

From Viewpoint the road loops back. By turning right, and continuing on the main road from the camp-grounds, the visitor descends to No. 1 Highway at a point 5 miles east of Banff. To return to Banff turn left; or, after a scant half-mile drive one can turn right and travel up the hill to head for Lake Minnewanka 5 miles distant. This is a pleasant drive across a plateau towards Mount Aylmer, with Mounts Girouard and Inglismaldie close on the right. Cascade Mountain is on the left. At the top of the hill is a small lake, Johnson's Lake. A short distance beyond is a fine viewpoint facing south and west with a large parking area in an open spot near the brow of the hill. In four miles, Two Jack Lake (fishing in season) appears on the right; a new and modern camp-ground is located on the south shore of this lake. From the hill above the lake the visitor may obtain his first glimpse of Lake Minnewanka and the cliffs of Mount Inglismaldie, which is known locally as "Gibraltar". As the visitor crosses the dam at the end of the lake, Mounts Astley and Costigan are seen, and down the lake, Mount Aylmer's peak rises over the top of the Costigan Ridge.

On the far side of the lake are situated a boat dock and a picnic ground. Motor launches provide pleasant transportation for a delightful trip down the lake, and rowboats are available for fishermen. Lake trout, occasionally very large ones, are taken here, as well as Dolly Varden and Rocky Mountain whitefish. Two Jack Lake also has lake trout and Rocky Mountain whitefish. Fishing licences (\$1 for one month) may be purchased at the Information Bureau in Banff, from the District Warden at Lake Minnewanka, or at the Warden Lodge 1 mile southwest en route to Banff. A half-mile walk from the parking area at Lake Minnewanka takes one to Stewart Canyon where the Cascade River flows into the lake.

The return trip to Banff is on a direct route past the base of Cascade Mountain with a fine view eastward beyond Mount Rundle to the Three Sisters and Mount Lougheed. Two miles from the lake is a World War I Memorial for men lost from a town no longer in existence; this is the site of Bankhead, once a thriving mining centre until operations were abandoned twenty-five years ago and all buildings demolished or hauled away. A mile further on a National Army Cadet summer camp is located on the left, and on the right the Banff airfield. Motorists who wish to see black bears at the Banff "Nuisance Ground" should turn left at the spur road beyond the railway crossing. Bears feed here regularly and may be observed but should not be approached; it is against the law to feed or entice them.

Four and a half miles from Lake Minnewanka, or two and a half miles from the bridge, the Minnewanka road rejoins No. 1 Highway. Immediately beyond the junction a gateway on the right, with strange symbols written into the arch, marks the Indian camping ground, used each summer during Indian Days, the third weekend in July. Nearer the townsite, on the right, is the turn-off for the Animal Paddock where an exhibition herd of buffalo is kept. A road through the paddock allows the motorist to view the herd without leaving his car. (Return distance to the highway is about 2 miles.)

MOUNTAIN DRIVING

For those who have not driven in the mountains, the following may be helpful and reassuring:

These roads are as safe as the ordinary highway if driving speed is kept consistent with road conditions, having in mind the road surface and the number and degree of the curves. Mountain road standards are limited by grades, alignments and, more important, the short construction season which must coincide with the season of maximum traffic. Thousands of people travel these roads every year in safety and comfort.

If a car seems sluggish, without power, it is usually because it has ascended a long grade and has gained a good deal of altitude. Use the lower gears, especially in going down grade, as it will not only keep the car under better control but also will save the brakes. Motorists are well advised to watch engine temperatures and replenish the radiators at mountain streams.

A feature of mountain driving is the necessity of parking only where the car can be pulled well off the road in a spot clearly visible from both directions. Do not stop or slow down near a curve in the road or to look at something without giving warning to other traffic. Motorists will realize, of course, the constant necessity for keeping on the right side of the highway.

PICNIC GROUNDS

Picnic grounds are located at the following points in the vicinity of Banff: Lake Minnewanka, Two Jack Lake, Mile 4.7 on the West Road (No. 1), Central Park in the townsite, Sundance Canyon, the recreation grounds west of the Bow River Boathouse, and at Johnston Canyon camp-ground. Fires must not be lit elsewhere.

THE CASCADE ROCK GARDENS

Visitors will have no difficulty in finding one of the most pleasant spots in the vicinity, the Cascade Rock Gardens which surround the Administration and Post Office Building at the south end of the Bow River Bridge. Here the familiar annuals and perennials bloom in gay profusion in a mounting setting of tree-shaded rockeries, pools, and waterfalls. A shaded bench near a bed of delphinium and red lilies could be in one's own garden at home, were it not for the peaks beyond the trees and the invigorating mountain air. These gardens have a particular appeal to photographers, and cameras are busy clicking during most of the day to capture the charm and novel beauty of familiar flowers with a mountain background.

Especially in July, the most striking feature to the gardener will be the sight of lilacs, columbine and peonies blooming in mid-summer with the full range of annuals and numerous perennials. Climatic conditions and altitude combine to produce a unique and colourful display of mass bloom.

At the rear of the gardens is an outdoor theatre where motion pictures are shown regularly on summer evenings.

HISTORICAL NOTES—PLACE NAMES

The first recorded visit to the site of Banff itself was made in 1841. That year, in August, Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, penetrated the Bow River Valley from the east. He passed Lake Minnewanka and Cascade Mountain, ascended Healy Creek and crossed the summit of the Rocky Mountains by Simpson Pass.

Reverend Robert Terrill Rundle, Wesleyan missionary to Indian tribes of the northwest, camped by the Bow River in the vicinity of the mountains near Banff in 1841. In 1845 another missionary, Father Pierre Jean de Smet, crossed the Rocky Mountains from the west by way of White Man's Pass, which is at the eastern extremity of Rundle Mountain.

In 1858 and 1859 Sir James Hector, geologist for the Palliser Expedition, explored the region. Hector discovered Kicking Horse Pass, which later came into use as the route of rail and highway transportation across the summit of the Rockies (The Great Divide west of Lake Louise).

The Hot Mineral Springs on Sulphur Mountain were discovered during construction of the transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Interest in the springs attracted attention to this section of the Rockies. Although mentioned by Hector in his diary, the springs apparently were not actually located until 1883 by workmen engaged in railway construction. Travellers over the newly-constructed railway line were so impressed with the magnificence of the scenery that the Federal Government was urged to establish a national park in the vicinity. Accordingly, in 1885 an area of 10 square miles was reserved and two years later a national park of 260 square miles was set aside by Act of Parliament as Rocky Mountains—now Banff—National Park, thereby creating the first unit of Canada's system of national parks. This area was later extended to include the present 2,564 square miles.

Place Names—Some of the place names of the region reflect the valley's brief history:

MOUNT RUNDLE—named for the missionary, Rev. R. T. Rundle.

MOUNT BRETT—for Dr. R. G. Brett, a doctor with the railway in construction days, who returned to build a Sanitarium Hotel, which stood on the present site of the Administration Building and Post Office, and a hospital which is still in use.

MOUNT PEECHEE—for the Indian Guide of Sir George Simpson.

INGLISMALDIE—for the Scottish Castle, named by an early Scottish visitor, possibly Simpson.

BOURGEAU—for the botanist with the Palliser Expedition (Hector).

FAIRHOLME—another Scottish place name, by Hector.

NORQUAY—for an early premier of Manitoba.

PILOT—aptly named for it can be seen from many distant points.

CASCADE MOUNTAIN—named for the waterfall on its eastern cliffs. At one time when the Indians camped at its foot during hunting trips they called it STONEY CHIEF, as a companion to Stoney Squaw.

MINNEWANKA—Cree Indian name meaning Water Spirit.

BOW RIVER—not for its ribbon-like windings, but a translation of the Indian name since the prairie tribes obtained wood for their bows from Douglas firs that grew on its banks in the foothills. The old Indian name, according to David Thompson, explorer and fur trader, was Manachaban Sipi.

WILDLIFE NOTES

Travel in the mountains will be more enjoyable if one is fortunate enough to see wild animals. The national parks are wildlife sanctuaries where all types of animals, both game and predator, are sheltered. To see them is another matter, since they do not willingly follow the highways when traffic is heavy. Leisurely driving during the early morning or early evening hours is probably the most rewarding, although not the best light for the photographer.

Over a period of time black bears have become "panhandlers" and so skilled at obtaining food from travellers that it has been necessary to prohibit by law the feeding or enticing of bears. It should be remembered they are still wild animals. Too many visitors found this difficult to realize, so that accidents occurred. The visitor will still see bears quite easily but one should not approach them. If light or dark brown bears are seen, it should be remembered that they are still brothers and sisters of the black ones, just as a traditionally black-haired family may occasionally have a blond or red-headed offspring.

Elk, moose, deer, mountain sheep and occasionally mountain goat may be seen in the open places of the valley near the roadside, but it requires constant watching and sharp eyes to spot them. The deer are smaller than elk and the species in this vicinity has black tip to the tail and large ears (mule deer).

Moose may be differentiated from elk because of their greyish colouring, sloping shoulders and roman nose; the moose antlers differ also in being palmated. The bull moose grows his antlers during the summer months, great scoops which are bumpy around the edges early in the season, growing to sharp points as they mature. The cow moose have no horns but have large mule-like ears. They are far from beautiful creatures, but are very efficiently constructed with high knee action for getting them rapidly through deep snow or swamp areas.

Many persons are uncertain of the difference between Rocky Mountain sheep and goats. The sheep are stocky, short-haired, fawn-coloured animals with light rump patches and heavy hind quarters. When startled they move rapidly and gracefully. The adults are all horned. Females and young males have short sharp spikes; the older males have heavier curved ones, of the "Horn-of-Plenty" shape. Goat, less often seen, are white and shaggy with sharp black spikes and long, bearded, canny looking faces.

Coyotes may be seen in the morning or evening, like pale shaggy dogs with bushy tails, crossing the road or following it. Beaver have been dealt with in the story of the West Road, since this is where one is most likely to see them.

A great variety of birds are present in the mountains in the summer, but "bird-watching" is not very satisfactory from a car. A booklet entitled *Birds of Canada's Mountain Parks* may be purchased at the Park Information Bureaux, and bird checking lists also may be obtained on request.

Compiled in co-operation with the
*National Parks Service. For additional
copies, or other information on the
National Parks, write to:*

Canadian Government Travel Bureau

Department of Northern Affairs
and National Resources
Ottawa, Canada

MOTOR DRIVES AT BANFF

A MOTORIST'S GUIDE
to the
VICINITY of BANFF
BANFF NATIONAL PARK
ALBERTA, CANADA

Issued under the authority of
the Honourable Jean Lesage
Minister of Northern Affairs and
National Resources

MOTOR DRIVES AT BANFF

There are several beautiful drives in the Bow Valley, radiating from the town of Banff. The following comments and directions may help visitors to enjoy them: (Overall distances mentioned are from the Bow River Bridge in Banff townsite.)

CAVE AND BASIN HOT SPRINGS (1 mile) and SUNDANCE CANYON (3.3 miles)

Crossing the bridge towards the Administration and Post Office Building take the main road to the right. The CAVE AND BASIN bathhouse is a native stone building with large plate glass windows, housing two swimming pools of warm sulphur water, and dressing rooms operated by the National Parks Service. The entrance to the pools is at the west end of the building. A free pamphlet *Hot Mineral Springs in Canada's National Parks* is available from the Information Bureau. If visitors do not have time for a swim, they should at least stop long enough to explore the natural cave and to enjoy the view from the roof.

The Cave is reached through the lobby at the east end of the building. From here a short, well-lit tunnel leads to the rock-domed underground spring. This place was called "Tro-lika-Minne-katah", or "Cave of the Hot Waters", by the Indians who hunted in this valley before the white man settled here. Steam from the waters giving a strong odour of hydrogen sulphide issues from the hillside through an opening in the dome of the cave. Indian hunters of long ago treated the place with some superstition.

Near the main entrance, an outside stairway leads to the balconies over the pools and to the roof-deck, from which may be obtained a magnificent view of the Bow Valley west of the townsite from the Massive Range to Mounts Norquay and Cascade across the valley; as well as the distant ranges far northeast of the townsite, dominated by the cone of Mount Aylmer, Tunnel Mountain lying athwart the valley, and the wedge of Mount Rundle on the far right.

Continuing on the road beyond the Cave and Basin, the route is a further 2.3 miles along the edge of the valley to SUNDANCE CANYON. For a short distance the road follows the bank of the Bow River and from here there is a fine view of Mount Edith. This is one of the few places where this peak may be seen, as it is set back from the valley above the pass west of Mount Norquay. There is a parking area at the end of the road for the convenience of motorists who wish to visit the canyon. There is a picnic shelter at the canyon. The name of this canyon, with its cascading stream, comes from the title of a novel by the famous Canadian author Ralph Connor who used it as a location for the Indian Ceremony of that name. There is a footbridge across the stream and a short trail up the canyon. The cascade and canyon are not visible from the road. On the return journey to Banff, a half-mile from Sundance Canyon, watch for another fine glimpse of Mount Edith, where it appears framed by the pine forest before the road reaches the main valley again.

BOW RIVER BOAT HOUSE AND RECREATION GROUNDS

The spot is reached by a half-mile detour from the bridge to the Cave and Basin Road. On the river road to the right of the bridge will be found the BOW RIVER BOAT HOUSE, seen a short distance upstream. Canoes and rowboats may be rented here for boating upstream on the Bow River and Echo Creek, and scheduled launch trips take visitors up the river. Farther along this road, in a pleasant meadow bordered by large spruce trees, there are picnic and playground facilities, and public tennis courts. Skirting this area, the road joins the main road to the Cave and Basin and Sundance Canyon.

UPPER HOT SPRINGS (2.5 miles)

Crossing the Bow River bridge, turn LEFT below the Administration Building, and RIGHT at the Junction 200 yards beyond. This road climbs for 2½ miles along the slopes of Sulphur Mountain to a point above the Spray River and overlooking the lower Bow Valley, with the Banff Springs Hotel golf course showing pleasant green fairways along the right bank of the river. The outstanding feature of the mountain panorama is Cascade Mountain, 9,836 feet, with Stoney Squaw at its base and Tunnel Mountain in the foreground. Once in geological time this was a continuous range including Mount Rundle and Mount Norquay (seen to the left of Cascade). In the distance to the right (beyond Lake Minnewanka) rise the sheer slabs of the Palliser Range with Aylmer's 10,375-foot pyramid on the skyline.

This is the highest mountain in the vicinity of Banff townsite. Across the Spray River valley are the peaks of Mount Rundle, and from the parking area, far upstream, you get a glimpse of Goat Mountain.

The Government-operated UPPER HOT SPRINGS BATHHOUSE at this point has an outdoor pool, as well as plunges and steam baths in the building. Temperature of the water is constant throughout the winter, and bathers find outdoor bathing at below-freezing temperatures a novel and refreshing experience. Sulphur water from one of the nearby springs pours steaming from the rock above the parking area. These and other sulphur springs on Sulphur Mountain are believed by geologists to be the result of deep circulation of surface water over heated rock masses.

Motorists may leave their cars in the parking area and climb Sulphur Mountain on an easily-graded pony trail for a distance of 3 miles, (about 2 hours walking time) to the top. During the summer months Alpine Transport operates a passenger tractor from the Upper Hot Springs over the lower part of the trail. For information on other trails in the area, see the map folder entitled *Trail Outings at Banff*, which is available at the Information Bureau.

MIDDLE SPRINGS are located at the end of a half-mile branch road which turns west off the Upper Hot Springs road about a mile and a half below the bathhouse and less than a mile from the Bow River Bridge. Here the natural spring flowing from a rock cleft has been left untouched, and an open flat area nearby provides room for parking. There are benches for those who wish to linger and enjoy this fine view of the Upper Bow Valley and the townsite—Mounts Cory, Norquay, Stoney Squaw with Cascade above it, and the Palliser Range with Mount Aylmer in the right distance, Tunnel Mountain with the townsite on its lower slopes in the right foreground, and Mount Rundle just visible in the far right of the view. The meandering of the Bow River and the Vermilion Lakes above the townsite make a lovely pattern in the left foreground below.

BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL (.9 mile)—FISH HATCHERY (.7 mile)—BOW FALLS (1 mile) GOLF COURSE LOOP (7 miles return to Spray Bridge)

Turning left at the south end of the bridge, Banff Springs Hotel is less than 1 mile distant and is reached by Spray Avenue.

Turning left again at a junction .6 mile from the bridge, before reaching the Hotel, the FISH HATCHERY is just below (.7 mile from the bridge). Visitors may return to the Bow River Bridge by continuing to turn left above the Fish Hatchery, following near the river bank for a half mile on Glen Avenue.

The FISH HATCHERY is operated by the National Parks Service for stocking streams and lakes in Banff, Kootenay, Yoho, Glacier and Mount Revelstoke National Parks. Visitors are welcome.

From here the road curves right past the Hatchery to the Bow River near its junction with the Spray, less than a half mile beyond. Here will be found a parking area and benches for those wishing to view the BOW FALLS, immediately upstream, tumbling in a white and roaring foam through the ridges of its rocky bed.

The Golf Clubhouse may be reached by climbing a path above the Spray Bridge beyond the parking area. Green fees on this course are \$3 per day.

THE GOLF COURSE LOOP DRIVE is 7 miles return from the Spray River Bridge. Crossing the Spray River the road follows the base of Mount Rundle through the Banff Springs Golf Course, and loops in the valley beyond. From this drive the visitor may enjoy the same fine views as the golfer who plays this course, passing between the north face of Tunnel Mountain on the far side of the Bow River, and Mount Rundle rising back of the fairways on the first "nine". Cascade Mountain rises massively beyond Tunnel Mountain, with the Palliser Range and Mount Aylmer in the distance, and the Fairholme Range to the right and nearer. At the far end of the Loop, the road follows the river for a short distance and above the far bank you may see the Hoodoos, curious remnants of the erosion that has shaped this valley. (More about this in the description of the Tunnel Mountain Drive which takes you along the ridge across the river.) On the return leg of the Loop drive the visitor travels back towards the darkly-timbered slopes of Sulphur Mountain with a fine view of the Banff Springs Hotel.

Although the same mountains are named in each drive, they are seen from different angles and therefore are not always recognizable.

NO. 1 HIGHWAY—"THE WEST ROAD" Beaver Dams 2.7 miles—Johnston Canyon 16 miles

Follow one of the routes on your map going west off Banff Avenue to reach the railway station and No. 1 Highway westward.

"The West Road" is a local name for the few miles of this highway west of the townsite and is a worthwhile leisurely drive. The highway follows the north side of the valley along the shores of the Vermilion Lakes, with frequent turn-offs available for parking. Mount Rundle and Sulphur Mountains, reflected in the lakes, are irresistible subjects for all photographers who pass this way. Visitors may also see moose grubbing for under-water plants, clearly visible but seldom close enough for good pictures. This area also will be of interest to bird lovers. Canada geese, mergansers and other wild ducks nest here and in the spring and autumn many migrating waterfowl use these lakes as resting stations. Visitors may, on occasion, see an osprey soaring above the water, and red-winged blackbirds and other small birds of the mountain summer are numerous.

About two and a half miles along the highway are the beaver dams. The strange mounds rising above the water are beaver lodges, and between the second and third lakes are many indications of beaver working—engineered water levels that look like rice paddies. A sign just east of the 3-mile board marks the pond where beaver may be seen, usually at dusk. The Warden Service of the park feed the beaver with fresh tree cuttings so that visitors may have an opportunity of seeing them. Early morning and evening canoe trips on the river and lakes often provide unexpected sights of muskrat and beaver at work. (The boathouse is located in the townsite just west of the Bow Bridge.)

The three Vermilion Lakes are passed within the first four miles west of Banff townsite, and just beyond, at 4.7 miles, a sign marks the turn-off (uphill) to a pleasant picnic fireplace and tables beside a rushing stream. It is not visible from the highway but is only a very short distance through the trees.

Each bend in the road westward brings fresh views which cannot be described here; on the return journey there are many more. Special viewpoints are marked, and there are frequent turn-offs so that it is not necessary to park on the road. In the vicinity of the 4-mile board there is a brief but beautiful glimpse, looking right, of the pinnacle of Mount Edith, and a mile farther west the back of the peak may be seen. At 5.5 miles a sign marks the place where bighorn sheep often come down. However, they may be seen anywhere along the road or above it in this area. Cliffs above the road, where mountain goat are sometimes seen, are marked beyond the 6-mile board. The valley now curves northwest and near the 8-mile board visitors should watch for the "Hole-in-the-Wall", a large cave high in the southwestern cliffs of Mount Cory. (No trail.)

Travelling up the valley, beyond the Vermilion Lakes, motorists have been following the Massive Range with Mount Brett the dominating peak back of Massive Mountain and the lower ridges. At the northwestern end of this range is Pilot Mountain, the best view of which may be obtained at about Mile 10. Here on the right or northern side of the valley are the spectacular white cliffs of the Sawback Range with Mount Ishbel at the western extremity, best seen beyond Mile 11. The first fine view of Mount Eisenhower, directly ahead and unmistakable for its castle-like cliffs, is beyond the 11-mile board. Here the massive peak, seen left of Mount Eisenhower and far west, is Mount Temple in the Lake Louise area and one of the highest peaks (11,636') in the southern Canadian Rockies. At 12½ miles you will pass a large beautiful western white spruce which has been left in the middle of the road as a specimen too fine to be felled.

As the road climbs past the 13-mile board there is a memorable view southwest up a long valley between Pilot and Copper Mountains to a beautiful ice-capped dome which is Mount Ball (10,865'). Vistas like this one give some idea of the wilderness that lies beyond the highways.

Sixteen miles west of Banff is Johnston Canyon. Here there is a modern camp-ground below the road, and a tearoom and bungalow camp on the opposite side. An inviting half-mile walk over a good trail takes you through the canyon to the first waterfall; this canyon is one of the most spectacular features of the park.

On the return journey to Banff the most striking views are of the Bourgeau Range from the vicinity of Mile 10. In the Vermilion Lakes, Mount Rundle and Tunnel Mountain are reflected, and near the townsite the Fairview Range is seen in the distance.

MOUNT NORQUAY—BANFF CHAIRLIFT (6.5 miles)

This road is well marked where it turns off the West Road, 1.3 miles from the Bow Bridge. Turning off to the right, the road climbs in long, well-graded switch-backs to the pass between Stoney Squaw and Mount Norquay. The view becomes increasingly attractive as one ascends. Small parking areas are located on some of the switch-backs. The finest view is from the top of a meadow known locally as the "Green Spot", with all vistas framed by huge Douglas fir trees. The townsite of Banff is seen clearly among the evergreen forests at the base of Tunnel Mountain with Rundle and Sulphur Mountains flanking the Spray Valley beyond. The

Banff Springs Hotel is at the mouth of the valley and Goat Range is at its head. In the right foreground, upriver from the townsite, the Bow River and the Vermilion Lakes give colour and pattern to the valley floor.

The Chairlift is above Norquay Lodge at the end of the road. It ascends the slopes of Mount Norquay for a distance of 1,300 feet and provides a view among the mountain-tops at an altitude of 6,800 feet. The ride is a quiet almost leisurely one through the tree tops, increasing in excitement as the view grows in scope and beauty. From the top there is a magnificent panorama—the view below augmented by a clear sight of the ranges over the top of Stoney Squaw and Tunnel Mountains, and the Bow Valley east of Banff. Below the lift terminal, flower strewn alpine meadows add to the charm of this "Eagle's Perch". Cascade Mountain is the great rocky peak in the immediate left, the Fairholme Range (Girouard, Inglismaldie and Peechee) beyond and Mount Rundle rises wedge-like beyond the town. The journey on the lift is a memorable one at any time of the day, but particularly in the evening hours when dusk creeps up the valley and the sun sets on Mount Rundle and the Fairholme peaks. The return trip on the lift is even more interesting than the one upwards since the visitor is looking into the view, the perspective shifting with descent. A lodge at the foot of the lift contains a restaurant and view windows facing the slopes of Norquay.

TUNNEL MOUNTAIN ROADS—LAKE MINNEWANKA

Tunnel Mountain Drive—Return to Bridge	4.4 Miles.
Plus Minnewanka Loop	18.1
Plus Hoodoos Drive	7.7
Minnewanka Loop from Banff	16.5

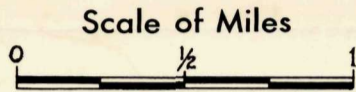
Tunnel is the small mountain rising immediately east of the townsite with some of the streets skirting the lower slopes. There is no tunnel, however, although it was considered at one time by railway engineers. Before the bridge is reached, turn left off Banff Avenue and travel towards the mountain on Buffalo Street, keeping to where it forks at the cemetery. The road leaves the townsite shortly and climbs in less than a mile to a point where a fine view may be obtained of the Bow Falls and the confluence of the Bow and Spray Rivers, and the Banff Springs Hotel. Limited parking space is available here. Beyond the hotel lies the Spray Valley between the evergreen slopes of Mount Rundle (left) and Sulphur Mountain (right), with the twin cones of the Goat Peaks splitting the valley several miles upstream. From Bow Falls the road turns back across the face of the mountain. In a third of a mile the buildings of the Banff School of Fine Arts may be seen below the road. A mile and a half from Banff there is a junction: straight ahead the road takes the visitor back to the townsite quite suddenly. The road leading to the right climbs farther up the mountain and soon the visitor is overlooking the townsite and Bow Valley to the West. At a point about 2 miles from Banff there is a viewpoint with some parking space. Motorists may leave their cars and take the pony trail up Tunnel Mountain (approximately 1 mile) or remain to enjoy the view from the road which shows the Massive Range westward: left to right Mount Bourgeau and Mount Brett; flanking this range on the left is the bald dome of the Bourgeau Range; nearer and parallel to it, Sulphur Mountain. On the right are Mounts Cory, Norquay, and Cascade with Stoney Squaw in the foreground to the right. Within 3 miles, at a junction on the north side of the mountain, one may return to Banff by turning left (bridge 1½ miles), or continue past the Tunnel Mountain camp-grounds and along a ridge to the Hoodoos Viewpoint keeping right at the junction just before reaching the Hoodoos. Distance is a little more than 1½ miles. Here is one in the middle of the view seen from the Spray River Bridge or the Banff Springs Hotel. The Golf Course lies green in the narrow valley between Mount Rundle on the left and Tunnel Mountain on the right, framing the Banff Springs Hotel on the dark green mat of Sulphur Mountain's slopes. Let the eye swing left to take in the view down the Bow Valley for 20 miles past the green cliffs of Mount Rundle. Turn about and one sees the Bourgeau Range, Tunnel Mountain, and Mounts Brett, Norquay, and Cascade.

Just below the parking area are some curious and impressive natural pillars rising from the hillside, the Hoodoos. They are not solid rock as one might expect, but appear to be something like coarse concrete. This is glacial clay and boulders which curiously have withstood the wear of wind, water and storm—a process known as differential erosion. The ridge of Tunnel Mountain on which the camp-grounds and the Hoodoos are located is a remnant of glacial drift that has withstood the cleansing action of the rivers. The course of the Bow River by way of the Bow Falls and the south end of Tunnel Mountain is a comparatively new one, found by the river after its original course between Tunnel and Cascade Mountains was blocked by glacial debris.

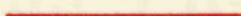
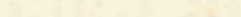

MOTOR DRIVES

AT BANFF

1954



REFERENCE

- HIGHWAY..... 
- TRAIL..... 
- RAILWAY..... 
- VIEWPOINT..... 