

FRIENDLY NOTES

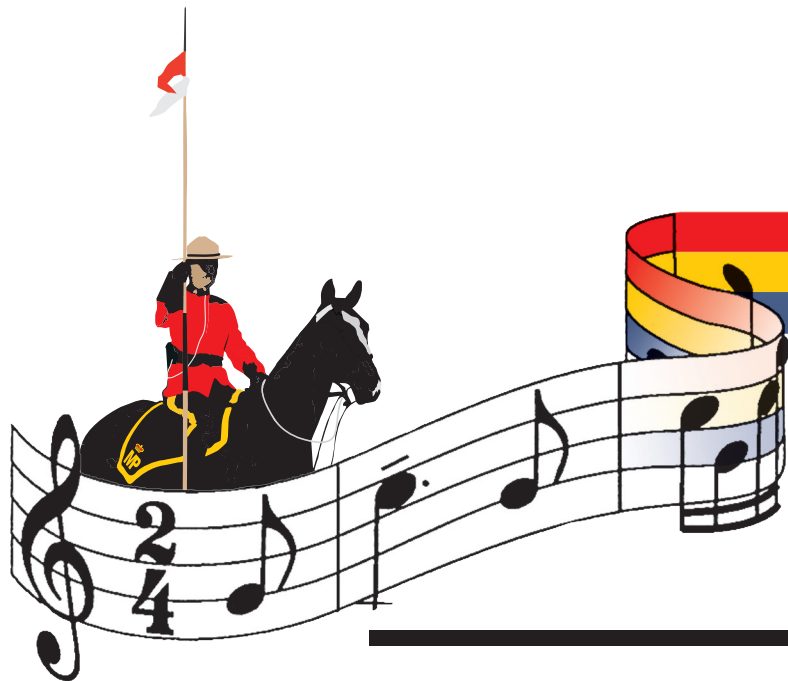
Friends Of The Mounted Police Heritage Centre

Les Amis Du Centre Du Patrimoine De La GRC

NOTES AMICALES

VOLUME 26

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THE FINAL CHAPTER OF THE NORTH ROUTE

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

**RCMP
HERITAGE
CENTRE**

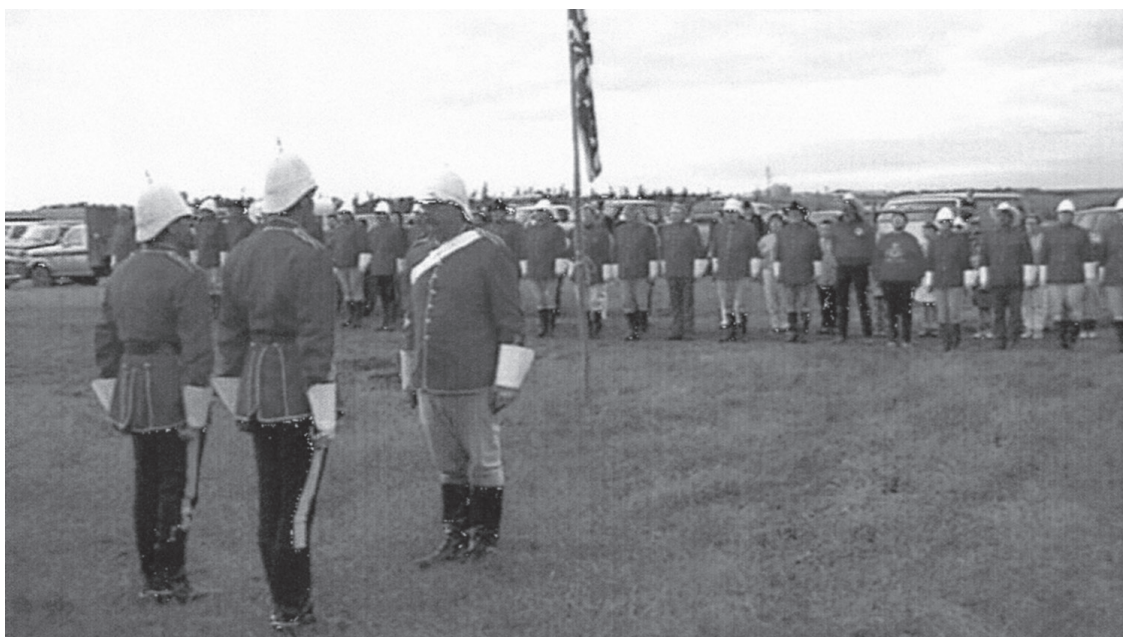


**LE CENTRE
DU PATRIMOINE
DE LA GRC**

**RCMP
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
UNIT**



**GROUPE DES
COLLECTIONS
HISTORIQUES**



July 5 – Muster Day – day to relax and rest.

An attempt was made this day to teach some of the new recruits to march by former RCMP drill instructor, Sgt. Joey Gerich. Apparently it was quite a sight to behold but the troop was soon proficient enough to partake in the evening Sunset Ceremony. George Vogen, whose name I have often mentioned and whose Chronicle of events from which I have quoted, left the march at the end of this day. The experience of the Re-enactment of the March West left a permanent mark on Mr. Vogen. "The experiences and

emotions of the March West cannot be summarized in the meaningful way they deserve in these limited recollections. To my way of thinking all the planning, efforts, trials and tribulations, joys and exhilarations can be best exemplified by the wondrous coming together of all the peoples from modern day Canada to celebrate and remember the peoples of earlier days on Canada Day, July 1, 1999, Fort Carlton, Saskatchewan. Understanding our heritage will enable us to appreciate our good fortune today to be able to live as Canadians. I hope one day our children, and their

HERITAGE CENTRE *continued from page 1*

children can look back on us with the same respect and pride, as I learned to look back on all our predecessors who struggled and strove, each in their own small way right across this land. I'm very proud of them."

July 6 – Hafford to Douglas

At breakfast resident of Speers, Saskatchewan dropped by to tell the group that his great grandfather, Staff/Sergeant Joseph H. Price was a member of the NWMP with a regimental number of 4. He was on the original March West and also was involved in the Reil Rebellion of 1985. He left the Force and married a Cree Indian Princess from the Red Pheasant First Nations. She taught school and he taught farming to the native people.

This day trip started out with the lead Scouts making a wrong turn as they left Hafford. The mistake was quickly corrected with the Scouts still in the lead. The troop arrived at the camp near Douglas at about 4:30. A sunset Ceremony was held with several area people in attendance.

July 7 – Douglas to North Battleford

During the afternoon, the troop was ordered to fall in and the color party to take it's place. Once assembled and F 18 fighter jet flew over. The pilot tipped his wings and turned on his landing lights in salute. The troop arrived at North Battleford

and after a short stop at the Western Development Museum, at the old Detachment, they went on to Fort Battleford. A Sunset Ceremony was staged with many locals in attendance.

July 8 – Muster Day

There were no official duties this day until 1 PM at which time opening ceremonies took place at Fort Battleford with an estimated 300 people in attendance. *"Limited edition prints were presented to the Chief of the North Battleford Tribal Council, the Metis Society, and the National Historic Park. In addition, several parchments were presented to various VIP's who included a Member of Parliament, two Members of the Legislative Assembly and Mayors. After a welcome, the entire troop accompanied by the VIP's participated in a parade through the town and along the river which lasted for about 2 hours. The entire trek had 5 wagons, 8 scouts and about 40 riders."*

"At 8 pm the Sunset Ceremony took place again at the Fort in front of an estimated crowd of 500 people, with 10 persons, including myself receiving their discharges."

July 9 – Fort Battleford to Meota.

The trek began at about 8:30 and the troop paraded to the Library in the town of Battleford and then proceeded North through North Battleford to stop for lunch at Hamlin Siding. The trek continued on after dinner and arrived at Meota at about 6 pm. *"Hundreds of people came out to greet the riders, lining the main street to Meota. A community barbecue already had started and according to organizers, over 200 tickets had been sold. The Lions and Lioness Clubs of Meota provided the entertainment...To commemorate the event, the village of Meota designed a village flag which they asked the riders to carry with them to Fort Saskatchewan."*

July 10 – Meota to Edam

The trek from Meota to Edam was rather short and the troop arrived at Edam, named after the town of the same name in Holland, The village of Edam put on a wiener roast for the troop and then provided some local entertainment, in the form of 2 young fiddlers. After the local entertainment, one of the members of the March West, a professional violinist, entertained with a number of very accomplished numbers.

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July 11 – Edam to Turtleford

After an early morning church service, presided over by the Corps Sergeant Major, twenty-three riders and two wagons departed Camp Edam. *“Prior to leaving town, the column marched by the Lady Minto Health Care Centre where several seniors had come outside to watch the column pass by.”* A number of local riders from Turtleford met the column at Mervin where the troop stopped for lunch. The troop carried on the Turtleford.

“The Sunset Ceremony was very special tonight. Fifteen riders participated for the last time and were presented their discharge certificates. Ten were finished and five were leaving us to join up with the Albert trekkers who will be starting their first leg on July 13.”

July 12 – Muster Day

“Allen Sapp, renowned artist, visited the camp today. He came to send off his brother-in-law, John Berryman and a friend, John Bench, who were troop mates who joined the RCMP in 1943.”

July 13 – Turtleford to St. Walburg

The trek began at about 8:30 AM and lunch was taken near the community of Spruce Lake. The March had to take a minor route adjustment which put them into St. Walburg a bit later than scheduled but the troop road into town in formation in full uniform. *“Stores were decorated and many people were dressed in period costumes, all to welcome the March West. It was a gratifying and humbling experience for our members and certainly a special moment for the civilians who were riding.*

The Chamber of Commerce put on a huge community celebration at the Communiplex. Over 300 people were in attendance, many of whom came out to watch the sunset ceremony. After the ceremony, Ridemaster Robin Kenke and A/Ridemaster Dave Young presented a March West print and parchments to the Mayor and President of the Chamber of Commerce. Music, Cowboy poets. Dancers, craft displays and a beer garden were part of the celebration.”

July 14 – St. Walburg to Paradise Hill

The day saw heavy rains which soaked the troop. They arrived at Paradise Hill at about 2 pm. The sunset ceremony was held inside the hockey arena. Some music was supplied by local residents and the

evening ended early following the sunset ceremony in the Legion Hall.

July 15 – Paradise Hill to Frenchman Butte

The troop left Paradise Hill at about 8 AM and arrived at Frenchman Butte at about 11 AM. This gave the chance for the horses to have a rest before continuing on the Fort Pitt. The participants took the opportunity to visit the local museum.

July 16 – Frenchman Butte to Fort Pitt

The troops left camp at about 8:30 and were at the Fort by 12 noon. The local Hutterite Colony donated buns for the troop to eat during their supper. A sunset ceremony was held and 45 people received their discharge papers at the next camp was going to be Onion Lake and would be a very busy day.

July 17 – Fort Pitt to Onion Lake – The final leg of the Saskatchewan Trek.

“Just prior to the 8:00 AM departure, the sun came through (heavy fog) turning Fort Pitt into a picturesque, breath taking scene. The troop traveled through the Fort Pitt Hutterite Colony and followed the original Fort Pitt Trail arriving at the old Anglican Church around 11:30 AM. The Onion Lake First Nation Community provided lunch for the riders and by 1:30 PM they came riding over the hill into the Pow Wow grounds with the Chief of Onion Lake First Nation leading the entourage. They were greeted by several thousand people and the troop was honoured as they walked into the amphitheater with the Chief.”

“Marching into the Pow Wow and being followed by hundreds of dancers from across North America dressed in authentic colorful costumes was a very fitting way to end the Northern Route of the March West. The pride was very evident in not only our regular police officers dressed in Red Serge, but also the public, who signed on for the final day to mark the end of this historical event.”

The Final Tribute by Cpl. Jerry Wilde shows the pride which the re-enactment of the March West generated during its three week Northern Route trek.

“Rather than single out one specific individual, I want to thank each and every person who contributed to the success of the northern route, either as a horse rider, wagon driver or wagon passenger or support staff. Without you, this re-

MARCH WEST *continued from page 3*

enactment would not have been a success. Each of you signed up and within hours made several new friends which you will cherish forever. I sincerely hope that the re-enactment not only met, but exceeded your expectations and you maintain these memories forever. I know I speak not only for myself, but for all the current RCMP members that participated in this re-enactment, in saying a special thanks to you, the public on behalf of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It is enjoyable incidents and events such as this , that make each of us proud of the fact that we are Police Officers working in your communities, provinces and country to make it a safer and better place to live.”

“The key players, who were hand-picked, without question, lived up and exceeded all expectations. Ride Master Insp. JARVIS (Cst. Robin KENKE) was truly a leader and no matter what problem arose, he was always available to find a solution that met the needs of everyone. Assistant Ride Master Cst. Dave YOUNG was always available to help out in any way. This seemed to be taken for granted by most of the riders, but believe me did not go unnoticed. He was always there to lend a helping hand or fill in for an extra picket line shift, if the need arose. Sergeant Major Al WHITE made this trek a truly memorable and fun experience. The nightly Sunset Ceremonies climaxed each day, with all riders looking forward to this ordeal. The two Sunday Church Services he conducted speak for themselves, in the fact that he was able to collect a large amount of money to help quench the afternoon trail dust of the riders as they rode into camp. Indeed he is a true leader who earned the respect of participants. Mr. Al NICHOLSON, Chairperson of Saskatchewan March West, must be commended for a job well done. The success of the March shows the excessive amount of preplanning involved and his diligence contributed to the overall success of this event. Mr. Bob Cocks, the real; driving force behind the scenes, always ensured that everything was in place as well as greeting the new riders and making them feel welcome. Our military personnel did much more than just help set up and dismantle camps each day; they were an intricate part of the team and without them this trek would not have been a success. I, on behalf of all riders involved in the

northern route, salute each and every one of them for a job well done. They, not only performed their duties admirably but without a doubt went above and beyond the call of duty to make this event a success. Our caterer; Sophie MCCONNELL and staff, not only fed each and every one of us with an excellent variety of food, but each day greeted everyone with a warm and friendly smile. Her crew always went the extra mile to make this event fun filled and memorable. Sophie was more than just a cook; I am certain, each and every one of us felt she was more like a den mother to all, as she always put each of our need ahead of hers. A truly fine lady and support staff.”

Reading the musings of George Vogen showed the writer how proud he was of his few days pretending to be a part of Canadian History which had taken place some 150 years earlier. It was apparent from the reception in each of the communities through which the ride past that they, too, were equally proud of the part that their communities played in the opening and taming of the Wild West. Many thanks to George Vogen for his consent to allow me to extract excerpts from his Chronicle of events.

The total re-enactment of the March West, both the South and the Northern Routes were not something which happened over night. As can be seen by the cronicle of events there was amazing coordination of the trek itself and the various planned community events. From a play written and performed at Wood Mountain to the First Nations dancing, singing and drumming, to the spectators who sat patiently along the trail to witness the passing of the Trek and spontaneously break into their own rendition of ‘O’ Canada, it was evident that everyone was very proud of the part their community played in the original March West and their pride in the RCMP. Great appreciation is extended to Sgt. Rick Wychreschuk, Cpls. Doug Coleman, Jerry Wilde and Gary McDonald for the recording of the daily events which have made up the stories which have been condensed into the last 5 issues of the Friendly Notes. The writer saved the copies of the daily dispatches for Saskatchewan but not for Alberta. The original dispatches were forwarded to Ottawa and their current location remains a mystery.

EXERPTS FROM THE WELLINGS MINT FORUM

(printed in 1972 about the actual events during the origin of the NWMP)

“Many outlaw trading posts, selling whiskey for buffalo robes, dotted the western Prairies in the 1870’s. The most notorious was Fort Whoop-up near present-day Lethbridge, Alberta.

Indians weren’t allowed into the fort, but brought their goods to an opening in the wall. Thousands of gallons of ‘rotgut’ from Fort Whoop-up contributed to the degradation of a once-proud Indian Nation. Thus, the fort was the first target of the newly formed North-West Mounted Police. Stopping the whiskey traffic coming via Montana to the fort would almost end the entire illicit enterprise.

It was an unlikely troop of green recruits that set out on July 8, 1874, from Fort Dufferin, Manitoba, on an eight hundred mile trek to Fort Whoop-Up. The march was to take a staggering three months.

The cavalcade stretched, at times for miles, a beautiful sight of scarlet tunics and black, bay dark brown and chestnut horses. Behind screeched a caravan of one hundred and fourteen Red River carts, seventy-three lumbering freight wagons, two nine-pounder field guns and two brass mortars, portable field kitchens and agricultural equipment.

When they reached Fort Whoop-up they prepared for a violent battle but what followed was anti-climactic. MacLeod rode up to the gates alone and knocked. He was greeted by a former Kentucky Confederate cavalry officer who invited him and his men inside.

What was to become a characteristic of the Force was that their very presence was enough to keep law and order. The traders realized quickly that their lawless days of trading were over. Within the next years, the Mounties built several forts of their own – Fort Macleod, Fort Walsh, Fort Saskatchewan and Brisebois, which Macleod changed to the name of Calgary.

During their first five years patrolling the Plains, not a single member of the Force lost his life by human violence, nor did they fire a shot in anger.

In November 1879 the first murder of a Mounted Policeman occurred. Constable Graburn’s body was found at the bottom of a deep ravine. He had been shot in the back of the head and evidence pointed to a Blood Indian, Star Child, who had fled to Montana. A year later, Star Child re-crossed the border and was surprised by four Mounted Policemen at the Blood camp. Corporal Patterson picked him up bodily and the Police party galloped away, chased by the other Bloods. Fortunately the Police won the twenty-five mile life and death race to Fort Macleod.

Star Child was tried but never convicted. But it was exploits like this that led an American newspaper, the Fort Benton Record, to launch a phrase since – “They fetch their men every time.”

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS



Life Membership plaque presented to **Pat & Gary Davidson**, by President Bob Smart, at AGM, Heritage Centre, Regina, Mar 23rd, 2016.

Photo: Marj Ostrum

Life Membership plaque presented to **Marie & John Pott**, Carlyle, by President Bob Smart, at AGM, Heritage Centre, Mar 23rd, 2016.

Photo: Marj Ostrum



Photo of Hap Armstrong, Nanaimo, being presented Life Member plaque, by President Martin Thompson, of the Central Vancouver Island Division, at their meeting February 13, 2016.

Photo: Dave Shewchuk (CVI Treasurer)



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

A warm welcome to the following persons who have become members of the *Friends*:

Rick Flight, Balcarres, Sask

Andrew McHugh, Dublin, Ireland

Shawn Clark, Regina, Sask

Ruth Bell, Nepean, ON

Eric B Young, Ottawa, ON (missed from last list)

Dr. Robert T. Roy, Regina, Sask

Bianca McGregor, Regina, Sask

S.H. (Sef) Ginther, Burlington, ON

DONOR WALL OF APPRECIATION

The following changes/additions have been made to the “Donor Wall” since our last issue:

\$1200 – LIFE*

Hap & Donna Armstrong, Nanaimo, BC
Ron & Phyllis Schaefer, Spruce Grove, Alberta
Dave & Marie Hoeft, Southey, Sask
John & Marie Pott, Carlyle, Sask
Gary & Pat Davidson, Regina, Sask

\$500 – FRIEND*

Herbert G. Bradley, Kitchener, ON
Jean-Yves Pineault, Vancouver, BC
James Riley, Richmond, BC
RCMP Vets Net, Comox, BC
Ross & Cheryl Annand, Kemptville, ON
Kingsley Armitage, Dunrobin, ON
Ileana Finch, Winnipeg, MB
Brian Davison, Kanata, ON
Donald L. Coates, Forest, ON

*These are cumulative amounts over the years

IN MEMORIAM:

\$100 – Jack Kucherawy, Prince Albert, SK

In memory of Jack deVlaming

\$100 – Wm. J. Smith, Baddeck, NS

In memory of Lois I Smith

\$100 – RCMP Veterans Association (PA Div)

In memory of Jack deVlaming

\$100 – Gary Davidson, Regina

In memory of John G. Mackie – one of 2000 men from various services including the RCMP, trained by Wm. Stevenson, aka “Intrepid”. He was special agent 034, of the secret service group – under water demolition squadron

\$225.00 – Peter Sorensen, Summerside, PEI

In memory of the following deceased members of B 64-65 Troop April 20 to Dec 2, 1964:

#23499 Reginald W. Williams – Dec 19, 1964, on duty Sooke, BC (plaque in chapel)

#23526 Douglas A.M. Robertson
1980’s, Ottawa (no details known)

#23500 David D. Miller
(Deceased 2009 – retired)

#23469 Lyle N. Rockwell
(Deceased 2009 – retired)

#23487 Robert F. Harbottle
(Deceased 2014 – retired)

#23452/0.1238 Charles E.G. Savard
(Deceased 2015 – retired)

**REQUEST FOR
SUBMISSIONS
TO THE
FRIENDLY NOTES**

Anyone who has an interesting article, note, or photo relating to the history of the RCMP and wishing the same to be published in the *Friendly Notes*, may submit it to Murray Klatt at: m.klatt@sasktel.net, or mail to:

The Editor, Friendly Notes
c/o Friends of the Mounted Police
Heritage Centre
5907 Dewdney Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan Canada S4T 0P4

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 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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Join or Renew Your Membership Online:
 Purchase your membership of the *Friends* with a simple, secure, on-line transaction using Pay Pal. When we receive your payment, a receipt will be sent to you by mail. Visit our website at <http://www.rcmpheritagecentre.com/home/about-the-centre/friends-of-the-rcmp-hc> and click on "Join the Friends" at the bottom-left corner.