

## Prairie Oyster garners support for bowing out of dam show

By DAVE MABELL  
of The Herald

Award-winning Prairie Oyster has been praised for its hands-off response to the Oldman Dam controversy. And officials at Whoop-Up Days, where the band headlined a grandstand show this week, say they've heard no complaints from dam proponents.

"We thought it was too hot a political issue to get involved with," lead singer and spokesman Russell deCarle said in an interview.

"And since then, we've received a lot of supportive letters and calls," he said. "They were pretty well all from southern Alberta."

Prairie Oyster had been booked to perform at a service club-sponsored dance during dam-opening celebrations — subsequently cancelled — at Pincher Creek. No money had changed hands, deCarle said, but the band decided to write off its appearance fee rather than playing a concert which could indicate its support of the project.

Alberta country legend Ian Tyson and other musicians have taken a stand against the dam, but deCarle said most groups like to steer clear of political stands, for or against.

"In future, we'll want to see what the context of a community concert is," he said. "But it's hard to check those kind of things out."

Whoop-Up spokesman Darwin Earl said Tuesday this

summer's booking was arranged months ago, long before details of the Pincher Creek events were announced. But he said he doesn't regret headlining the group — especially in view of brisk ticket sales Monday and Tuesday.

"People were lining up at 7 p.m. Monday for the concert," Earl said. "Prairie Oyster was the drawing card, and the \$5 price of the tickets."

"I was very pleased with the turnout Monday night," he added. "The show created an early excitement about the fair."

Earl said he wasn't aware of any complaints from dam proponents, for featuring the band after it passed up the Oldman event.

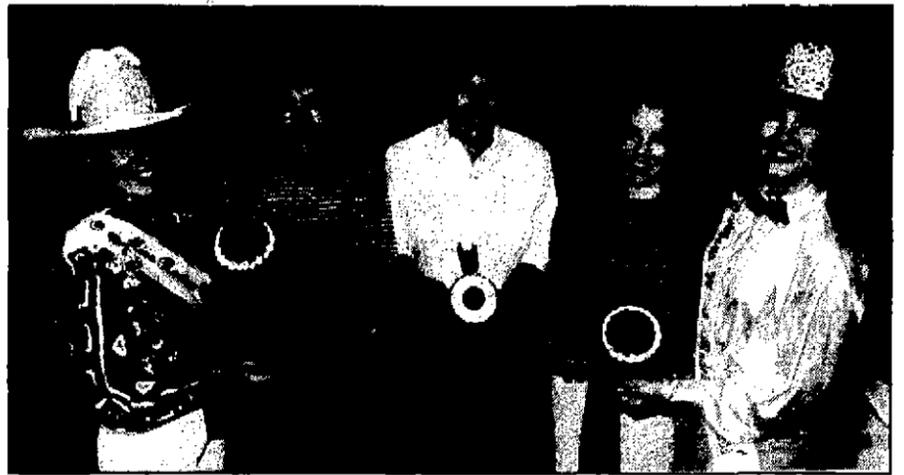
He could be hearing complaints from music fans, however. Prairie Oyster had to end its concert abruptly Monday when rain struck, because there was no roof on the stage in front of the grandstand.

"I don't know why they didn't cover the stage," deCarle said. "We had at least another hour to play."

The Toronto-based band has been playing at a number of fairs across the country, he said. And this summer, with such unpredictable weather, organizers normally provide cover so the show can go on.

"We could have finished our show," he said. "We came to play, because we get such good support for our music across Canada."

Prairie Oyster flies to Chilliwack for a concert today.



MISS RODEO CANADA Deedra Lybbert, left, of Cardston, and Miss Alberta High School Rodeo Princess Gisele Gallais, right, present awards to Hobby World entrants Della Huisman, second from left, of Foremost, Adult Grand Aggregate winner; Ciska Peterson, Best of Show, and Stephanie Dick, 16, for the Youth Aggregate prize.

HERALD PHOTO BY KEVIN KOOP

## Crafters show increased interest in Whoop-Up Days' Hobby World

□ Cross-stitched entry takes Best of Show award

By TRISH BRAYNE  
of The Herald

Breads and buns, stitchery, quilts, jams and jellies, and lots in between are on exhibit at Hobby World, housed in the Heritage Building at Whoop-Up Park.

And for the appreciative consumer, the upper floor serves as a crafters' market. On sale is the high-quality work of people operating home-based businesses.

This year 674 cooks and crafters entered in Hobby World's many categories. Committee member Diana Shields said entries were up by more than 100 from last year.

Most popular categories included dolls and seniors categories.

Winner of the Best of Show award was Ciska Peterson of Lethbridge. In keeping with the Salute to the Japanese Heritage theme of this year's Whoop-Up Days, Peterson's cross-stitched bell pull depicted Japanese figures and landscapes.

When she was about two-thirds finished Peterson had clocked up 179 hours on the work which she said is 22 count, eight o'clock. That, in lay-

man's terms, means extremely fine stitches, each cross barely discernible to the eye.

Peterson said the work took her about 1½ years to complete.

"I worked on it during my baby's naps," she said.

It was her first and only entry in Hobby World. Peterson said her success has given her the incentive to work on something else for next year.

There were 22 cross-stitched entries.

Della Huisman from Foremost works handicrafts into her busy farm schedule. She took the grand aggregate prize for a large number of entries including crafts, sewing, knitting and canning.

"I just about entered something in every category," said Huisman. "I love to sew and do craft work. If anyone wants to find me that's what I'll be doing."

Stephanie Dick of Lethbridge took the grand youth aggregate points' prize for the second year.

The Grade 12 student from Winston Churchill High School entered photographs, paintings, sewing, wood carvings, doll, mobiles and a mask.

Dick said she enjoys art and did a

lot of her work at school.

Hobby World committee chairman, Alice Bissonette, said she was pleased with the entries and their calibre. After the dust settles from this year's show, Bissonette urges crafters to start working toward Hobby World 1993.

Continuing at Hobby World this week are a number of public demonstrations with emphasis on "a taste of Alberta."

Thursday will see Prairie Buffalo of Taber sponsor barbecued buffalo burger demonstrations from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and at 7 p.m.

The making of Christmas crafts is also scheduled for Thursday.

On Friday poultry producers will show visitors the fine arts of cooking poultry. From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday there is a demonstration of Japanese arts.

Results from Hobby World entries, judged by representatives from Alberta Agriculture, will be carried on the Hometown page in Saturday's Herald.

More Whoop-Up Days coverage on Page A5

## Kids' Day a hit with youngsters

By LYN ENS  
of The Herald

Kids' Day at Lethbridge Whoop-Up Park Tuesday was a top-notch kickoff for the Whoop-Up week's schedule of activities.

A special children's discount of one coupon (more than 50 cents) on each ride made Tuesday attractive from the standpoint of savings, but most kids agreed there was plenty of fun for free.

Children under 12 were admitted to the ground free from noon to 6 p.m. for Kids' Day only.

The kids' grandstand show, scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m., marked departure from the standard formula of the past few years, but it was a gamble which was generally well accepted.

Rather than concentrating on a 'kids only' type of entertainment, the show was geared to appeal to adults as well. But grumbling, even heckling, was heard from grownups during soundchecks which ran from 1:30 to 1:50 p.m. Parents continued complaints to organizers, suggesting the professional country music stylings of The Moffat Family were inappropriate for a crowd of children waiting for draws for a pair of free bicycles. Nevertheless, the entertainment seemed generally well received, and sponsor Alpha Dairy Ltd. kept kids and adults cool with free Poppicles.

Some kids in attendance



HERALD PHOTO BY LAURA CAMPBELL

DOROTHY KROEKER lends a little support to her son Miles, 4, in the midway game Catch a Frog during Kids' Day.

reflected that the grownups appeared more impatient than the children.

The Pony Band opened the show with some original country-western songs before stepping behind recording artist Ken McCoy of Victoria.

The stage brightened further with the arrival of singer Darlena Moffat. But the audience's attention was undivided as her eight-year-old triplet sons and their nine-year-old brother joined her onstage for the singing of a tune called Family Resemblance.

After some upper-scale harmonizing on a medley of Hank Williams songs, the quartet of compact cowboys kicked out the band, commandeering the oversized instruments and very deftly delivered another number. Again topping themselves, the Moffat Brothers delivered an acappella rendition of an Everly Brothers favorite, Dream.

After the show kids of all ages hit the midway for the usual rides and games, as well as free shows of the top-drawer talents of the Muppet-like Clown-Uppits. The Vancouver company was received with riotous abandon.

Announced attendance for Tuesday's Whoop-Up activities was 6,637, down from last year's opening-day figure of 9,484.

## Rain washes out grandstand show

Refunds were issued to nearly 2,000 music fans when Whoop-Up Days officials cancelled a grandstand show as rain returned Tuesday night.

"Obviously we were not prepared," says special events coordinator Paulette Reid. "We were sorry we had to disappoint so many people."

The Moffat Family and Juno Award-winning Prairie Oyster headlined the show, cut short by rain Monday night as well. Band officials said they could not understand why no plastic roof was provided to cover valuable electronic equipment.

"There was no roof available at short notice," Reid said today. She says none is planned for Sunday afternoon's concert by Juno nominees Straight Clean & Simple.

## What's on at Whoop-Up Days

Whoop-Up Day events for today and Thursday include the following:

- Today, Seniors Day
- fairgrounds open at noon
- free admission for seniors, handicapped people and their attendants until 4 p.m.
- admission for adults is \$5 and for children six to 12, it's \$3; children five and under are admitted free; \$1 discount off admissions for adults accompanying children
- parking is \$3
- grandstand show at 1:30 p.m. featuring The Moffats and Chief Mountain Cloggers, admission \$1
- heavy horse hitch show at 1 p.m. in the Whoop-Up Pavilion
- chuckwagon races at 6:30 p.m. followed by rodeo at 8 p.m., admission is \$7 for adults and seniors and \$5 for children six to 12 if tickets purchased on grounds, but if purchased at the gate, the cost including grounds admission is \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for children
- Indian teepee on display from 1 to 7 p.m. and Indian dancing at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- Dry Gulch saloon open from 2 p.m. to midnight under the tent north of the grandstand
- Whoop-Up Casino open from 2 p.m. to midnight in the lower grandstand
- bungee jumping from 3 to 11 p.m.

- Catch A Rising Star performances at 6 p.m.
- Lethbridge BMX club competition at 7 p.m.

- Off-grounds activities
- giant banana split construction at noon in Gall Gardens
- barbecue at 6 p.m. at Park Place
- 2&7 Battleground, from 1 to 5 p.m., on 2nd Avenue S. between 7th and 8th streets

- Thursday, Midnight Madness
- unlimited midway rides from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. with purchase of \$12 wristbands which go on sale at 5 p.m.
- displays and demonstrations of all animals in livestock show at 1 p.m. in Whoop-Up Pavilion
- goat-milking contest for children at 2 p.m. in Whoop-Up Pavilion
- pig, duck and goat racing three times during the day in the Whoop-Up Compound
- Catch A Rising Star performances at 2 p.m.
- bungee jumping from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m.
- times for other events are the same as Wednesday
- Off-grounds activities
- entertainment at noonhour in Gall Gardens
- McCallum's Petting Zoo at Park Place
- 2&7 Battleground same as Wednesday

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