

SHOOT ALBERTA

by Stacy Bertles

Allarcom held a press conference late April to announce that construction of the largest production facility in Canada was beginning immediately. The completion date is set for December of this year.

Rumours of the production facility have been circulating for months. The deal was finalized when the federal government agreed to a \$1.1 million grant. Edmonton South MP Jim Edwards is chairman of the House Standing Committee on Communications, and pulled the grant from a Western Industrial Development program. He rationalized the diversion of funds from a program designed to offset Crow rate shipping disadvantages by explaining the development represents diversification of the industry.

"We recognize that Alberta has the capability of achieving a world-class production facility...It is not in the national interests to have all such work concentrated in central Canada."

Edwards also used the occasion to criticize inequities in Telefilm Canada's dispersal of funds. Pointing to the "lamentable fact" that 91.8% of last year's Broadcast Fund was spent in central Canada, he said he hoped the production centre would attract more funding to western Canada. "I would hope Telefilm Canada would be involved in use of this building."

Some 15,000 square feet of the 52,000 square-foot centre will be occupied by a sound stage. Support facilities include carpentry shops, stage assembly bays, paint and set design studios, lighting and grip storage space, rehearsal rooms, wardrobe and make-up rooms, production offices, mobile television production unit facilities, full control-room and videotape facilities, and administrative offices.

Allarcom intends to hire about 30 full-time employees and contract 90 other ones on

a freelance basis. One floor of office space will be allocated for independent producers who want to rent the facility: Allarcom does not expect to keep it filled with their own productions.

Whether these renters will be foreign or Canadian is unknown. Charles Allard, founder of Allarcom, said he wants to book the studio with "as many Canadian productions as we can."

Harold Roozen, executive vice-president of Allarcom, said that company representatives toured "most of the major production facilities in North America" and the latest innovations in technology have been incorporated. These include blue-grey tanks for filming underwater sequences, as well as film and video studios.

The centre will also house complete post-production facilities. Film scanning, off and on-line editing, special effects, computer animation, and duplication facilities will be included. Allarcom expects to generate revenues of more than \$56 million over the first three years of operation. There is probably no telling exactly what effect the facility may have upon the industry.

New news: Alliance mega-corp will produce **Bordertown**, a series of 26 1/2-hour episodes about border skirmishes between Alberta and Montana. It is set in the 1880s, making it a companion to **The Gunfighters**, the other Alliance project to shoot out west.

It has now been officially announced that Costa-Gavras will shoot **Summer Lightning**, a contemporary drama about the farm crisis in the U.S. midwest, outside Lethbridge. Stars are Tom Berenger and Debra Winger. Production is scheduled to begin in late July.

Specialty applicants for cable

OTTAWA — On its third call for applications the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has received 36 proposals to provide specialty television programming.

After several delays, caused by policy changes and requests for extensions, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has accepted the applications and set a hearing date.

Hearings on applications ranging from family and youth programs to an all-news channel to a weather service will begin July 20, 1987.

Although no firm time-frame had been set by press time the hearings are expected to last at least two weeks.

Here is a list of applications broken down by programming area:

— Family and Youth Service

— Homeworthy Inc. of Beaver Lodge, Alberta wants to provide a youth/family oriented television service; — The Family Channel of Toronto wants to run a national, general interest English-language pay-TV service for children, youth and families; — Tele-Jeunesse Canada/Young Canada Television proposes English and French language services for youth to be included on basic cable. Francis Fox is the president; — Premier Choix: TVEC Inc. of Montreal applied to provide family oriented French-language service on a discretionary basis; — YTV Canada, Inc. (Rogers Communications Inc., CUC Limited and Robert Burton) wants to provide a national children's, youth and family service on basic cable; — Vidéotron Ltée. of Montreal has applied to renew its broadcasting license to provide youth programming **Télé-des Jeunes**; — John Roston of Montreal wants to provide a program service for Canadian youth with arts, regional and documentary programming.

— Sports Service

— The Sports Network of Toronto wants to amend its license so its sports programming becomes part of basic cable rather than a discretionary pay service; — Le réseau des Sports (The Sports Network faisant affaire sous la dénomination Le Réseau des Sports) wants to distribute French language sports programming on basic cable in Quebec; — La télévision des Sports Ltée. has applied to run a French sports and leisure network in Quebec.

— Ethnic Service

— Telelatino Network Inc. of Toronto wants to amend its license to distribute its programming on basic cable; — MTV Broadcasting System Inc. of Toronto has applied to run a national ethnic broadcasting service on basic cable.

— All News Service

— The Canadian Broadcasting Commission wants to provide a CBC owned and operated, 24-hour, English-language national news and information service on basic cable; — Allarcom Limited of Edmonton has applied for a new Canadian service to be devoted to news, public affairs and information programming.

— Teleshopping Service

— David Brough of Milton, Ontario wants to provide a television shopping service with public service features; — David Brough of Milton, Ontario wants to provide a Canadian programming network; — David Brough of Milton, Ontario wants to provide a travel related programming network; — The Canadian Value Network of Toronto has applied for a teleshopping channel; — Canadian Home Shopping Network Limited of Toronto wants to provide English and French specialty programming related to home shopping and consumer ideas on basic cable;

— Health Service

— Canal Santé Inc. of Montreal

has applied to provide a French-language health programming service.

— Music Service

— CHUM Limited and Radiomutuel Limitée want to distribute **MusiquePlus** on basic cable; — CHUM Limited (MuchMusic Network) of Toronto want to amend their present license by distributing **MuchMusic** on basic cable; — CHUM Limited (**MusiquePlus**) of Montreal wants to provide a French music channel throughout eastern Canada on a discretionary pay-TV basis. Also CHUM wants to amend its **MuchMusic** license by deleting **MusiquePlus**. — Réseau de musique télévisée du Québec of Montreal wants to offer a French-language music service on basic cable.

— Religious Programming

— David Nostbakken and Randolph Lyle Naylor want to distribute a religious programming service on basic cable.

— Public Affairs

— Cable Public Affairs Channel wants to provide a House of Commons/Public Affairs service on basic cable; — 318710 B.C. Ltd. has applied for a new channel called the **Money Channel** to cover Canadian markets; — Judith Noel of Ottawa has applied to provide talk shows with news and information.

— Other applications

— François Macerola and Canadian Non-Commercial and Public Television, Inc./La Télévision canadienne publique et noncommerciale, Inc. wants to operate a national non-profit, public, general interest network in both French and English on basic cable; — TPTV Inc. wants to offer a programming service for native Canadians and the general public; — Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada has applied for a French language television service called **TV 5 Qu[bec, Canada]**; — Metromedia Inc. has applied to operate a Canadian weather network.

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