

# Herman Lindner, Canada's Champion Cowboy

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Herman Linder, during this his 77th year, has been recovering from being thrown from his horse. The accident occurred on his beautiful Southern Alberta ranch and some have suggested that he should no longer ride. No one is betting that this great cowboy champion will not again assume that positive posture on the back of a quality horse that has always distinguished the Linders as Canada's regal cowboys. On that warm early summer day this summer when he rides out towards "Old Chief" he will be carrying with him an encyclopedia of personal and professional memories.

October of 1983 saw the death of his beloved brother Warner and it seems only yesterday to Herman that he and his brother Warner in the spring of 1918 had arrived with their family in Cardston, Alberta, having immigrated from Stockton, Illinois.

“When we landed in Cardston, things were not like today. All you could hear outside the hotel was the rattle of wagons and the sound of horses’ hooves. It was like music to us! Warner and I would rush to the window and gape at the cowboys coming in with their fancy boots, wooly chaps, and big hats. What a thrill that was! We vowed some day we’d get outfits like that.”

They were in the years that followed to set the professional style for Canadian cowboys and to become Cardston’s most famous ranching sons.

The town of Cardston, Alberta, located in the southwest corner of the province, is known for its Temple, its religion, its mountain, its Indians, and its cowboys. Charles Russell painted famous Chief Mountain that provides a magnificent backdrop for the town and the Linder ranch located six miles south. The Canadian portion of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has prospered from its pioneer beginnings in this once humble Mormon village. The Blood Indian Reserve, Canada’s largest reservation that form the northern boundary of Cardston, has been the centre of aboriginal growth and change in the prairie west. It was from this picturesque, ambitious, and socially maturing agricultural community that Herman Linder was to emerge as Canada’s premiere Cowboy.

Herman Linder, Canada’s champion, was a composed and brilliant competitor, a professional leader, and a competent rodeo administrator. This gentleman cowboy began competing as a teenager in the early nineteen twenties and this gentleman cowboy became a dominant force in the North American rodeo community in the decade prior to World War II. His leading labor role changed to management in his later years when his organizational skill in establishing quality Canadian competition brought Herman the unofficial title of Canada’s Mr. Rodeo.

He was and is a cowboy. Canada’s Mr. Rodeo!