

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Linda Kupecek

The Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation, the \$3 million loan-bank established by the Alberta government in 1982 to offset the geographical disadvantages encountered by Alberta filmmakers, is now at the midpoint of its predicted lifespan.

Under the mandate which emphasizes commercial viability, benefit to Albertans, and the commitment and experience of the producer involved, 50 projects have been loaned "seed" money, with eight projects completed so far. The most high profile of these range from the pay-TV comedy western, *Draw!* (starring Kirk Douglas and James Coburn, but funded nevertheless because of the significant numbers of Albertan cast and crew hired by the production, and shot entirely on location in Alberta) to the contemporary drama *Loyalties*, a feature directed by award-winning producer/director Anne Wheeler of Edmonton, produced in association with Lauron International of Toronto. But the AMPDC also extends a helping hand to mini-series, pilots and documentaries, as long as the projects meet the criteria for funding. Although the AMPDC is committed to nurturing Alberta producers, it also focuses on the development of the Alberta industry, allowing out-of-province companies to mine its funds... but only if the production benefits the Alberta film community and economy.

Producers may borrow up to 60 per cent of their development budget to a maximum of \$200,000. Despite their oil-rich turf, Albertans (like other regional artists) are isolated from the financial power-sources of central Canada, with access to Telefilm Canada and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation always more costly whether in telephone bills, time and travel. The Alberta government hoped to amend that inequity with the AMPDC.

AMPDC President Lorne MacPherson and vice-president C.C. (Caryl) Brandt are in the process of assessing the AMPDC's role - past, present and future. A new computer program will not only analyze the 50 projects on hand, but will eventually allow producers with compatible systems to exchange information with the AMPDC office. The corporation computer is a hard-disk Corona using DOS 2.0, with Enable package. MacPherson and Brandt are inviting Alberta producers to contact the office in Canmore for details on the

computers now being used.

The AMPDC advisory committee consists of chairman Arvi Liimatainen (Kicking Horse Productions); producer/director/writer Anne Wheeler;

Garry Toth (HBW/Toth Productions, Calgary); Michael Hamm (Frame 30) and two new members, George Christoff (FilmWest) and writer Sharon Riis. The committee meets quarterly with AMPDC staff to consider loan applications to be presented to the board of directors. The small network of the Alberta indus-

try involves many professionals in cross crafts, disciplines and productions, with hype-nates in abundance. Therefore the AMPDC's policy requires any committee member who is involved with a project under consideration to be excused from discussion or decision.

Meanwhile, the AMPDC, working with the Film Industry

Development Office of Alberta Economic Development in Edmonton, attempts to promote and develop the Alberta film and video industry. While Lorne MacPherson counsels on development, investment, and funding, William Marsden of the Film Industry Development Office, promotes the

# BEFORE BEGINNING VIDEO POST-PRODUCTION, ASK QUESTIONS

## QUESTION #4 - THE EDITOR?

Probably the most important decision relating to your choice of editing house, you have to determine what kind of editor you want. Highly creative? Technically competent? Most likely a combination of both! Try to include your editor in your earliest meetings at the post-production facility and remember that it is always preferable to have the same editor complete both the off-line and on-line for reasons of continuity and efficiency.

Watch this spot in coming months for more helpful questions about video post-production.

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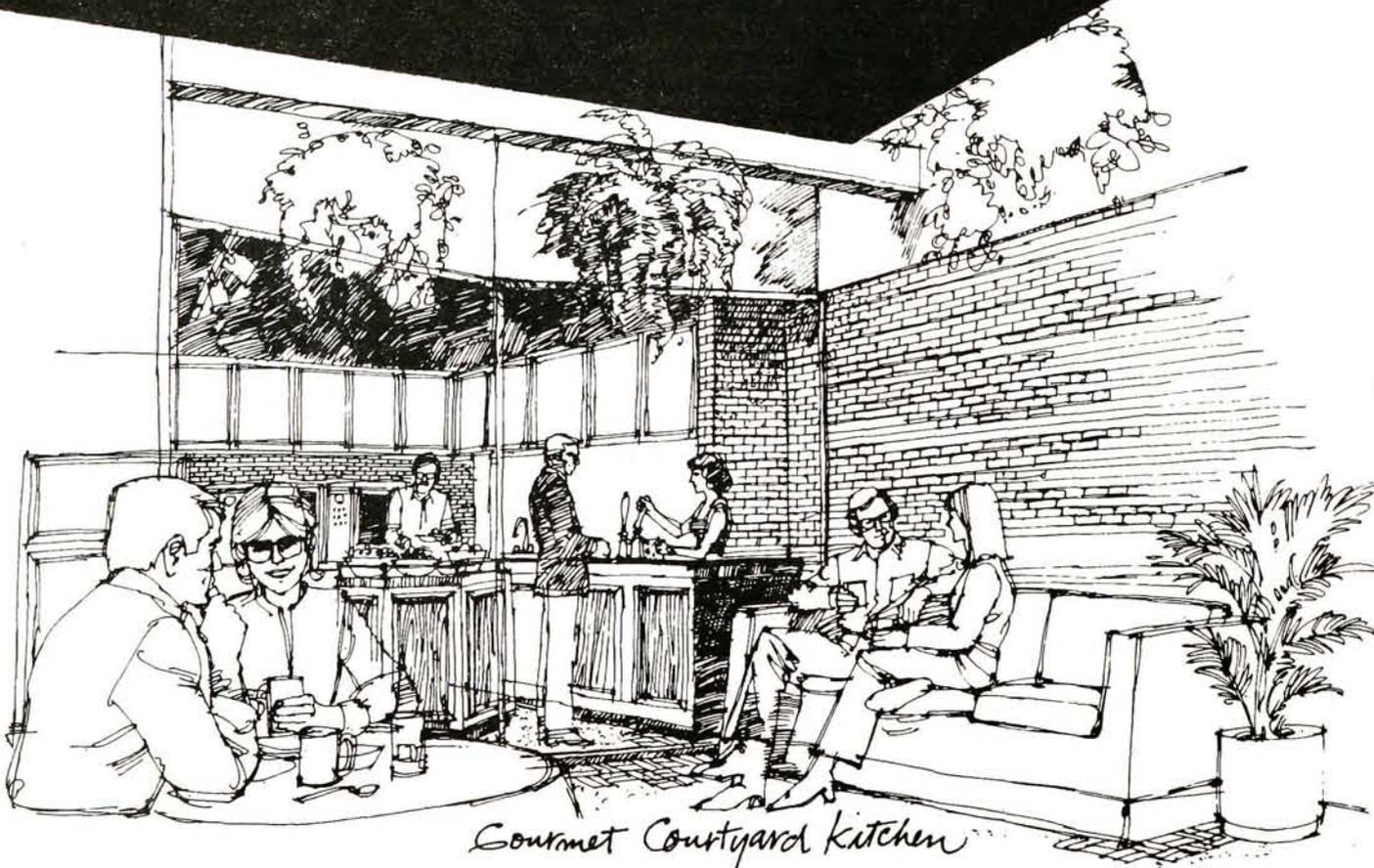
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benefits of shooting in Alberta (no sales tax, favorable U.S. exchange, diverse terrain and long hours of sunlight) to international production companies.

An AMPDC-assisted pilot has completed shooting in St. Alberta, a suburb of Edmonton. **Good Times at the Rainbow Bar and Grill**, filmed on location April 14-19 at the historic Bruin Inn, was produced by the Snack Bar Film Corporation (Toronto) - Michael

Lebowitz (executive producer) - in association with Kicking Horse Productions (Edmonton) - Arvi Liimatainen, co-producer - and the CBC, Telefilm Canada, the AMPDC, Simcom and Allarcom. Twenty-six of the 33 members of the production unit are Al-

bertans. Veteran Canadian star Don Francks plays a down and out rock'n'roller whose past success with a song titled "Good Times at the Rainbow Bar and Grill" inspire him to invest in his own rock music club in a small town in Alberta. A

menagerie of family, friends and staff (played by Lisa Langlois, Cree Summer Francks, Barry Flatman, Ken Brown, Wendy Lands and the delightful Susan Sneath) complicate his life amid the rock'n'rolling of this television comedy series.

Directed by Timothy Bond (**Oakmount High**), **Good Times at the Rainbow Bar and Grill** was created by Phil Savath and Michael Lebowitz, and written by Phil Savath, with original music by Fred Mollin.

**Good Times at the Rainbow Bar and Grill** may herald other good times for the Alberta industry (in a darkening economic climate) with at least two more indigenous productions slated for early summer, and four foreign features scouting for summer and fall shoots.

Moving from the commercial to the cultural, The Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers has scheduled a full slate of short films. **Buck: When I Was a Cowboy**, **Morleyville Mission**, and **The Wait** are in production, while **Bodies and Pleasures** (a collaboration of Nowell Berg and Douglas Berquist) and **Coffee with Charlie** are in pre-production. CSIF coordinator, performance artist Marcella Bienvenue recently guested on CBC's **Brave New Waves**.

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**WE WELCOME INFORMATION ON YOUR VIDEO PRODUCTIONS AS WELL.**

## Sword of Gideon held by Hirsch

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL - A bitter retired agent of Israel's secret service, the Mossad, is the latest role for and the first screen appearance of John Hirsch, onetime head of CBC TV-Drama and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival's former artistic director.

The Alliance Entertainment Corp. production, which formally bore the working title **Vengeance** from the George Jonas novel of the same name on which it's based, was retitled to **Sword of Gideon**. The HBO and CTV television miniseries, with other shooting locales that include Montreal, Paris, London, Rome, and New York, is based on the factual account of the man chosen by former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir to head an anti-terrorist squad charged with avenging the 1972 Munich Olympic Games massacre of 11 Israeli athletes. Executive producers are Denis Héroux and John Kennedy, with Robert Lantos, producer.