

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

an Reid stopped in Edmonton to show some of the Golden Sheaf winners from the Yorkton Film Festival. The only Alberta-produced entry to win an award was Wendy Wacko's documentary **Herman Buhl - Nanga Parbatt**. It picked up a craft award for best sound editing.

Reid claims the competition was still, and organizers are especially pleased at the number of independent filmmakers represented. Reid estimates that 60-75 percent of Canadian producers had submitted entries. But the NFB production **Ikwe** picked up most of the major awards, including Superchannel's \$1,000 cash award for best script. Superchannel rep Glynnis Whiting took time off of **Stone Fox** to present it at Yorkton.

Tony Allard of Superchannel and a squad of producers from Hanna-Barbera and Taft Entertainment Productions have been fidgeting over temperamental weather - "not enough snow and then too much of it" - and flu bugs that threaten **Stone Fox's** production schedule. Old-timer Buddy

Ebsen stayed fit, but 13-year-old star Joey Cramer was sick for two days.

The wrap date was still set for Dec. 17. Cast and crew will move to Pinscher Creek in southwestern Alberta for the last five days of shooting.

Stone Fox is one of the largest-budget productions to be filmed in Edmonton. At \$3.5 million, it is certainly one of the largest Canadian productions. Director Harvey Hart, D.O.P. Richard Leiterman, and the majority of the cast are Canadian. Ironically, it will premiere on an American television network. NBC is set to air it later this spring as part of a five-part series of family movie presentations.

Just before **Stone Fox** crews, were scheduled to leave for Pinscher Creek, crews on Bo Ho Films' latest feature returned. Bo Ho Films and Vancouver-based director/star Sammo Hung shot a Canadian-produced feature in Edmonton last summer. The new project is financed through Hong Kong and uses locations in central Alberta.

Alan Stein thinks he may

keep crews busy after Christmas. His association with Alliance Entertainment was announced a year ago, and now he says "We should be shooting by the first part of the year." The project, **Smoke Bellew**, is a mini-series based on stories by Jack London.

Stein describes his deal with Alliance as representing "a two-way street." Stein will produce the mini-series and he and Alliance are "in negotiation" on an Alberta film that Alliance will get financed. Production on that might go through for next fall. Stein won't say what this project might be, but he says "it's in every sense an Alberta film."

The Edmonton film community is bracing itself against a severe recession and impending government cutbacks by organizing a series of screenings. Lynn Miller of AMPIA and Glynis Whiting think that the "Brown Bag" noon-hour screenings of local producers' work will boost morale and improve communication. Whiting says "I really feel it can make a difference." The direct advantage will be that it can "get producers familiar with people" - including crew members and reps from government agencies.

Petra

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