

Commissioner Norman David Inkster

On September 1, 1987, Deputy Commissioner Norman David Inkster, a veteran of 30 years, became the eighteenth Commissioner of the Force. On September 28, Commissioner Inkster took a few moments from his busy schedule to grant the Quarterly the following interview.

Quarterly Would you please comment on your family background and youth prior to joining the Force.

Commissioner I don't know how far back you want to go. But as a summary, I can tell you that the first Inksters, at least my branch of the family, arrived in Canada in the early 1800s as part of the Selkirk settlers. My great-grandfather became part of the Red River settlement, which is now Winnipeg. He was a farmer, storekeeper, and eventually, I am told, a member of the Upper House in the Manitoba government. When the decision was made to abolish the Upper House, a decision he supported, he became the Sheriff of Manitoba, a position he held for 52 years. He was in his 90s when he died. My paternal grandfather was a bank manager; my father was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota. My grandfather was quite young when he died, and my father, being the eldest, went to work for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). The CPR is not unlike the RCMP when moving people around, so we lived in Winnipeg, Brandon, and Souris, in Manitoba, and in Sutherland and Broadview in Saskatchewan, which is where I ended up. I attended school there from grade 4 through high school graduation. I joined the RCMP from

Broadview in April of 1957. My mother's maiden name was Brown, also from Winnipeg. I have one brother, Dannie, who lives with his family in Edmonton, and a sister, Mona, residing in Chilliwack.

Quarterly Were you involved in any extra-curricular school activities or sports?

Commissioner Anyone who knows small town Saskatchewan will be aware that in the 40s and 50s, there weren't many facilities around for sports, other than hockey and curling in the winter and a lot of baseball and football in the summer. Summer sports were not well organized, but that was not quite the same situation in the winter. One had the option of curling or playing hockey, both if you had time, but I preferred hockey and participated actively until joining the Force. As for other sporting activities, I enjoyed hunting and fishing. One can appreciate that Broadview, as a town of approximately 1,000 people, provided everybody is at home, was not really a very big place at that time, nor is it today. I think in the grade 12 graduating class there were only nine students.

Quarterly Sir, when you were growing up, did you have any other interests or hobbies?

Commissioner I didn't have any hobbies to speak of, really; I mean we worked part-time delivering meat for the meat packer, and I used to deliver newspapers for a while, like a lot of other kids, and I worked a couple of summers for the CPR. There was a movie theatre,