

ALBERTA BY NUMBERS

By Tara Hyland-Russell

North America's first mobile library, the "streetcar library," inaugurated: 1941 in Edmonton

Number of books on its shelves: 1,500

Number of visitors to the streetcar library in its first four days of operation: 75,000

Edmonton's bookmobile service ceased: January, 1991

Number of books circulated in its final year: 77,300

Number of Calgary Library members in 1932: 31,236

Percentage of Calgary's population: 40

Number of books circulated: 626,980

Percentage decrease of adult fiction circulated in 1932 in response to the Depression: 7.5

Percentage increase of adult non-fiction, particularly books on economics: 25

Number of questions looked up by reference librarians in 1944 at the Calgary library: 12,000

Number of questions looked up in 1999: 2,003,400

City of Calgary 1952 library budget: \$131,000

As a percentage of the operating budget of the Calgary football team: 33

First Alberta-wide purebred bull sale: 1901 in Calgary

Average price per bull: \$85.17

Highest price paid: \$250

Average price at the 2000 bull sale: \$3,648.68

Highest price paid: \$36,000

Record price paid for one bull: \$280,000 in 1981

Number of federally inspected slaughtering plants in Alberta in 1969: 15

In 1988: 29

Increase in number of cattle slaughtered at federally inspected plants in Alberta from 1969 to 1988: 43

Percentage of cattle slaughtered in Northern Alberta processing plants in 1969: 36.8

In 1988: 12.1

By 1988, percentage of fed cattle slaughtered in Alberta at only seven plants: 99

Number of works in Alberta Foundation of Art's collection: 6,300

Number of Alberta artists represented: 1,600

Value of the collection: \$7.4-million

Number of cows up for sale in Calgary's Udderly Art Project: 125

Number of artists commissioned: 125

Number of pounds of "queenly fibreglass" used to mould each cow: 100

Cost per critter: \$5,000

Amount raised so far for more than 100 Southern Alberta charities: \$1,056,275

Highest price: \$125,000

Lowest price: \$3,000

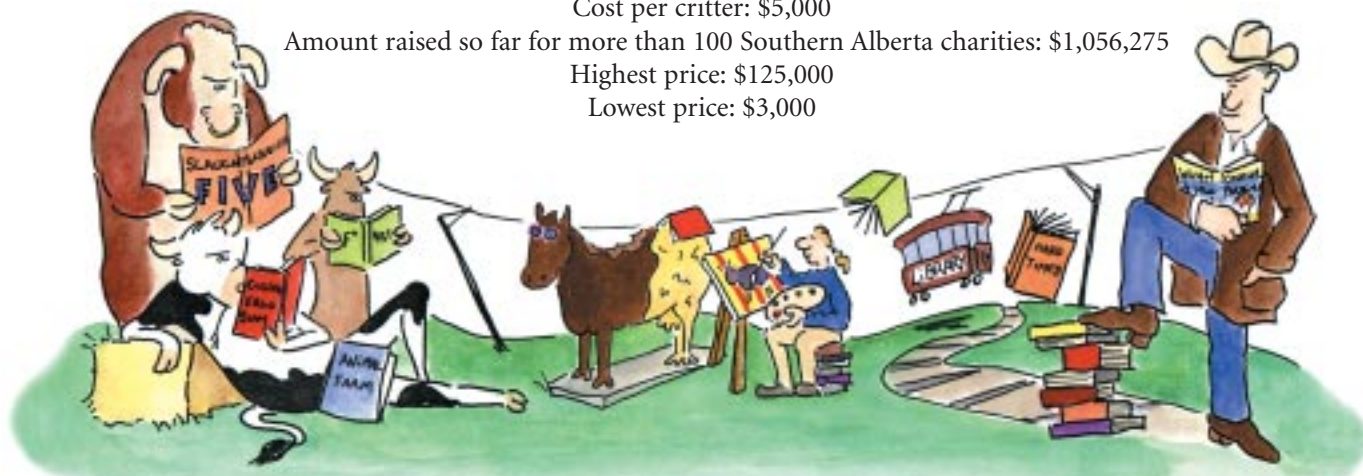


Illustration: MARK MURIAS

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