

# The RCMP Quarterly's Golden Anniversary

Well, here we are! Our golden anniversary, from July of 1933 to this issue: 50 years. True, there has not been an unbroken stream of published *Quarterlys*... the war years intervened. But from its inception to the present time you'll find within the *Quarterlys* a comprehensive history of the RCMP, its members and their accomplishments, that cannot be found elsewhere.

The magazine's beginnings were outlined by past editor, S/Sgt. T. E. G. Shaw, in volume 32 no. 2, page 3:

"Late in January 1933, Sir James H. MacBrien, Commissioner of the Mounted Police, received a letter from a warden of the Meintjoes Kop Prison in Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa, advising that he was sending a copy of their magazine for exchange purposes.

"Unfortunately, Commissioner MacBrien was unable to comply.

"On March 1, however, he penned a memo to Supt. M. H. Vernon who had been named chairman of the editorial committee; to Insp. V. A. M. Kemp, the Adjutant; to Col. C. F. Hamilton, Director of Intelligence, and to Vernon J. Lachance, Chief of the Bureau of Records and appointed secretary and editor: 'I have had under contemplation for some time the institution of a quarterly magazine to be *issued* to the members of the Force... I consider the first few issues should comprise a total of about eight pages.'

"Inspector Kemp proposed that the initial edition appear July 1, 1933, as a special Jubilee Year issue — the Force would then be 60 years old. The name RCMP Review was recommended by Superintendent Vernon, and the committee decided that the magazine would not be regarded as an official government publication.

"By March 18 the name *Quarterly* had been selected and shortly before publication, the cover design submitted by the late ex-S/Sgt. P. S. Reckitt was accepted.

"Volume 1, number 1, appeared in July 1933, containing 40 pages plus the covers. It was printed by Miller Press of Ottawa and the first run was 2,500 copies. Runge Press of Ottawa was given the contract for the second issue in October 1933, and this firm printed *the Quarterly* for the next 33 years. At an editorial committee meeting on May 30, 1966, the contract... was given to Le Droit Printers and Lithographers of Ottawa, producers of the current issue."

The purpose of the magazine was explained in the first *Quarterly* magazine by the first editor, V. J. Lachance:

"For sixty years, aside from the annual report, an official reticence has been one of the cardinal rules of the Force. It was sufficient to know that a job had been satisfactorily done. But the compact little family of Regina Headquarters' days has