



FRIENDLY NOTES

Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

NOTES AMICALES

VOLUME 21

ISSUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2011

KNIVES OF THE FORCE

**PROUD
SUPPORTERS
OF/FIERS
D'APPUYER**

**R C M P
HERITAGE
CENTRE**



**LE CENTRE
DU PATRIMOINE
DE LA GRC**

**RCMP
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
UNIT**



**GROUPE DES
COLLECTIONS
HISTORIQUES**

The following self-explanatory e-message was received from Ben Gwaltney of Richmond, B.C., regarding an enquiry concerning knives of the Force. Our RCMP Historical collections Unit confirmed that the knife in question had no historical connection to the Force. Editor

Hello Friends of the RCMP Heritage Centre,

I am writing to ask a favour. The attached photographs are of a hunting knife that is a prized possession of an elderly man. He has had the knife since he was a small boy (mid 1930's) on a farm in Northern Alberta. He does not recall how it came to him but recalls that his grandfather operated a small rural post office for several years at or near the farm in the North Bank area of Alberta and he recalls a Member of the RCMP patrolling through their area in uniform via horseback. He wondered if the knife's origin might have been one of the patrolling Members.

He is curious to learn if this knife or one similar to it would have any historical connection with the Force. I indicated to him that I suspected that it was a souvenir type of item and that it was unlikely to have been part of official equipment issued to Members during or before that era but that I would contact the Heritage Centre to determine if they can offer any information about this or similar knives.

Your assistance and any information that you can offer would be much appreciated.

Best Regards,

Ben Gwaltney
5671 Wagtail Avenue Richmond, B.C. V7E 4V8
bgwaltney@shaw.ca

Hi Ben,

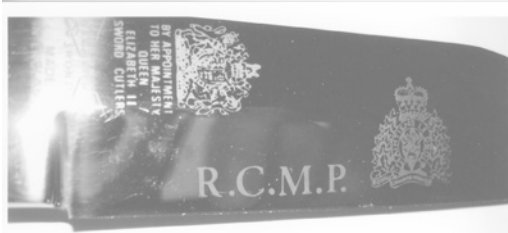
Further to your previous knife enquiry and reply from our Secretary Ron Ostrum, I am in the process of preparing an article for the "Friendly Notes" on your enquiry. A souvenir knife that was sanctioned by the Force as a Limited Collectors item, in 1973, the 100th. anniversary of the RCMP, could be purchased by members at that time from British Ceremonial Imports Ltd. I was fortunate to purchase one at that time and am including photos of the knife and sheath, with the story.

If the 'elderly man' would eventually like a copy of my article please send his name and address and I will send him a copy. Thank you for your assistance on his behalf.

Barrie Nowell, Editor.



Hunting knife and sheath. Knife blade bears the inscription of the R.C.M.P., the crest of the Force, and the Royal Appointment legend of British Ceremonial Imports Ltd., as official manufacturer.



Hunting knife close-up embossed Royal Appointment near knif hilt, R.C.M.P. designation and force crest.

President and
Managing Director
P. E. COATES, H.S.E.

Director
M. Masse

The Sword Division of
BRITISH CEREMONIAL IMPORTS LTD

Head Office: Richgrove Place, Suite 103, 7 Richgrove Drive, Weston, Ontario M9R 2L1, Canada

Cable Address: SWORDIV

Telephone: 241-9555

Dear Member,

R.C.M.P. HUNTING AND SKINNING KNIFE - \$55.00 \$59.95

Thank you for your order for ...~~ONE~~ of the above mentioned knife.

We would like to advise you of the delivery date and the reason for same.

The popularity of the R.C.M.P. Hunting and Skinning Knife has far exceeded our expectations and we find ourselves in a position whereby a priority list has had to be established.

We are extremely pleased to find that this knife is popular with officers coast to coast and we will endeavour to release the knives on a first come first serve basis.

Wilkinson Sword of London, England have informed us that there will be a period of three weeks until another shipment can be made and hope that those officers who have ordered knives will bear with them in the manufacture of this knife specifically for the R.C.M.P.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but please be assured that we are doing our very best to accommodate our clients.

Yours truly,
SWORD DIVISION

**P.E.E.L. COATES, H.S.E.,
PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR**

PL/1jc

On Saturday, Sept. 10th. 2011, on the occasion of the regular Meeting of the Central Vancouver Island Division of the RCMP Veteran's Association a Life Membership Plaque and pin was presented to CVI Member C3559 Stephan WHITE, by President Larry STRIGHT, assisted by Past President Josh PURNEY, on behalf of "The Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre."

The presentation by President STRIGHT was made in the presence of 70 members & spouses at the luncheon Meeting, honouring Stephan for his contribution and support of the "Friends" and the RCMP. The accompanying photo features Past President Purney on the right, and President Stright on he left making the presentation to member Stephan WHITE.



President Larry Stright (left) assisted by Past President Josh Purney (right) on behalf of the "Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre" present Stephan White with his engraved plaque along with two lapel pins. Photo by Central Vancouver Island Div.

AUTUMN VENTURES

Editor Note:

“The time of year has arrived when many of us ‘Nimrods’ across the country will be venturing forth, weapons in hand, to bag the elusive bird, or fleet of foot earthbound game, to eventually grace the “Thanksgiving Table”, to exhibit our skill and prowess. But the following article urges us to move with care and caution, lest we become the dearly departed, and the bird flies free!”

FAIR GAME (?)

A HUNTER POPPED A PARTRIDGE ON A HILL
IT MADE A GREAT TO-DO.....AND THEN WAS
STILL
IT SEEMS... (WHEN LATER ON HE SPIED)
IT WAS HIS GUIDE....

ONE SHOT A SQUIRREL....IN A NEARBY WOOD
A PRETTY SHOT...OFF HAND...FROM WHERE HE
STOOD
IT WORE...THEY SAID....A SHOOTING HAT OF
BROWN AND LIVED IN TOWN!

AND ONE DESPATCHED A RABBIT...FOR HIS
HAUL THAT LATER PROVED TO MEASURE....SIX
FEET TALL
AND...LEST YOU THINK I’M HANDING YOU A
MYTH.... IT’S NAME WAS SMITH!

ANOTHER NIMROD...SLEW THE CHAMPION FOX
HE GLIMPSED HIM LURKINGIN AMONG THE
ROCKS
ONE RAPID SHOT IT NEVER SPOKE A WORD
THE INQUEST PROVED!

A CAUTIOUS MAN....ESPIED A GLEAM OF
BROWN
WAS IT A DEER?...OR JONES....A FRIEND FROM
TOWN???
AND WHILE HE PONDERED.....ON THE RIVER’S
BRIM
JONES POTTED HIM !!!

Author Unknown

PRESENTATIONS

In Volume 19 of the Fall Issue of the 2009 Friendly Notes, Mrs. Margaret Leeuw of Edmonton Alberta, was honoured on the Donor Wall of Appreciation, following the receiving of a Presentation of a Life Membership Plaque and Pin, by the Edmonton Division Veteran’s Assoc., on behalf of the “Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, for her generous donation in Memory of her husband John Leeuw.

The accompanying photo of Margaret with her plaque was subsequently taken by our Past President Kenn Barker, of Regina, Sask.



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READERS WRITE: OLD TIMER SEARCH

Attn: Board of Directors and Chairpersons;

This may seem like a strange enquiry, but here goes anyways. I just returned home from holidaying on Vancouver Island. While there we made a trip to Tofino, B.C. and ended up going to the Roy Henry Vickers Gallery. Mr. Vickers is a renowned 1st. nations artist whose work is known world wide. I had the honour of meeting this gentlemen at his gallery. It turned out that he was raised in the Hazelton area, and asked me if I knew the name of the member in charge of the detachment in the 1950's. I served at the detachment in 1961, and had heard that one of our members who was in charge of the detachment, had received the recognition of Honorary Chief from one of the local Bands in the area. It apparently is also noted the member on occasion rode horse back through town. I have seen photos of this incident, however at this time the member name escapes me. All I know is that he held a lot of respect from the local people. Mr. Vickers would like to try and get in touch with this member or his family, and pay his respects. Should I have misdirected this e.mail, possibly you could advise me as to whom I should contact. My wife and I have been contributors to the Friends of the Heritage Centre for a number of years now, and always enjoy your news letters, especially the Force history. I joined in 1958 and retired in 1983, then was employed by the force in their property management section from 1983 to 1996. Thanks for all your great work.

Regards, Ron Manser - St. Albert, AB

The above self-explanatory e-note was received from Ron Manser, St. Albert, Alberta, enquiring concerning any information readers may have regarding a previous Detachment Commander at Hazelton, B.C. in the 1950's.

Readers having knowledge of the subject Member may reply to the "Friends" or Ron Manser direct at the following address:

Ronald A. Manser
#29 - 57B Erin Ridge Drive,
St. Alberta, Alberta T8N 6G1

THE MARCH WEST RE ENACTMENT RIDE reached the picturesque staging area of Avonlea Saskatchewan, on June 5th. 1999. It is fitting that such a memorable day should evoke fond memories on this sweet June 2011 day twelve years later. So compelling are the memories that I have chosen to share them with you. My adventure was originally published in a three part section of the 1999 Saskatchewan Horse Federation Issues of "Showtrail".

The following is the second of a three part series.



‘CHESTER’ JOINS THE FORCE

I knew that with the keen interest and popularity of this adventure, good horses would soon become hard to find. Our youngest daughter, Tricia, has a big grey Tennessee walking horse, out at Kelowna, but that's too far away to be practical. But I'm lucky, I have a couple of farmer friends with spares, who are genuinely accommodating.

Now, selecting a horse is similar to buying a used car, you have to try it out first to make sure everything works. Then there is equipment. I still have a couple of saddles down at the farm that are badly in need of a clean-up. A visit to Claypool Saddlery yields the latest in liquid saddle-soap, along with a couple of reinforcement straps. After a couple hours of soap and elbow grease, the old leather is shining and pliable, fit for any self-respecting cowboy. For good measure, I give the boots a going over too.

My farm neighbour, Milo, has three mounts to choose from. Misty, the apaloosa, is a little heavy and slow, Sundance the chestnut is inclined to be lazy, and Chester, the chestnut, is an eight-year old gelding and hasn't been ridden for two years. He's good-lookin and independent, staying aloof from the others. "He's got stamina", Milo declared, "Will still be going

when the others have played out.” Could be just what I need on a twenty-five mile a day trek. “Chester, eh, brings to mind the side-kick of Matt Dillon”, I say, “Hope he doesn’t develop a limp after a couple miles.”

Chester coaxes in with a little oats, accepts the halter and I spend a good hour combing and brushing great swatches of winter hair and burrs. After grooming, I introduce him to the saddle which he gingerly accepts, then I lead him around to get re-used to it. He’s settling down well so I hand Milo the halter-shank while I mount up, just to see how he reacts. I gingerly put a toe in the stirrup, then up and on.....so far so good. Then Milo decides to walk him around the yard, and the next thing I know he is headed down the driveway out to the road. I’m already saying a prayer of thanks that Milo’s wife and daughters are away for the day, now all I need is for one of the neighbours to drive by and spot old Q. C. being led around like a kid on a circus pony!

I dismounted faster than the time in training when a jackrabbit scared my horse and she dumped me in a snowbank. The next morning, after a good ride, we decided to transfer Chester to the Community pasture for conditioning and solo training.

The pasture was an ideal area to ride, with hills and ravines, buck-brush, creeks and dams. The first early morning ride the air was filled with meadow-lark songs and the scent of pink crocuses and yellow cowslips. On arrival at a shallow creek, Chester came to a sudden stop. When I urged him forward, he would step into the water, then swing quickly away to the left or right. After a few circles and re-approach, I knew that the time had arrived to determine who was in charge. I respected him for having a mind of his own — a good quality in a working mount. But if I relented now, I may as well get off and carry HIM across the creek!

It was time to get firm, so I walked him back to the waters edge, halted and held there for thirty seconds.... then gathering the reins firmly, I leaned forward and whispered in his cocked ears, “Chester, I was in the Mounties and I still have my shiny solid nickel spurs. I don’t want to wear them, but if I have to, I will”.

Well, you probably guessed the rest of the story — Chester not only splashed through that creek like a duck, but from then on went out of his way to get his feet wet.

On the week-end of May 8th 1999, when the trek began at Emerson Manitoba, I had volunteered to assist Milo on his annual cattle drive to summer pasture. The

weather had turned stormy with snow and rain across the prairies. It was reminiscent of the first days of the original trek in 1884. Maybe waiting until June 5th to start at Avonlea, was a bit of luck.

The photo below is of Chester, while getting his new shoes put on. A few minutes later he knocked over his tool stand, dumping nails and shoes into the dirt. (expletives deleted) Boys will be boys, but when June 5th. 99 rolls around we’ll be ready, so don’t worry, neighbour.

Barr Nowell
Queens Cowboy, ret’d.



Chester receiving his new shoes

MAKING MUSIC FROM FLOOR BOARDS - THE “ST. ROCH” VIOLIN

After a visit to the RCMP Historical Collections Unit in July this year, ex-S/Sgt. Fred Bodnaruk, RCMP (Retired) (Reg. No.17117) donated a very unique piece to the collection – a violin made of wood from the RCMP Schooner “St. Roch”. The story of the “St. Roch” should be known by one and all – and so no need to retell it here – but the story of the violin might be of some interest.

Who better to tell it than Fred Bodnaruk himself:

“Upon the vessel’s return to Vancouver, BC, it was tendered for refit, allowing various physical changes to the deck and super structure and then being returned to service. The Sterling Ship Yard Ltd., of Vancouver attained the refit contract. Subsequently a crew of specialists undertook this task, one being Freeman (Robert) Cornish, now ninety-four years young. I am proud to be his neighbor.

“Cornish stated that he and the crew first altered the deck by ripping out windows, door frames and stair treads. All were made of fine quality teak wood imported from either Australia or Burma. He believes it to be from Burma, since it is of oily and dense quality. Unbelievably all this fine wood was destined for the burner at a nearby dump. The foreman announces that if anyone wanted to grab a piece of the ‘St. Roch’, now was the time. Cornish, being a good carpenter and handyman, rescued several pieces of door jamb. He had in mind a future coffee table, however his plan did not materialize. This wood remained in his basement until the year 2007. One day he said to me ‘you are making violins, why don’t you make one out of this wood and even if it does not play well, it will commemorate the ‘St. Roch’. Excitedly I took up his offer.

“On initial examination, I noted this wood to possess a fine tap tone, a first consideration towards instrument making. Within a period of three months, I crafted five violin back plates from this teak wood. I was truly amazed at its tone, since teak wood is not desirable to most violin makers. To date, the instruments I made from this wood were played by several fine violinists, all were surprised at the tonal quality, declaring them as Above Average.”

To accompany the violin, Fred also built a small table again using pieces from the “St. Roch” to build the frame and the decorative features of the anchor and chain. The globe that completes the set is made of cedar wood with a veneer taken from the “St. Roch” and formed into the North American Continent. It is an honour to add this unique piece to our collections in memory of that heroic little schooner.

Article by Jodie Eskritt, Curator, RCMP H.C.C.U.



Photo taken by Mr. Bodnarchuk includes the beautiful violin, table and globe featuring North America.



Mr. Bodnaruk with the door jamb from St. Roch.

FRIENDLY NOTES BY EMAIL

Would you like to receive the *Friendly Notes* electronically? This e-mail delivery allows you to view the *Friendly Notes* online rather than through the mail. If so please provide your email address to **bnowell@accesscomm.ca** and your e-mail address will be added to the mail-out list. The *Friendly Notes* will be sent in the Adobe Acrobat pdf format.

The benefits of taking advantage of this include:

- convenience and timely access to the *Friendly Notes* – you receive the *Friendly Notes* a week to ten days earlier,
- environmentally friendly, and
- reduces costs of printing and mailing.

It's easy! All you need is access to the Internet and an electronic mail address.

Thanks to those Members of the *Friends* who have already indicated they would like to receive the *Friendly Notes* electronically.

DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

The following changes/additions to the "Donor Wall" have been made since our last issue.

MEMBER

\$500 Albert Malfair, Kamloops, BC

\$500 Llewellyn Searle, Halifax, NS

IN MEMORIAM

Doreen Young, Delta, BC
in memory of #18822, C.C. "Tinker" Young

Shirley Skafffeld, Aylmer, ON
in memory of #17194 Sgt. P.R. "Munch"
Peterson

Mrs. Nell Ramsay, Winnipeg, MB
in memory of Bill Ramsay

FOUNDING A MUSEUM

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE
ADDRESSED
TO THE COMMISSIONER
R.C.M. POLICE
OTTAWA

Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Office of the Commissioner

Have you ever wondered how our present day Heritage Centre (Museum) came into being?

Ref. No G.838-8

Ottawa, June 28th, 1933

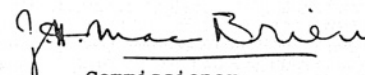
The following bit of history set the process in motion, right from the top!

The Officer Commanding,
Depot Division,
R.C.M. Police,
Regina, Sask.

Editor.

1. Referring to the conversation that you had with me when I was recently in the Depot, I approve of the suggestion that a museum be started in the Barracks at Regina, provided you have accommodation suitable to house the necessary cases.

2. I should be glad to hear from you definitely on this point, when I will have orders issued to all Divisions to co-operate and to send in lists of suitable articles which they may have, in order that the museum may be started.


Commissioner,
(J.H. MacBrien)

NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE "FRIENDS" BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the May 26th. Meeting of the Board, Secretary Ron Ostrum announced the Election of two new Directors, namely Steve Smedley for two years, 2012, 2013, and Gary Davidson for a one year term, 2012.

The Elections will be confirmed at the AGM in March, 2012, at which time brief resumes will be published.

RCMP Supt. Dale Erickson who served as the Force Observer on the Board, will be retiring in June 2011. Acting President Kenn Barker thanked Supt. Erickson for his participation with the "Friends" and for valuable assistance in many areas. Editor.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

A warm welcome to the following persons who have become members of the Friends during the period from July 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011:

Ed Camrud, Regina, SK,
Stew Harrison, Regina, SK

FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Bill Greenslade, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Immediate Past President (ODS) | Tom Light, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Past President | Kenn Barker, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Secretary | Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Director | John Hodgson, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Director | Mac MacGillivray, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Director | John Worthington, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Director | Steve Smedley, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Director | Gary Davidson, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Director | Bob Cocks |
| Director | Barrie Nowell, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Force Observer | Inspector Jerry Gourlay |
| Historical Collections Unit Observer | Rhonda Lamb |
| Heritage Centre Observer | Robin Etherington |

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Historian Committee | Kenn Barker, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Membership Committee | Ron Ostrum, RCMP (Rtd.) |
| Newsletter Editor | Barrie Nowell, RCMP (Rtd.) |

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER/RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTED POLICE HERITAGE CENTRE

- Membership One Year (\$35) Three Years (\$90)
- Life Membership \$1,200 single payment or cumulative over several years to \$1,200 level. Existing members will have past membership payments credited towards the \$1,200 level.
- Donation _____ (Any amount is eligible for a Canada Customs and Revenue Agency tax receipt. Canada Only)

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Enclosed Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov./State _____

Postal Code _____ Country _____

E-mail Address _____

My membership/donation will be paid by:

- Cheque/check (payable to the Friends of the Mounted Police Museum)
- Credit Card # _____ (Visa, Master Card or American Express) Expiry _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Return or Mail:

Friends of the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, 5907 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan Canada S4T 0P4