of cowboy poetry. For information about both, write
Cowboy Poetry Gathering
Box 99
Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan
S0H 4L0

The 1992 Saskatchewan Cowboy Poetry Gathering will be held September 25-27 in Maple Creek. This Gathering is offered in conjunction with a Western Arts and Crafts Show and Sale; stock dog trials will be concurrently run at the Maple Creek Agricultural Grounds. For more information, write
Doris Bircham
Box 237
Piapot, Saskatchewan
S0H 1Y0

Please have the courtesy to enclose self-addressed stamped envelops when requesting information. Even poets with books to sell can hardly be considered big business, and the organizers of Gatherings and other festivals are volunteers.

The Alberta Cowboy Poetry Association produces the annual Gathering at Pincher Creek Alberta, to be held this year June 19-21. This Gathering is held in conjunction with a Rancher's Rodeo, which might not offer the high powered thrills 'n' spills of the Calgary Stampede or the Cheyenne Frontier Days, but you can count on getting a better seat. As at many other Gatherings, there is also a Western Art and Craft sale. In deference to Harvey Mawson, let me quickly note that I distinguish between the two only by usefulness: by the former, I mean painting and sculpture, as well as books and tapes by the poets, by the latter, saddles (some of these are surely Art!), bridges, and other utilitarian items. There is also a dance Saturday night, a Cowboy Church service on Sunday, and a great deal of music.

Alberta Cowboy Poetry Association
Box 70
Lundbreck, Alberta
T0K 1H0