

Bridge Players "Stampede" Calgary

The "stampede" of bridge players from all over North America to Calgary for the 7-day Canadian Regional at the Calgary Inn was greater than Calgary's famed Western cowboy Stampede, which attracted almost 800,000 paid admissions to its 11-day carnival of Western fun and excitement.

Attendance at the Canadian Regional was a record-shattering 2,195 tables and the Calgary Inn had a full house every night—something that didn't happen during the regular Stampede. It was the largest Regional ever held in the Mountain time zone outside of Denver. Obviously it was the largest Regional ever held in Western Canada, breaking the old record by more than 500 tables.

Several factors contributed to the record turnout:

1—The tremendous program staged by the Calgary Unit headed by Tournament Coordinator Jack Murphy. The Unit spent more than \$2,000 of its own funds to supplement the tournament allocation of nearly \$3,400. Almost 500 attended the brunch at which the Canadian stars, Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela, were made chiefs of the Piegan Indian tribe.

2—Word-of-mouth advertising from players who had been at the Calgary Inn in 1967 and were impressed by the sumptuous playing area—second only to the Sahara Space Center in Las Vegas, Nev.

3—Meeting of the Canadian Bridge Federation which brought in visitors from Halifax, Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.

4—Tremendous promotion efforts by both the Calgary Unit and the Western Conference in cooperation with the Canadian Tourist Bureau and Husky Tower in furnishing and mailing hundreds of bro-



BRUNCH FESTIVITIES included this ceremonial Indian dance prior to swearing in new chiefs; Calgary Unit President Ted Smith in background with hand on chin; next two photos show most of head table occupants: Ken McGuirl, Dick Glube, Marge Gardner, Percy Bean, Joyce Millward, Henry Smilie, Phil Wood, Helen Roche, Jack Murphy, Marge Triplitt, Col. Wayne Watkins, Robin MacNab, Allen McAlear, Harold Shaw. Bottom photo shows the Murray panel including Al Lando, Robin MacNab, Eric Murray, Phil Wood and Sammy Kehela.



NEW CHIEFS & GOOD GUYS—Canadian stars Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela were the recipients of headgear at the Calgary Regional. Top photo shows them in Indian regalia after they had been sworn in as chiefs; bottom photo shows them wearing the "white hats" they received as "good guys" from the Calgary Stampede promoters. Murray on left in both photos.

Doctor, Lawyer, Injun Chief

by CHARLES H. GOREN

One of the tougher teams that Australia will have to buck in their battle for a place in the finals of the World Teams Olympiad in Miami this June will include two Indian chiefs, Running Rabbit (no relative of Victor Mollo's "Rueful" member of the same family) and Ermine Horn. To see which four players would have the honor of teaming up with this twosome and representing Canada, ten teams played off for more than six months of trials and in the end the chiefs' team-mates turned out to be fellow-Torontans Bruce Gowdy, Duncan Phillips, Bill Crissey and Gerry Charney.

The chiefs—they were the recipients of that honorary title during a regional bridge championship at Calgary, Alberta—are better known as Sammy Kehela (the Rabbit) and Eric Murray (the Horn). You might call Kehela a doctor of bridge, since he is a teacher by profession. But when I tried to claim occupational kinship as an ex-lawyer, Murray sneered: "No, you idiot; I'm a *barrister*, not an attorney." Sammy is equally soft-spoken. Indeed, they are a well-balanced pair and a dangerous one at the bridge table, with Eric the speedballer who is occasionally wild and Sammy the catcher

of flawless technique. When referred to as one of the world's greatest dummy players, Kehela modestly attributes this to the awful contracts Murray puts him in.

Their mutual respect is hardly discernible in their brief biographies of one another. Murray once stabbed his partner with, "A dearth of talent permitted Kehela to play for Canada in the 1960 Team Olympiad in Turin. Of course, we lost." To which Sammy riposted in part: "Murray's early stay in Toronto marked a period of unprecedented prosperity for that city's rubber bridge players."

Unhappily—mostly for their opponents—it appears that neither has been able to find a better partner, although Murray played on the U.S. Bermuda Bowl team with Charles Coon in 1962 and Kehela won the Blue Ribbon Pairs with Wolf Lebovic in 1967—a year when Murray retired from tournament play with an aching back that he claimed was due, at least in part, to the task of "carrying" Sammy.

I am not quite up to the minute on what they are calling each other these days, but it can hardly be as complimentary as their comments when they won

the Life Master pairs event in the Summer of '69 and the Vanderbilt Team event in '70. This was one of the deals that helped them capture the Von Zedwitz gold cup in the Life Masters event—the first time it had ever been forcibly exported by a Canadian pair:

Game all
Dealer South

	NORTH		EAST
WEST	♠ Q 8 3 ♥ Q ♦ K Q 8 7 4 ♣ 9 6 4 3	♠ K 10 2 ♥ 10 3 2 ♦ A J 9 5 3 ♣ J 2	
	SOUTH		
	♠ A 9 6 ♥ A K J 8 7 5 4 ♦ — ♣ K Q 7		
SOUTH WEST	NORTH EAST		
<i>Kehela</i>	<i>Murray</i>		
2 ♥ Pass	2NT Pass		
3 ♥ Pass	4 ♥ Pass		
Pass Pass			

Opening lead: 6 of hearts

The Canadian pair uses a system they call Colonial Acol. Their big bid is two clubs; all other two-bids are good hands but only one-round forces. Partner is required to respond once but his later bids indicate values.

Kehela won the opening trump lead with dummy's queen of hearts and led a low club to the king and ace. West returned a club and East's jack forced South's queen. Two more rounds drew the opponents' trumps and South was now in the kind of guessing situation that gives trouble to the average player but not to experts.

There were several ways to make the hand, but Kehela found what seemed to him the simplest. He led a club, putting West in with the 10 and forcing him to break either the spade or the diamond suit, or put declarer in dummy for an immediate discard on the 9 of clubs. West elected to return a low spade—a diamond would have been no better as long as Kehela guessed the right way to play the spades. Kehela reasoned that West would not have chosen to lead away from the spade king, so he ducked in dummy, captured East's 10 with the ace and returned a spade, finessing the 8 to force East's king.

"Just a simple hand," observed Murray, "the kind Sammy plays best."