



Members of St. John's Ambulance working the parade route this morning stopped for hotcakes and sausages at the Medicine Auto Dealers' Association pre-parade breakfast at Riverside Park. Two auto salesmen serve pancakes to Alma Staples (far left) and Harvey Staples of the organization around 7:30, as the breakfast got well under way.

—News photos Frank Webber

Thousands gobble pancakes, sausages

PAUL STRICKLAND
Of The News

Members of the Medicine Hat Auto Dealers' Association had their hands full feeding 5,000 guests this morning.

They served about 12,000 pancakes and 340 kilograms of sausages to two lines of people filing through the Riverside Park bandshell for a pre-parade Stampede breakfast between 6:30 and 9:30 a.m.

After receiving their plate of breakfast and stepping down from the stage, each person was also given a paper cup full of orange drink.

"We started organizing for this event at 5 this morning, bringing in the stoves, setting up and starting to cook," said Gerry Nadeau, president of Gardner Motors.

By 8:30 the queue stretched back along First Street S.E. and around the corner almost to Finlay Bridge as 405 people were lined up at one time waiting patiently for their breakfast.

In the meantime, they listened to Ron Larson and the Westernaires play some Willie Nelson tunes or such Country and Western standards as The Auctioneer. Or they watched the George Schriit Square Dancers as The Westernaires themselves went and had breakfast.

All Joys, of Skyway Nissan, was helping to serve people in the lineup earlier in the morning, and around 7:30 left for about half an hour to deliver breakfasts to radio station disc jockeys who couldn't get away.

After returning from that errand, he commented on what he believed was an increase in attendance compared to last year's pre-parade breakfast.

"Actually I'm surprised," Joys said. "The lineup is longer than before, especially for 8 in the morning."

Joe Hofer, who had come in with friends from the Hutterite's Spring Creek Colony near Walsh, said the breakfast was "great".

Hofer said he has attended Stampede breakfasts in previous years, "whenever we have time."

"It's nice and cool this morning, anyway," Laurie Sharland introduced Bernice Pederson,



Shirley Moss picks up a cup of orange drink to go with her pancake-and-sausage breakfast in Riverside Park this morning.

the Stampede Queen, and the two Stampede Princesses, Debby Munroe and Wendy Armstrong. Miss Rodeo Canada, Dawn Abbey, offered brief remarks and encouraged everyone to enjoy this week's Stampede.

Also in attendance was last year's Stampede Queen, Shelly Sodero, and the two princesses from last year, Tracy Schlenker and Patty Cole. The Jenner Rodeo Queen, Leanna Armstrong, came with them.

Terry Green and his sons were near the end of the lineup at about 8:25.

"We always come to the Stampede, so we thought we would come down here and get more of the flavor of the event," Green said.

The partly cloudy sky kept temperatures pleasantly cool throughout the morning, but a few raindrops began to fall as the breakfast began to wind down around 9:10 a.m. and the queue got shorter again.

Patch of prairie is home for Stampede's followers

SHERI MURPHY
Of The News

People follow rodeo circuits for as many different reasons as there are Stampede events, but they usually all have one thing in common — camping out.

Families who spend each summer travelling between big-city stampedes and small-town rodeos are a different breed of people.

There are no first class hotels with swimming pools and valet service at the Medicine Hat and Exhibition Stampede grounds. There is a large patch of prairie with room to park a horse trailer and camper or even pitch a tent.

Make-shift canopies are not a great substitute for the central air-conditioning provided in most hotel suites but they do offer a little bit of shade.

Pat Reeder and her horse-loving family wouldn't have it any other way.

"Oh, it is lots of fun and good for the boys," Reeder says as chariot racer John Elder pitches a tent in the background for her three teenage sons.

"Especially this year, it has been really fun. But you have to like camping, because you have to learn to eat on the run and sometimes in the rain," she says.

"You camp all the time, we live in a suitcase. I don't even unpack my suitcase. I just take out all the dirty clothes do the washing and back in the suitcases they go."

Reeder and her family live just outside Medicine Hat and this is one rodeo they do not have to travel too far to get to this summer. But they are making a temporary home in the camp, she explains, because the boys will get a job at the concession stands this year.

Reeder's husband Frank and their employee John Elder will run a couple of teams in the chariot races this week and later, in other provinces where there are more team racing events, most of the five-member family will get a shot at running the horses.

"The six of us travel all the time." "This isn't an income. This is just a way to spend everything you've got," she said.

It is quite expensive to travel from rodeo to rodeo and compete in racing events.



The Medicine Hat Stampede is one more rodeo along a long road for British Columbians Henry Antonius and his family. When their first visit to the Hat Stampede winds down the Antonius family moves on to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho to take in a chuckwagon meet.

— News photos Robin Schlaht

"What is really hard is the gas," she says. "The camping is usually free, but if there's a rodeo you have to pay gate fees."

"If you win it helps to pay your gas but you don't really make anything. But it is nice to win ribbons," she said.

When on the road, Reeder's family lives out of a camper and spends most of the time working to feed, water and exercise the horses.

"It is exciting and its neat for the boys."

"Horses are good because it is a family thing. We go for rides together all year round, we do everything with the horses."

It is not the life for everyone, Reeder admits, and it is hard to get started in the sport unless you have a bit of money.

"If you can afford to feed the horses, they stay in your blood. They are special, like kids actually, they are very sensitive."

But it is not a money-making proposition and that is the wrong reason to start, she says.

"It's a hobby and you don't do anything else. If you run horses you just can't afford to do anything else, because they eat all winter."

Marshall Bentley of Saskatoon agrees.

There is no big money in chuckwagon and chariot races, says Bentley, "it's a starvation game."

"We all work to support this," says his daughter Jennifer Darroch.

Bentley, son-in-law Randy Wolfe and Darroch don't follow any specific racing circuit but a summer filled with travelling has been a tradition in the family for many years.

"We used to come here a lot at one time, then we missed a few years, but have been back for the last two," says Bentley.

"It's about 23 years we've been at it, 23 or 24. And every year we are growing broker," he jokes.

Bentley makes his money with a horse ranch in Saskatoon where he breeds horses specifically for chuckwagon races. "He drives the school bus too," says Darroch, who spends the rest of her year teaching Grade 4 students.

It is a quite a change in lifestyle from city teacher to horse keeper, she says.

"It's a wonderful time, but I work harder now than I do at school."

"We all own different horses and

we put them all together so we can do this," she said. "It's a family affair."

And it usually is in the racing business, said Wolfe. "Without a family it sometimes just doesn't work out."

"Dad drives a chariot and a wagon, Randy drives a chariot and I do everything else," she said.

Henry Antonius his wife Valda and their foster son Bill McKay have their spot in the "rodeo campground" for their little camper from B.C.

Antonius is visiting the Hat rodeo for the first time and will go from here to Steller and Strathmore Alberta then back to British Columbia for a championship competition in Salmon Arm.

From there it is on to a two-day chuckwagon meet in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and back home to Abbotsford, B.C. for a rest.

Travelling has deep roots in Antonius's blood from the days when he followed the rodeo as a cowboy riding bareback and bulls.

"I was never very good at it so I don't miss it all. I was never known, or any good at it. I just tried it, that's all."

In provincial court

Woman struck; man jailed

A 28-year-old man, in provincial court Wednesday, received a two-month jail sentence for assault causing bodily harm, and fines totalling \$800 on a charge of exceeding .08 and having no valid driver's licence.

In passing sentence on Leslie Peter Sackman, 4 Rideau Court S.E., Judge Dietrich Brand told court his actions were "vicious" and "terrorizing".

On July 7, police received a complaint from Sackman's commonlaw wife, Crown prosecutor David Carter told court.

A doctor's report indicated she had bruises to her upper chest and left shoulder area, Carter said. Sackman was found drunk, but not "falling down drunk."

Defence counsel Bill Anhorn said Sackman had been drinking, and that the woman had expressed "forgiveness" and a willingness to reconcile the relationship.

In addition to the assault case, Sackman was fined \$750 after pleading guilty to a charge of driving with a blood-alcohol level higher than .08.

On May 31, the vehicle Sackman was driving hit several posts, as well as a telephone pole on a service road near Dunmore.

He was seen staggering from the scene of the accident, court heard.

He registered readings of .21 and .22 on the breathalyzer test.

He also pleaded guilty to driving without a valid driver's licence and fined \$50.

Tickets stolen

A 20-year-old man who stole tickets to both the Calgary and Medicine Hat stampedes won't be "stampeded" for the rest of this summer.

Joseph Gailus pleaded guilty to two counts of break, enter and theft and two counts of possession of stolen property.

Gailus, a serving prisoner, received four two-month jail sentences from Judge Dietrich Brand.

All sentences will be served concurrently.

On June 30, Gailus broke into the Frontier Shell Service and Restaurant, 1420 Ninth Street S.W. and took cash, oil, tools, as well as 50 tickets to the Calgary Stampede and 250 tickets to the Medicine Hat Stampede.

Total value of the theft, taking into consideration the tickets, was \$1,500, the prosecutor said.

On July 1, Gailus also broke into The Smart Set, 109 3292 Dunmore Road S.E., taking a safe, worth \$500, and a \$9.99 negligee.

Police obtained a warrant and searched Gailus's residence July 5.

They found stolen tools belonging to a Redcliff resident and two metal signs from Continental Cars, 621 15th St. S.W.

Gailus was placed on probation for 12 months by Judge Brand and ordered to pay \$260 restitution to Frontier Shell and \$250 to the Smart Set store.

Driver jailed

Telling the court he had sold his car to "stay out of trouble" and asking for leniency did not help a 24-year-old man avoid a jail sentence for driving while his licence was suspended.

James Wade was sentenced to 30 days in jail for his second conviction this year of driving while his licence was suspended.

Wade, 96 Third St. S.E., was observed by police driving westbound on 13th Avenue S.E., July 4.

Carter asked that a greater penalty be imposed as Wade had been fined for the same offence April 24 in provincial court after losing his licence Feb. 15 for dangerous driving.

Wade told court he sold his car "at a loss of \$3,000" so that he "could stay out of trouble."

Driver fined

A 23-year-old man was fined \$500 for driving while his licence was suspended.

On July 1, police stopped Vernon Gray Smith, 508 29 Seventh St. N.E., for driving the wrong way on a one way street in Lions Park.

Court heard his licence was suspended in February 1985 for driving over .08.

Over .08

A 25-year-old Medicine Hat man pleaded guilty and was fined \$500 for driving with a blood-alcohol level over .08.

Court was told Albert Lorne Cassidy, 405 130A Second St. N.E., was stopped by police in Lethbridge June 26 in the 1600 block of Fourth Avenue South.

Cassidy provided blood samples of .21 and .19, court heard.

Smoke show

An 18-year-old man who said "he was only doing a smoke show" at the time fireworks were released on Canada Day was fined \$400 for dangerous driving.

On July 1, a vehicle driven by Darcy Lee Kost, 721 Eighth Ave. S.E., was observed travelling at a high rate of speed at the corner of South Railway Street and Second Street S.E., Carter said.

"He nearly collided with three parked cars, and two cars behind him had to brake as he turned the corner onto Second Street S.E., the prosecutor said."

Woman fined

A 59-year-old woman was fined \$150 for failing to comply with the duties of a driver.

Court was told Tilley Krassman, 49 Sunflower Cr. S.E., struck another vehicle with her car on June 11, and failed to contact the driver of the other vehicle.



Chariot racing isn't the only order of business for John Elder at the Stampede this year. The racer pitches in and helps others with the domestic chores of setting up camp on the grounds Wednesday.



REACH OUT AND TOUCH — Mary Ann Gukert, left, of Medicine Hat, extends a hand to her Lethbridge friend Michelle Schikowky, right, as the two fly through the air. The two 14-year-olds were among the first patrons of the Stampede Midway Wednesday as they sought the thrills and chills of the Wave Swinger.

—News photo Robin Schlaht