

Annual contest grows in stature

Laurie Sharland has again done her thing this year adding sponsors and bringing prize money to \$10,000 making the Stampede Queen contest a high quality affair.

For 16 years the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Queen has shared her duties with two princesses.

This year she shares them with only one.

Sharland, who has co-ordinated the competition since 1970, says they are following the rules set down by the Miss Rodeo Canada board which she heads.

The two, who represent Medicine Hat at various rodeos, will have their work cut out for them, for not only are there extra rodeos to attend, they will promote the opening of new businesses and speak at service club functions.

The contest has come a long way. Back in 1970, (after 15 years with-

out one), the queen was crowned on an outdoor stage downtown.

There was no dance or dinner, the speeches were also held outside and they were for just two minutes.

And, according to Sharland, the horsemanship consisted of "can you mount and ride your horse?"

Now the queen is crowned at the Cypress Centre, the speeches are five minutes long, the girls seem to do a great deal of eating during the week-long contest, and horsemanship nets 40 per cent of the marks.

Over the years East Texas-style dancing has been added to the agenda, so has a fashion show, a tea for contestants, mothers and directors' wives; media interviews, visits to senior citizen homes and last, but not least, a swim party.

Maybe if they turned it more into a beauty pageant and added a swimsuit section the crowds would be bigger.



DUNK-A-COP—Members of the Medicine Hat Police Service are offering a Stampede special for Hatters who might still be a little hot under the collar about a traffic ticket. They are volunteering their time to run the dunking booth on the grounds with proceeds going to the Women's Shelter. The booth will be set up from Thursday to Saturday.

Living ideas sought

Officials are looking for ways to improve the horticulture and better living section of the Stampede, says chairman John Van Kuelen.

A suggestion box has been added to the display section in the Cypress Centre so people can submit their ideas, he says.

"What we'd like to see from people is some good comments, something we can work with."

Suggestions made during the show are considered by the committee over the winter months, Van Kuelen says.

"It's slow going but that's the kind of route we've taken," he says.

Interest in the better living and horticulture section is increasing, with a total of 622 entries in 1986 over 362 in 1983, Van Kuelen says.

And each year the board tries to improve on the event.

One such improvement was to bring in someone to check for bugs and diseases that used to infect houseplants entered in the show, he says.

Specialists from the Brooks horticultural centre are usually asked to judge the competition and all judges are qualified, says Van Kuelen.

Entries in the horticulture section include cut flowers, potted plants, vegetables and fruits. Seed grains and grasses can also be entered.

The Better Living section includes knitting and crochet, needlework and embroidery, clothing construction, weaving and miscellaneous handicrafts.

Canning, breads, cookies, pastry and cake decorating are also included.

Junior sewing and handicrafts for ages 12 and under and 13 and over is another Better Living category.

STAMPEDE SPECIAL

Selected Stock

Boulet Boots

ALL LEATHER QUALITY

\$99

Reg. to \$165.00

Green Shoes

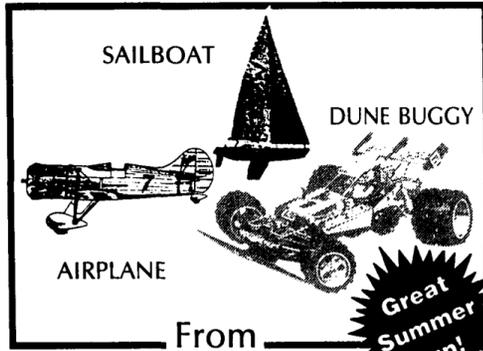
Mens

626 - 3rd St. S.E. 526-6357

PROUD TO SERVE YOU DOWNTOWN!

Great Ideas For Summer!

How About a Remote Controlled



DAD'S HOBBY SHOP

Specializing in Toys for Big Boys!

531 - 3rd Street S.E.

Phone 527-4033

Ask About Our Layaway Plan.

CLOSED MONDAYS

WANTED ENTERTAINMENT, ALIAS GOOD FOOD REWARD

A Good Time & Good Taste

Featured During Stampede Week

CANTEEN

Thursday Afternoon
DUKES

Thursday, Friday,
Saturday

DWAYNE FETTIG ORCHESTRA



LOUNGE

Thursday,
Friday &
Saturday
Evening

MAGENTA

★ DINING ROOM ★

Open Regular Hours During Stampede Week

Hours for the Dining Room are

11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

and 4:30 to 9:00 p.m.

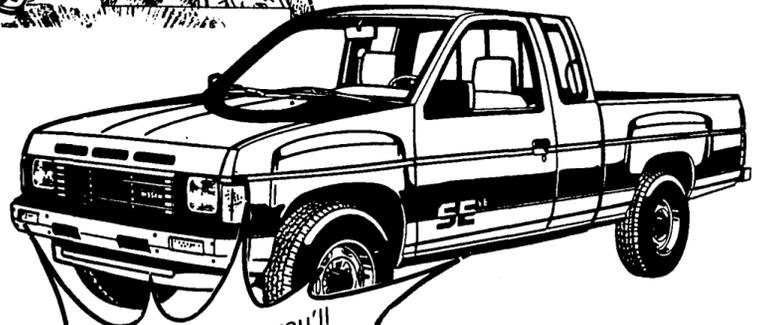
Legion 17

Members and Invited Guests Only



"Come and Git it"

The Best Deals Around!



...at Skyway Nissan you'll never get a better deal for a truck than these 1987 King Cabs from

\$10,498



Make your next deal at:

Skyway Nissan

Medicine Hat's #1 Import Dealer

1209 Trans Canada Hwy.

Phone 526-6228