

OPENING SHOT

Highwood Standards

MIKE HITCHCOCK (left) and his son, Chad, search for strays in the Highwood Mountains of Montana. Skogen Livestock runs cattle there during the summer months. Hitchcock is the foreman, and Chad, age 7, was helping with his first cattle drive. Writer and photographer Ryan T. Bell, based in Winthrop, Washington, was there to capture this moment.

"That morning, Chad had ridden along with the cowboys on his first bona fide cattle drive," Bell says. "He helped push some 200 pairs to a pasture in the high country. By the afternoon, Chad had fared well. I remember his father, Mike, saying the day's work wasn't done. The strays needed to be brought into the corral. He gave Chad the option of going back to the house if he was tired. The young cowboy stayed by his father's side the whole time."