

Forum

Heat hurting rodeo crowds

Attendance at the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede grounds on Thursday was 15,914, compared with 16,973 for the same period last year.

Attendance at Thursday's grandstand show was 4,248, compared with 4,743 for the same period in 1983.

"We have slipped some this year and I don't think the heat has helped us out a lot," said Jim MacArthur, manager of the Medicine Hat Stampede and Exhibition.

MacArthur said that two-thirds of the people came after 6 p.m. in an attempt to beat the heat and enjoy the entertainment under cooler conditions.

"The St. John (Ambulance) people are treating 20 to 25 people a day and most of those have been treated for heat exhaustion."

MacArthur said one woman he talked to who had never left a grandstand show before, had to leave half way through Thursday's afternoon performance because "she found the heat unbearable."

"Saturday is our big day and it would be an added bonus if we got a shower to-night to cool things off."

Police check midway row

City police are considering laying charges after five teenagers complained of being threatened by workers on the Stampede midway Thursday evening.

The youths were "fooling around" near some concessions, and became involved in a confrontation with midway workers, said Insp. Larry Brink.

A chase to the parking lot ensued and one of the workers allegedly drew a switch-blade knife, said Brink.

One of the youths became trapped in a truck that received \$300 damage when a passenger door was kicked in, the police inspector added.

City police pay special attention to the Stampede grounds at this time of year to ensure things don't get out of hand, although "in recent years we haven't had any serious incidents," Brink said.

There is a contingent of six officers at the grounds and it is supplemented whenever needed, he said.

Oil projections have to wait

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"Until we find that out, we can't do any kind of projection."

A second gas well has already been drilled and is ready for oil testing, said Grimm. The next step, while working to get the first well into production, will be to test for oil at the second well.

"On the basis of their performance (two wells), we will be making our judgments as to what our drilling program will be," he said.

Drilling operation and equipment will be put out to tender with utilities staff handling the supervision, he added. No staff will be hired.

Whether there are adequate markets for the oil and how it will be marketed are questions city officials will get to once its clear how much oil the city is looking at.

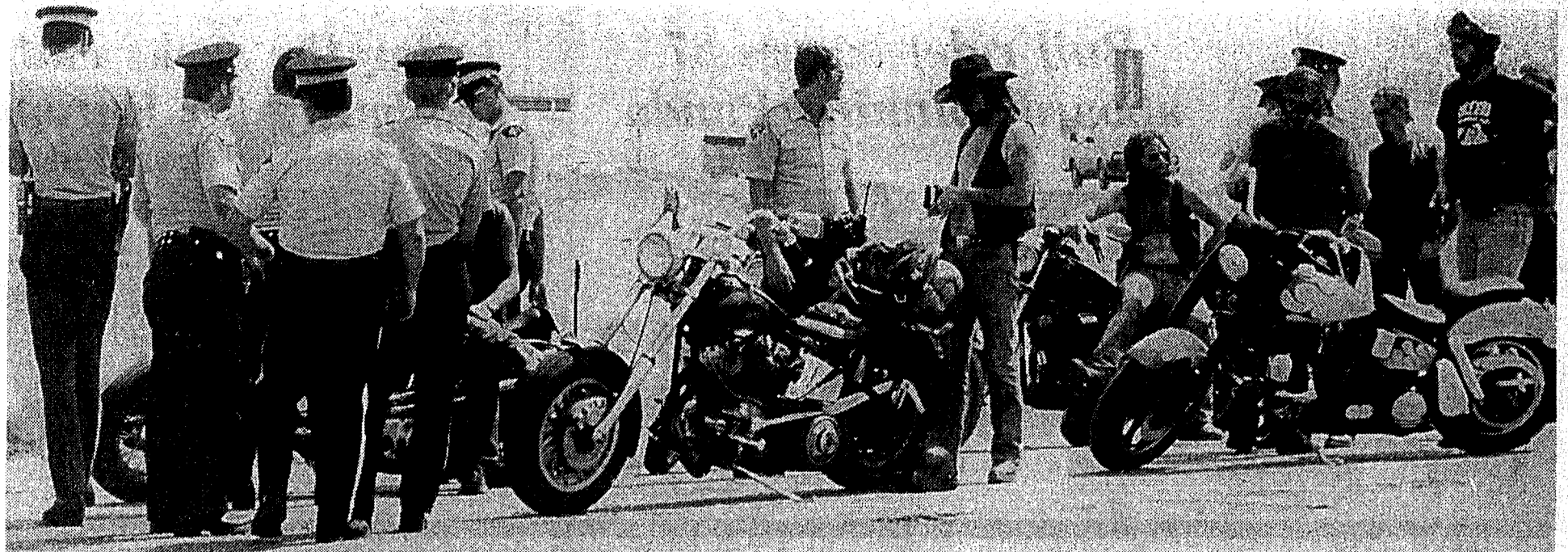
"That's another problem," is all Grimm would say when asked about marketing plans.

"Until we have more complete tests we won't know (how extensive it is), said department manager Al Buchignani.

"We have a well and we know the money that we have spent was worthwhile, but to come out with all the detail of just what's down there, how big it is and so forth," will take more time.

"By that time," said Grimm, "it should be fairly well confirmed if this is or is not a flash-in-the-pan. Every indication is that it is good."

Mayor Grimm said the staff are all set to get going with production arrangements and should be ready by September.



BIKERS PULLED OVER — City police and RCMP gave out 16 tickets for equipment violations but otherwise encountered no problems when 20 motorcyclists from the Rebel gang in Saskatoon passed through the city

Thursday. "We were advised they were coming into the city in a large group," said Insp. Larry Brink. "We did a precautionary check to see why they were coming to Medicine Hat."
—News photo Frank Webber



A city constable chats with a motorcyclist and an unusual passenger after Rebel gang members were stopped driving on the Trans-Canada Highway near the Black and White service station. It is not reported whether the pup was ticketed for not wearing a helmet.
—News photo Frank Webber

Stampede stroller



Hats, fans and ICE COLD rootbeer were big selling items on the midway Thursday afternoon, when temperatures soared into the high 30s and sent most Stampeders searching for a slice of shade.

Stuck inside his small Pizza Wagon with his oven set at 350 degrees, Thomas Midaway employee Brian Merritt had no way to avoid the heat so tried his best to ignore it.

"My ice chest will keep me cool," he said. "The last town we were in it rained the whole time."

Visiting from Vancouver B.C., university student Lesley Conover knows all about rain, but hot prairie days are tough to get used to.

"Man, is it ever hot here. Is it always this bad? No wonder everyone around here has such a nice tan."

Harry and Berrit Haff call themselves "sun worshippers" and say they don't mind the heat.

"But we do worry about him," said Haff pointing to 11-month-old Kellen in his shaded stroller.

"We are trying our best to keep him out of it, but we want to take him to the petting zoo, he's never been."

Inside the Exhibit building it is a little cooler for Joan and Vern Laing but they are fully aware of how hot it is outside when people come running to their Mad Hatter booth looking for hats to keep them cooler.

"I need a hat — just something to keep the sun off my head," said Brenda Desjarlais looking over the wares. Husband Dwane brought a hat with him and winces when he hears the price of the first hat she tries on.

Finally the Redcliff couple settle on a \$3.95 fishing hat and brave the outdoors one more time.

"I sell a lot of mediums," said Root Beer attendant Vicki Keats.

There is something about a sign promising ICE COLD relief that really helps with sales of drinks on hot days like this one.

Keats has less than one square metre of shade to stand in but the ice used to cool the root beer helps her withstand the heat.



Prophet will sing and sign

The popular Ronnie Prophet will be on hand Saturday morning to entertain Stampede breakfast-goers.

Prophet will sing at the Medicine Hat Mall-CHAT Stampede breakfast and sign autographs afterwards.

The free breakfast of pancakes and sausages, and News juice, will start people off to the final day of Stampede. Breakfast will be served from 7 a.m., for early risers, until noon, for those who plan a later start.

Other entertainers will include Ron Larson and the West-ernaires, 100 area square dancers, Johnny Forrest and the Medicine Hat Baton Club. The Red Fox Parachute Club will be there, and British Army Training Unit, Suffield will put on a tank display.

Events will include hayrides and a cow chip contest. Participants will be able to show their skill at tossing the chips.

This year's Stampede Queen, Shellie Sodero and her two princesses will be at the breakfast.

After the breakfast, the Stampede begins its final day. The midway and all exhibition buildings will be open after 12 p.m. The professional rodeo exhibition starts at 1:30 p.m., the casino at 2 p.m., the chuckwagon and chariot races at 6:30 p.m. and grandstand show at 8 p.m.

ATARI & INTELLIVISION

GAME CARTRIDGES
(RENTAL UNITS)

\$5.00

EACH

CHINOOK RECREATION

3062 DUNMORE ROAD
S.E., MED. HAT
529-6900
Lethbridge - Taber - Brooks

Stampede starts

Rocky ride for opening

PAUL STRICKLAND
Of The News

It almost seemed the official opening of the 38th annual professional rodeo at the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede was jinxed.

First the drums from the Regina Junior Police Band spooked four horses on which Stampede princesses and grand entry girls were sitting at the gate of the arena. As a result, two of the grand entry girls dropped the flags they were carrying.

The flags were retrieved, and that situation quickly resolved itself. But in the arena a few moments later, while Susan Hargrave, Miss Rodeo Canada, was singing the national anthem, the sound system began to short out. Then the horses, who apparently had never quieted down from the previous incident, became frightened again.

When two horses ran against each other, Stampede grand entry girl Sheila Stroh had the flag knocked out of her hand. A horse rolled over onto a second grand entry girl, Brenda Donnelly.

In unison the crowd expressed "ohs" of concern, but she walked away apparently unharmed. The metal staff of the flag Donnelly had been carrying was bent out of shape during the incident.

The sound system did not act up while A.K. (Art) Lund, recently inducted into the Canadian Rodeo Historical Association's Hall of Fame, was introduced as a special guest.

However, troubles resumed after Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Connie Osterman arrived in a convertible with Stampede board president Bill Palmer. As Palmer gave his introduction, the sound system faded in and out.

The system worked well again during Osterman's speech, as it did during the ceremony in which rodeo officials allowed the famous 28-year-old bucking

horse, Moonshine, a free run around the arena.

But it faded out several times during the first few events in the rodeo. Patrons with seats high in the grandstands shouted to the announcer "Louder!" and "We can't hear you!"

By 2 p.m. the sound system seemed to be working properly and without interruptions.

A worried Stampede manager, Jim MacArthur, observed as a technician checked and started to repair wires in a transformer box. He said it was possible someone had pulled a wire inside the box some time before the celebration began.

"Something like that can put a big hole in your program," he commented.

Steer rider recovering

Adrian Whitlow of Didsbury, Alberta got a little more than he bargained for in his event at Thursday's Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede.

Whitlow, riding in the boys 14-year-old and under steer-riding event, completed his eight-second ride, but was knocked down by the ornery steer as he tried to walk away.

The steer winded Whitlow and drove his face into the dirt.

Whitlow was attended to by paramedics in the infield before being taken to Medicine Hat and District Hospital where he was treated for lacerations of the face.

A couple of stitches later, Whitlow was released from hospital.

Chad Wakefield of Calgary held the first-day lead in the event with a score of 69. Daryl Wildman of Morley, Alta was second with a 68.



CHANNEL GUIDE

(Cable listed; non-cable in brackets)
2—CBS; 3(6)—CHAT—CBC; 4—ABC;
5—NBC; 6—Parliament; 7—PBS;
9, CBXFT—CBC French; 10—Cable;
12—Information; 13(8)—CFCN—CTV.

Specials

EVENING

- 10:40 ⑦ JEUX DE LA XXIE OLYMPIADE Ce documentaire s'attache plus à l'aspect humain qu'à la dimension surhumaine et spectaculaire de l'athlète.
- ⑦ SPORTS ALBERTA / LE TELEJOURNAL 10:40
- ⑦ JEUX DE LA XXIE OLYMPIADE Ce documentaire s'attache plus à l'aspect humain qu'à la dimension surhumaine et spectaculaire de l'athlète.
- 11:16 ③ ⑥ STAMPEDE HIGHLIGHTS

Movies

EVENING

- 9:00 ⑤ ★★ "Voyage Of The Damned" (1977, Drama) Faye Dunaway, Oskar Werner.
- 10:00 ⑦ ★★½ "Heavens Above!" (1983, Comedy) Peter Sellers, Cecil Parker.
- 12:00 ⑧ ⑬ ★★½ "Angel City" (1980, Drama) Ralph Waite, Paul Winfield.
- 12:30 ② ★★ "The Comedians" (1987, Drama) Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton.
- 2:00 ⑧ ⑬ ★½ "KISS Meets The Phantom" (1978, Fantasy) KISS, Anthony Zerbe.

Sports

EVENING

- 7:00 ③ ⑥ CFL FOOTBALL Toronto Argonauts at Calgary Stampeders

9:00

⑧ ⑬ TORCH OF CHAMPIONS

10:00

④ SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES ABC's coverage begins with a two-hour prime-time program hosted by Jim McKay that sets the scene in the city of the 1984 Summer Olympics on the eve of the Opening Ceremonies. □

Saturday

Movies

AFTERNOON

12:00

⑦ ★★ "L'Homme pour l'éternité" (1966, Drama) Paul Scofield, Leo McKern. L'histoire de Sir Thomas More, qui était emprisonné à la Tour de Londres lorsqu'il refuse de prêter le serment d'allégeance à l'Acte de Succession.

1:00

② ★★ "Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea" (1961, Adventure) Walter Pidgeon, Joan Fontaine. An experimental submarine attempts to dispose of a radioactive bell.

Sports

MORNING

9:30

⑦ ROD AND REEL

10:00

⑦ SPOKESMAN

11:00

⑦ HEROS DU SAMEDI "T-Ball" Au centre sportif Pierre-Laporte, de Boucherville.

11:30

⑤ BASEBALL Regional coverage of Chicago Cubs at New York Mets or St. Louis Cardinals at Pittsburgh Pirates.

For complete listings, refer to FOCUS in today's edition of The Medicine Hat News. Listings shown are supplied by the television stations via TV Data Inc.