

son... the same as my father shakes his head when he listens to Rick relate tales of policing in the 1990s and of the computer wizardry now available. No doubt we will be shaking our heads as our children relate their experiences, should they be successful in their pursuit of the ever-changing 'Career in Scarlet'."

One of Sam's most recently-acquired treasures aptly summarizes the introduction of new wives to the RCMP. The following passage from a memorable 'Toast to The Ladies' as a tribute to all of the RCMP wives who have faithfully shared their husbands' service, sacrificed their own careers, often moved away from family and close friends, was given by Supt. Norm Ayres (retired) at the "D" Division Officers' Mess, 1993 Christmas Dinner.

*After 30 years of being married to my lady, it was with great pleasure that I accepted the honour of proposing this toast. We fail to reflect on how much our ladies mean to us and this is an opportunity to revive some memories. Some of these memories will apply to everyone present.*

*Marry me, so you can live 2000 miles from your home*

*Marry me, so you can leave the big city and live in a remote settlement lacking most amenities*

*Marry me, so you can act as a matron and search drunken female prisoners and seldom get paid for it*

*Marry me, so each of our children can be born in a different Province*

*Marry me, so you can leave friends in many places*

*Marry me, so I can chase the elusive star of promotion*

*Marry me, so your work can be secondary to mine*

*Marry me, because I love you and nothing else matters*

*Our ladies may chastise us in private, but they are our greatest defenders in public. They have served with pride and distinction in many remote and isolated places. They have suffered with us, wept with us and brought joy to us. They keep a safe spot for us to regain our strength, so we can sally forth to do battle with our foes.*

Admitting that she's a very sentimental person, Sam says "I love the Force. I've had a lot of pride in the RCMP ever since I was a little girl. I was ecstatic when I was accepted as a civilian member. Had the Force accepted women earlier, I would have loved to have joined as a regular member." That same pride is now being passed down to a new generation. "I have set out to preserve all the memories I can of my family's involvement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

*The above article was written in collaboration with Sam and Rick Scott, Kerry Ramsay ("Pony Express" staff writer) and "RCMP Quarterly" Editor, Christiane Evans. ❖*

**RCMP collector, Sam Scott, and a wide variety of products bearing the world-renowned image of her father.**

*Photo by Kerry Ramsay*

