

permits from the federal and provincial governments were received.

The first two Canada Geese came from the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary in Ontario. These were a male and a female, with their wings pinioned so they would not fly away. Housed for the winter in a chicken coop the two were released on the pond in the spring. Two more wild geese arrived that year and all four were kept together in the coop for the winter of 1957. In 1958 the second arrivals mated and had five young. All seven left in the fall and have been returning ever since. The best year to date was 1978 which saw a total of 60 geese. The largest family on record for the pond had ten goslings. All grew up healthy. As Canadian geese mate for life, the same couples return to their New Brunswick home year after year.

Unfortunately, the first pair brought in lasted only six years. Mr. Sangster said their passing was very sad. When

the gander died, his mate honked mournfully for eight to nine days. Mr. Sangster and a friend of his paddled out in a canoe to where the birds were. When he picked up the female, "She was nothing but skin, bones and feathers." I'm sure tears came to his eyes when he was saying this, and, sad as it was, the female had to be put out of her misery.

Up until a short time ago the geese were banded every year, but now biologists know enough of their flying habits to discontinue the practice out of the MacAdam pond.

Now the townspeople and passing tourists can enjoy these beautiful creatures from mid-April until mid-November. It is quite enjoyable to watch a family stop by and feed the birds, bread in hand. Box cars cleaned at the C.P.R. station often contain wheat, oats, or other grains, which also help fatten the geese for the long trip south.

Museum Corner

by S/Sgt. R. C. Stone

Sealing secret mail with blue plastic tape is a common occurrence in many offices within the Force. In fact, the Force's practice of sealing mail begins back in the early days of the NWMP. Then, however, the paraphernalia used were a stick of sealing wax, a brass seal and a box of matches.

The photograph shows a stick of sealing wax and a brass seal with a hard wood handle which once belonged to the N.W.M. Police at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. Should anyone have an old NWMP-RNWMP-RCMP mailing seal, I would appreciate hearing from them c/o *the Quarterly*.

