



Stampede School

Vocabulary Terms

Chuckwagon Racing

Barrel: Two barrels distinguish each figure-eight pattern. Initially, actual wooden barrels were used; now they are manufactured from a flexible plastic that can be molded and reshaped.

Barrel Peg: The tent peg situated at the left side of the wagon, closest to the barrel at the race's start.

Barrel Peg Man: The outrider who has the job of throwing in the barrel peg.

Canvas or Tarp: The material covering the bows on the box of the wagon. The canvas carries the name of the wagon's driver and the sponsor.

Chalk Line: Temporary chalk lines drawn in the infield dirt to delineate wagon lines.

Chuckbox: A pantry-like box built at the back of a range "chuck wagon." It held all what the camp cook would need to feed the working cowboys, including cast-iron kettles, Dutch ovens, food, cutlery, and the coffee pot.

Day Money: The prize money awarded to the outfit with the fastest time for one evening's races.

Draw Pin: The pin holding the wagon pole to the wagon.

Four Up: Four horses.

Leader: One of the front pair of the four-horse team.

Lines: Long leather straps connected to the horse's bridle by dividing leather straps (crosschecks). The lines are the primary tool the Chuckwagon drivers use to control their horses.

Long Barrel: Barrel 1. It is the inside starting barrel position. On the long barrel, the distance between the two barrels making up the figure-eight turn is greatest.

Off-barrel Peg: The tent peg situated on the right side of the wagon, farthest from the barrel at the race's start.

Peg Man: One of the two outriders whose job it is at the start of the race to throw in one of the two tent pegs.

Outfit: The four horses hitched to the wagon. An outfit can also include the driver, the outriders, and the outriding horses.

Outrider: One of either two or four people who, along with the driver and horses, form a Chuckwagon outfit. Each outrider is responsible for performing specific tasks at the race's beginning, and for following the wagon, on horseback, to the finish line.

Rangeland Derby: The Calgary Stampede Rangeland Derby pulls together thirty-six Chuckwagon cowboys, including the four Stampede finalists from the previous year, as well as the previous year's top sixteen drivers from both the World Professional Chuckwagon Association and the Canadian Professional Chuckwagon Association. It runs for ten days, usually starting the first Friday in July.

Short Barrel: Either barrel 4 or barrel 3, depending upon whether the race is amongst four chuckwagons or three chuckwagons. It is the outside starting barrel position. In the short barrel, the distance between the two barrels making up the figure-eight turn is the least.

Stove: Thrown by an outrider into the wagon's stove rack at the start, the stove was originally a heavy ranch stove. It was changed to a metal replica, and then a wooden one. It is now a light rubber imitation.

Stove Up: Describes a cowboy or horse that is too old or too injured to ride.

Stretch the Blanket: Tell a tall tale.

Tarp: See canvas.

Team: Two or more horses harnessed together to pull a wagon, plough, sled, etc.

Teamster: A person who drives a team (or a truck) for hauling, or racing- often as an occupation.

Tent Per, Or Tent Pole: A five-and-one-half-foot-long wooden or metal pole. Two tent pegs- the barrel peg and the off-barrel peg- pull out and support the wagon's rear tent tarp. The tent pegs are tossed into the wagon by outriders at the race's start.

Tonsil Varnish: Whiskey

Whistle Berries: Beans

Horses

Above The Bit: When a horse raises his mouth above the rider's hands to avoid the pressure of the bit.

Action: The way the horse moves at various gaits.

Aged: A horse that is over 9 years old.

Azoturia: Cramping of a horse's large muscles, also called "tying up".

Backyard Horse: A horse that lives with its owner, not in a proper horse barn or stable.

Bale: A measurement of hay, equal to 10 "flakes".

Barn Sour: A horse that doesn't like to leave the barn or stable.

Behind the bit: When a horse places his head down to evade contact with the bit.

Bomb-proof: A horse that doesn't spook.

Breeding Stock: A mare or stallion, that meets the eligibility requirements to be registered as a distinct breed.

Breeder: A person who breeds purebred horses for a living, or maybe as a hobby.

Bridle: The entire headpiece that consists of the headstall, bit, chin strap, and reins.

Broodmare: A female horse that is used strictly for breeding.

Buck: When a horse jumps upward and arches his back.

Cantor: Term used in English riding for a three beat gait. This is the same as a lope or slow gallop in Western discipline riding.

Colt: A male under 4 years old that has not been castrated.

Conditioned Response: When a horse is trained to a stimulus, the animal will do the same thing every time it is confronted by that stimulus.

Conformation: The overall structure of the horse. What is acceptable conformation depends on what you plan to do with the horse.

Dam: The mother of the horse.

Dapples: Round, coloured markings on a horse's coat.

D.M.V.: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Easy Keeper: A horse that easily keeps its weight.

Farrier: This is a blacksmith who does horse shoeing, and trims the horses' hoofs.

Filly: A female horse under 4 years old.

Flake: One tenth of a bale of hay.

Gallop: The fastest that a horse can run. It is a three-beat gait.

Gelding: A castrated male horse.

Gut Sounds: The noises that can be heard from a horse's stomach.

Hand: A unit of length equal to four inches, used to measure a horse's height from the ground to the top of the horse's withers.

Hard Keeper: A horse whose weight is hard to maintain.

Headcollar: A British term for a halter.

In Season: When a mare is in heat.

Jog: Western discipline term for a slow trot.

Lope: Western term for a three-beat gait, which is the same as cantor.

Mare: A female horse that is over 4 years old.

Martingale: A leather device used to control the position of a horse's head.

Mule: The offspring of a male donkey and a female horse.

Paddock: A large enclosure to hold a horse.

Pony: Breeds of small horses that are under 14.2 hands tall.

Purebred: A horse that through generations of unmixed breeding has and will produce the preferred physical characteristics of the breed.

Put Down: Euthanize, put to sleep.

Rails: The horizontal bars that make up a jump.

Rough: A horse with a bad temper.

Saddle Rack: Stand that holds your saddle when it's not on a horse.

Sire: The father of a horse.

Sound: This is the term to describe a healthy horse.

Stallion: A male horse over 4 years old that has not been castrated.

Stud Book: This is a listing of breeding horses that is maintained by a registering organization.

Tack: Horse tack is all the gear that comes with owning a horse. The bridle, saddle, bit, girths, cinches, saddle pads, lead ropes, halters, whips, stirrup irons and stirrup leathers, horse boots, and most other horse things are tack.

Tie Down: A western term for a martingale, used to control the position of a horse's head while riding.

Tree: The basic structure of a saddle, which is then covered with leather.

Trot: A two-beat gait.

Truck-in: A person who brings their own horse to riding lessons.

Turnout: When a horse is let out of its stall into a pasture or arena or corral.

Unsound: A horse with health problems or lameness.

V.M.D: Veterinary Medical Doctor

Weanling: A horse under one year old that has been weaned from his mother.

Yearling: A horse just approaching or just turning one year old.

Setfast: A soar on a horse's back caused by a saddle that doesn't fit right.

Spurs: Made up of heel band, strap, and spur. The Spurs are attached to the foot and are used to persuade but not injure the horse.

Stampede: A wild and uncontrollable run by a herd of spooked cattle.

Stock: The cattle and horses belonging to a rancher.

Vigilantes: The self-appointed lawmen of the Old West.

Wrangler: Someone who works with horses on a cattle ranch.

Western Terms

Cut: To separate a calf or cow from the bunch.

Fating Gravel: Being thrown from a bucking bronc or a wild steer.

Halter: A lightweight strap or rope arrangement that fits around a horse's head. It's used to control or guide an unbridled horse.

Hand: Someone who does ranch work, especially with cattle and horses.

Herd: A group of cattle or horse's.

High Roller: Horse that leaps high in the air when bucking.

Hoolihan: The loop used by the cowboy to catch a horse.

Jughead: Foolish horse.

Lariat: The cowboy's rope, also called the lasso, catch-rope, twine and reata.

Maverick: An unbranded stray, a term well known in the lands of ranch and cattle.

Nighthawk: The cowboy who looks after the horses and cattle at night.

Outlaw: A horse that cannot be broke or ridden.

Pulling leather: Holding onto the saddle to keep from getting thrown when a horse is bucking.

Range: The grazing grounds for cattle and horses, and may also be a cowboy's home turf.

Rawhide: Material made from the tough, dried hide of a deer or cow.

Roundup: The gathering of cattle from the range.

Rodeo

Bandana: Also known as wild rag; a cloth made of silk or cotton, usually worn around the neck to protect against wind, rain, and sunburn.

Bareback Riding: A rodeo event, where the contestant tries to ride a bucking horse while holding on with one hand for eight seconds.

Barrel Racing: A rodeo event, usually for women, in which a horse and a rider must race in a pattern around three barrels, competing for the fastest time.

Barrier: A breakaway rope that is pulled across the roping chutes. The barrier is designed to give the steer or a calf a head start.

Bat: A short, flat, leather whip, used to persuade but not hurt the horse.

Bedroll: The cowboy's bed, made up of blankets and quilts wrapped up in a tarp (a waterproof canvas), which fastens with hooks or snaps on the sides. The bedroll also serves as the cowboy's suitcase.

Bicycling: The act of scratching with first one foot, and then the other in the manner of riding a bicycle.

Bit: The metal part of the head-harness that fits in the horse's mouth. One of the ways the rider communicates with the horse is to put gentle pressure on the horse's mouth with the bit.

Bridle: The head-harness for a saddle horse, consisting of the headstall, the bit, and the reins.

Broke: Trained. A horse that has been given some education is called a broke horse; a green-broke horse is partially trained; and a well-broke horse is well trained.

Bronco: Mexican word for "mean," shortened to bronc or "brank." In cowboy language, a vicious unbroken horse.

Broomtail: A wild mare.

Buck: To leap, twist, somersault, and plunge up and down with stiff legs and humped back, usually done by the horse to get an unwanted object (like a cowboy) off its back.

Bull Riding: A rodeo event in which a contestant tries to ride a bucking bull for eight seconds, with one hand while holding a rope that is tied around the bull.

Bunkhouse: The building where the cowboys sleep when they aren't out on the trail.

Calf Roping: A timed rodeo event in which a mounted rider chases and lassos a calf, dismounts, and throws the calf to the ground, tying three of the animal's legs with a short length of rope.

Cavvy Yard: Also called cavvy and remuda; the herd of spare saddle horses.

Circle Herding: Rounding up the cattle by riding in a circle or in a straight or corked line.

Corral: An enclosure where the cattle and the horses are kept.

Hazer: A bulldoggers partner, who rides alongside the steer and keeps it headed in a straight line while the bulldogger makes their approach.

Pick Up Men: These cowboys work during the roughstock events. These men rescue riders from their horses, and guide the bulls and horses out through the gate.

Saddle Bronc Riding: A rodeo event in which a contestant sits in a saddle and tries to ride a bucking horse for eight seconds.

Steer Wrestling: Also known as bulldogging. A rodeo event in which a cowboy chases a full-grown steer on their horse, dives on top of the steer, grasps its horns, digs his/her heels in the ground, and twists the steer to the ground. The event is timed from the moment a barrier in front of the cowboy is released to the moment the steer is flat on its side. All four legs and head must be in the same direction.