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CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/MIKE SWEENEY

The Flash Cadillac Band along with the Pueblo Symphony Orchestra entertain the crowd during a concert Saturday at the Rollin' on the Riverwalk celebration.

River concert draws crowd

Thousands gather at the riverwalk for free music.

By NICK BONHAM
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

One was hard pressed to find a seat.

After a while, it was hard to even find a soda.

Throng of folks lined the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk for the fourth-annual Rollin' on the Riverwalk concert which featured golden oldies group Flash Cadillac teaming with the Pueblo Symphony.

"We've sold out of Pepsi and

we've sold out of ice cream," Margo Hatton-Wolf, development director for the HARP Foundation said about 8:30 p.m. "It's unreal."

Held at the Xcel Energy outdoor tent, the free event has grown with popularity. The crowd Downtown Saturday night was a sight to behold.

Hatton-Wolf said last year's concert attracted 15,000 and organizers expected this year's turnout to be about 20,000.

The grass banks of the river were covered with people of all ages reclining in lawn chairs or sprawled on blankets. Space was so tight that thick crowds lined the surrounding streets and bridges that featured numerous vendors and kiddie rides.

Based in Colorado Springs, Flash Cadillac — which had a song on the 1979 flick, "Apocalypse Now," and a cameo performance in the 1973 movie, "American Graffiti" — got the crowd to shake, rattle and roll.

Although members of the group have changed several times since being formed in 1969, Flash Cadillac is no stranger to Pueblo. The band has played at B Street Bashes and, in 2001, with the Pueblo Symphony at a Fourth of July celebration at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

One concert-goer remembered Flash Cadillac playing night clubs on Northern Avenue in the 1970s.

"They were so much fun," the man said. "They'd play their instruments in the aisles and just got

everyone going. That was back when we had dance-offs and pitchers of beer were 10 cents."

A few brave, nostalgic souls left their chairs Saturday to boogie down to oldies like "Pretty Woman," "Penny Lane," "Blue Moon," "Blueberry Hill" and more.

"Do we have any Elvis fans out there? Where's all the Elvis fans at?" Warren Knight, the only remaining member of the original band asked the crowd. "I want to hear all the Elvis fans scream!"

The group then broke into the Elvis Presley classic "Jailhouse Rock."

A post-concert fireworks display closed out the event.