

Trail Daily Times

Friends of the Rossland Range

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Mountain enthusiasts featured in photo history

By Raymond Masleck
Times Staff

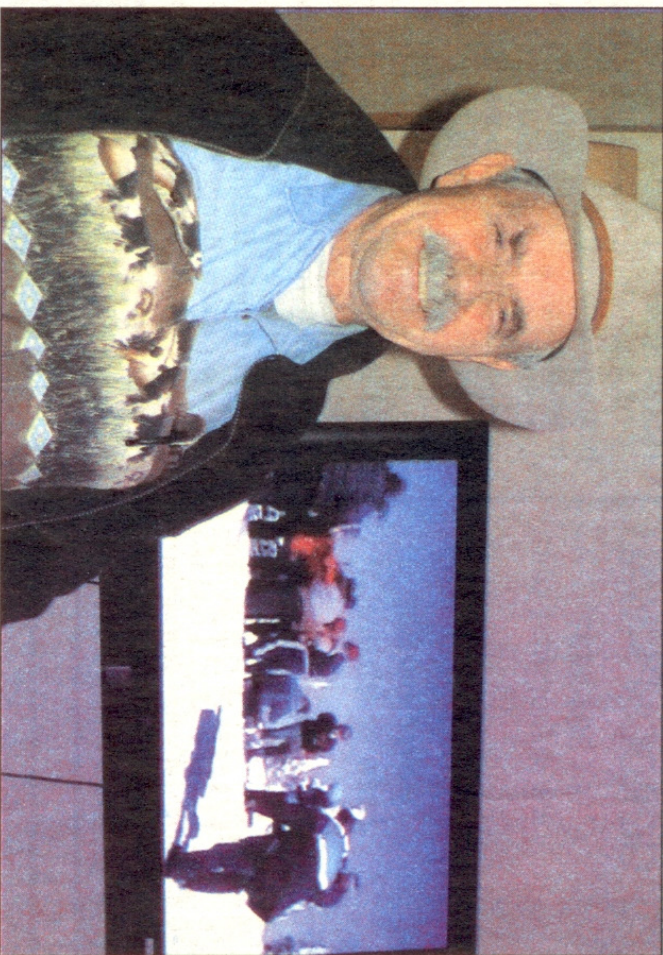
Since Rossland's early days, the hills around the community have been a source of fun, as well as work and wealth.

In addition to trying to preserve recreational access to those mountains, the Friends of the Rossland Range are also documenting its history in photographs. The group has secured prints of more than 200 photographs of outdoor enthusiasts making use of the mountains since the 1930s.

"We are also looking for more," said volunteer curator Sherree Sonfield. "We're interested in anyone with old photos of people recreating in the Rossland Range, whether it's climbing up Old Glory, going to the cabins, summer, winter — it's all about preserving the history of usage of the mountains."

The collection is on display at the Chamber of Commerce Business Centre and the Rossland Library.

Available for screening at the chamber office are a film by Richie Mann, "The Builders of Red Mountain," and a 1975 National Film Board documentary, "Professional Hermits Operate



Raymond Masleck photo

HISTORY ON FILM: Richie Mann's 1990 film, "The Builders of Red Mountain," is part of an exhibition on the history of recreation in the Rossland Range.

Canada's Highest Weather Station" about Old Glory.

The group's first exhibit was mounted at the Old Fire Hall Gallery two years ago, convincing the organizers they were on to something.

"It was greeted very enthusiastically by both old and new resi-

dents," said Sonfield, a native Texan who spends half the year in Rossland.

"For the long-time residents it was a very emotional experience and for the new people, it let them in on some fabulous history.

"This what the Friends of the

Rossland Range is all about — preserving the recreational and traditional uses."

Photos have been trickling in ever since. Some of the themes in the exhibition include Old Glory, the builders of the various recreational cabins, and Red Mountain.

"The challenge is to figure out who people are in some of the photos and to get the dates straight," said Sonfield.

There are also plenty of shots of Rossland's beloved characters, including one of Bootie Griffiths with his head sticking out of a newly installed outhouse toilet and Cookie L'Ecluse with one of his homemade wood stoves.

The exhibit will run until May, when it will be transferred to the Rossland Museum.

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