

CITY

Peter Scott, City Editor, 328-4411 after 5 p.m. 328-4418

Ready to rock — again

Benefit concert brings together former stars

Rock reunion will raise funds for wish foundation

By CRAIG ALBRECHT
Lethbridge Herald

Their numbers now include a realtor or two, a golf pro, a teacher and even a surgeon.

Twenty-some years ago, however, they were playing the hottest licks of the day at Lethbridge's hottest spot while harboring dreams that rock and roll was their future.

Although some dreams fade over the years those memories are not forgotten, especially of the El Rancho Cabaret, where many a local band cuts its teeth on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

"During that period the El Rancho Cabaret was basically what people did," says Russ Hauser, who played keyboards in that era for both Shamen and the Kool-Aid Kids.

Hauser hopes the cabaret will once again be the place to be Aug. 13 as the southside hotel hosts the El Rancho Rock Reunion '94.

That night four local bands from the 1969-75 era — Blackfoot, Boogaloo, Shamen and Kathy and the Kool-Aid Kids — will attempt to rekindle the flame with 700 tickets available to the public. Proceeds from the ticket sales, at \$10 apiece, will go to the Children's Wish Foundation.

Hauser says the reunion isn't about a bunch of over-the-hill rockers attempting to regain lost youth.

"We're not living in the past," says the local realtor. "The music, in some respect, is almost secondary. It's meant strictly to get the players together, the people who used to come and hear us play together, and have some fun."

Those days gone by were definitely a great time to be in rock and roll, says Mark Boh, Co-owner of a successful sporting goods store, he was then better known for his hot guitar work with the likes of the Bogus Boogie Band as well as Shamen and Kathy and the Kool-Aid Kids.

"It's interesting that it's the 25th anniversary of Woodstock," says Boh. "It wasn't just something that happened in New York though. Rock music really got a foothold and caught on and you just got swept up in the whole thing."

Not only was the music new and exciting, the opportunities for gigs were bountiful. In addition to the weekend cabarets, there were a

number of Lethbridge bars featuring live music.

Even bigger opportunities surfaced on occasion as Canadian 'name' bands like Lighthouse or even international stars such as Ike and Tina Turner made Lethbridge stops and picked up a local band as backup.

"It was great back then because (the El Rancho) only booked local bands, not only for monetary reasons but because all the bands had a great following," recalls John Charles, the lead vocalist with Blackfoot and Shamen. "No matter who you were they were guaranteed a good gate."

The night spot proved so popular in that era the cabaret was eventually moved upstairs where it could hold up to 900 rock and rollers.

Those fans, says Boh, were what made the El Rancho cabarets.

After spending all week at work or school they were ready to cut loose and many of them came two of the three nights each weekend.

He remembers at least one incident where the fans got a little too "into" the music. Shamen was playing the cabaret one night and

Mel Fengstad, then-owner of the El Rancho, demanded they turn down the volume or get out.

"He loved the crowds we brought in, but not the music so loud," Boh says.

Once they informed the crowd why they wouldn't be playing any further a near riot broke out with tables overturned and glasses shattered. Not only did the owner beg them to start playing again, which they did, but they even got a raise, he says with a chuckle.

Time can apparently play tricks on the memory as well as a person's waistline.

Charles speaks of a similar incident but recalls one of the band member's muscle shirt being the item of contention.

Several of the musicians, including Hauser and fellow realtor Charles, still play the occasional gig even today.

Those old-time bands, however, haven't been together in entirety for almost two decades in some cases.

Hauser says a number of the members have moved away and won't be returning to Lethbridge until just a few days before the reunion. All, however, have been boning up on their own to ensure a good show.

"We're not in this to get up and makes asses out of ourselves," he says. "Nobody expects us to get



DRUMMER BRAD Valgardson and Guitar/vocalist Mark Boh rehearse some of the hits of the late 1960's and early 1970's that they played in local venues 25 years ago.

up and be a super-polished group, but we're not going to embarrass ourselves or anybody else."

Charles says the old songs come back quite naturally and so do the arrangements.

"We've sung those tunes a million times," he says.

Boh also practised his musical craft on and off for a number of years but work commitments of late haven't allowed much of that.

"I'm trying to cram in three weeks of practice," says Boh, who will need all of that time to try and grow his hair out to the appropriate length for the gig.

"The mind is willing but the fingers are weak."

Hauser, whose once waist-length hair is now collar-length and sports a healthy swath of grey, had big dreams of making it big in the music industry.

Had someone told him back then he'd eventually make his living selling vinyl-clad bungalows he admits he would have been rolling on the floor in laughter.

Work commitments and relationships saw many musicians drift away from the craft, says Hauser.

Boh says the coming of the disco craze also pounded a nail into many a musician's career.

The bands he was associated

HERALD PHOTO BY DAVID ROSSITER

Busy line-up set for Whoop-Up days

Special days set for families, teens

By GARRY ALLISON
Lethbridge Herald

Whoop-Up Days will be handled by co-chairmen this year.

Tom Ivins and Lorne Hickey will head up the 1994 edition of Whoop-Up Days, Aug. 9-14.

Ivins was rodeo chairman last year and will also share that post again with Doug Macleod for the 1994 professional rodeo, set for Aug. 11-14.

Hickey is also the first vice-president of the Lethbridge and District Exhibition. Warren Lyckman remains as president for 1994.

Don Leon, who served as Whoop-Up chairman in 1993, is 2nd vice-president and Tracy Dow is past-president of the exhibition board.

Grace Duff is general manager of the Lethbridge and District Exhibition.

Ivins was one of the key people instrumental in bringing professional rodeo back to Whoop-Up Days a few years ago after a series of amateur and old-timers rodeos.

Hickey was in charge of the casino operations at last summer's Whoop-Up Days.

Other Whoop-Up Days committee people include Bruce Campbell, who oversees the Silver Bullet Saloon and Terry Sheen who handles the entertainment packages on the grounds. Henry Ens looks after the Whoop-Up Compound.

Sharon Hudemka heads the Hobby World committee while Kirk Meams is parade chairman.

Doug Spoulos of the Jaycees also serves on the exhibition committee along with Shelby Macleod and Ernie Snowden.

Doreen Gunderson heads the new Teen World and Kid's World attractions while Kim Platt is in charge of the Trading Post.

This year OBO Box Office is looking after the three vehicle admission gate areas and the pedestrian gate for the fair board.

Regular grounds admission prices this year will be \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for children six to 12 years of age and free for children under five accompanied by a parent.

A special family gate package allows two adults and four children, aged six to 12 years, to be admitted to the grounds for \$15 and the group doesn't even have to be a family.

On-grounds parking, at both the north and the southern gates will be \$3.

Kids Day Tuesday, Aug. 9 those under 12 will be allowed onto the grounds free of charge until 6 p.m. Wednesday is Seniors Day and people aged 65 and older will be \$2 for the entire day.

Thursday is Moonlight Madness and a \$15 wristband is available from 6 p.m. to closing. The wristband price is only available as you enter the grounds and includes gate admission.

Friday and Saturday, a West Coast wrist band good for unlimited rides from noon to closing, may be purchased for \$17 on the grounds.

There's a special family package this year for the Whoop-Up Days Rodeo, Aug. 11-14. For \$33 two adults and two children will have access to the exhibition grounds and the rodeo.

Rodeo advance ticket prices are \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for children aged six to 12 years. These prices also cover price of admission to the grounds.

For people already on the Whoop-Up grounds, who choose to attend the rodeo, tickets are \$7 for adults and seniors and \$5 for children.

Whoop-Up gates open at noon each day.

Businesses to be judged on decorating efforts

Whoop-Up Days, set for Aug. 9-14, gets under way Aug. 8 with the evening parade at 6 o'clock.

While Whoop-Up Park is being groomed for the big show Lethbridge merchants are also adding a western look.

A major store decorating competition has been planned for Aug. 9-12, getting the business people involved in the fun of Whoop-Up Days.

Whoop-Up Days, celebrating The Year of the Family, will be even more colorful with the entire community involved through the decorated store fronts.

Businesses are asked to dress up the store front, store interior or have staff dress in the western wear seen everywhere during Whoop-Up Days.

There are three categories: Best

Store Front Decoration; Best Interior Decoration; and Best Dressed Staff with Personality. Don't forget to say, Howdy Partner!

The winner in each category will be announced Saturday, Aug. 13. The winners will receive a plaque and 10 admissions to Whoop-Up Days.

Runners up will receive certificates of appreciation.

The contest is open to any business and judging will be conducted at random throughout Whoop-Up Days, between Aug. 9-12.

ED DIETRICH DENTURE CLINIC
1009 - 3 Ave S (by CJOC)
328-7684

Lighten up, urges oil boss

MEDICINE HAT (CP) — Albertans are taking environmental concerns too far and could be hurting their standard of living, says an oil company owner. The oil industry

helps pay the province's bills and raises Albertans' standard of living so it should be given consideration when environmentalists want to cordon off areas for ecological reserves, said Paul Krachy, president of GEX Resources Ltd.

Whoop-Up Days Summer Fair

STICKHORSE REGISTRATION

(Centre Court Park Place Mall)

Saturday, Aug. 6 • 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 7 • 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Needed:

- Meet "Windy Whiskers" and Miss Rodeo Canada Wendi Lunde
- 8 Finalists each night of the rodeo (ages: 1-6 years)

ORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STICKHORSE BARREL RACING

AT RODEO - AUGUST 11 to 14

PRIZES FOR EACH FINALIST

- Belt Buckle for Best-Dressed Cowboy or Cowgirl
- West Coast Amusement Tickets
- 6 Pack of Coca-Cola Classic
- Admission to Rodeo for 1 Parent and Finalist

Grand Prize drawn from finalists:
1 Boy's and 1 Girl's Bicycle on Sunday Afternoon

— SPONSORS —
MICRO-AGE COMPUTERS
Call Lethbridge Exhibition for more information...
328-4491

LUXURY THAT WILL TAKE YOU TO THE BANK, NOT THE CLEANERS.

With a V6, 172 horsepower engine, 24 valves, ABS brakes (a on alarm system, and EDI be a quick deposit! Because the new Volkswagen Passat is not only German-engineered for affordability, it's designed for a higher standard of performance and luxury. Add it all up, and Passat's price comes in under that of the al performance and luxury Toyota Camry or BMW 320i. With the exception of leather seats, sun roof, and automatic transmission, there are no options. From air conditioning and Visit your VW dealer, and test drive the Passat GLX VR6 or the GLS Turbo-diesel today.

THE NEW PASSAT
ENGINEERED FOR LIFE.

Price based on MSRP for 4 door Passat GLX VR6 with 4 speed manual transmission and 7.8 litre engine. MSRP includes optional roof rack and 115 only.

Lethbridge Auto Haus
3521 Crowsnest Tr. E. 328-4189

FREELINE
329-3733

.....
INFORMATION INDEX
.....

When you need to know, call The Lethbridge Herald FREELINE. Use your touchtone phone to access the information below by dialing the special FREELINE number • 329-3733. When your connection is made, wait for the menu choices and access the information line, then follow directions. You'll be connected right away and within seconds will be receiving the information you're seeking.

SPORTS SCORES
Up to minute scores
Brought to you by HOWARD BROWN ROOFING LTD.

LOTTERY LINE
Find out if you've won a prize tomorrow!

WEATHER UPDATE
Up to date forecast
Brought to you by CHARLTON & HILL LTD.

OROSCOPE
What's your destiny today
Brought to you by L.A. SCHOOL OF HAIR DESIGN

NEWS TIPS
Let us know! We'd love to hear your story ideas
Touch 2 for TALKING ADS - then 6397

CLASSIFIEDS
24 Hours a Day • 7 Days a Week
Place your Classified Ad from your own home with your touchtone phone

The Lethbridge Herald
PHONE 328-4411 • FAX 328-4534 • CLASSIFIED 328-4413 • CIRCULATION 37,101 • COST OF COPY 1.00 • 55¢ PER COPY
P.O. Box 178, 2nd - 7th Street South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 1Y1. OFFICE HOURS: Mon. to Fri. 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Cdn. Reg. No. 1234567. CIRCULATION (Printed Matter) Mon. to Fri. 12,345; Sat. 1,234; Sun. 1,234; Total 14,813 per week.