

rounded by villages with French names and French heritage. McLennan is located approximately 250 miles north of Edmonton and 50 miles south of Peace River, Alberta. McLennan is in the Smokey River region and originated as a Northern Alberta Railway centre in 1914. It is now predominately a farming community and the RCMP Detachment of 8 men services an area of approximately 4,000 square kilometres.

During 1932, the RCMP assumed provincial police contract duties in the Province of Alberta, and the APP detachment building at McLennan was occupied by (now deceased) Cst. H. MacGowan on April 1 that year. Since that time, 70 members have served at McLennan.

There were many other detachments opened in Alberta, but to our knowledge, McLennan is the only one that hosted a 50th anniversary celebration. A committee was chaired by Romeo Perra, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, and through his efforts a 50th anniversary party was formulated. RCMP Information Services in Ottawa was able to assist by providing names and, in many cases, the forwarding addresses of past members who had served at this detachment.

The celebration was held on June 26, beginning with a pancake breakfast downtown, followed by a smoker at the Royal Canadian Legion during the afternoon and a dinner and dance held at the Separate School gym. There was a good attendance by ex-members and many old acquaintances were rekindled during this

anniversary day. Approximately 250 people attended the dinner and dance, and present serving members attended in walking out order. Supt. Brian Van Norman and S/Sgt. Wally Glover came as representatives of Peace River Sub-Division, and M. L. A. Marvin Moore also attended. Andrew Mungall, a former Justice of the Peace and presently a guard at McLennan Detachment, presented a fiftieth anniversary plaque to the detachment on behalf of all of the guards.

Many old stories were exchanged, and the most interesting guest of the evening had to be ex-S/Sgt. Harry Wickstrom, who served in McLennan in 1939. He recounted how there was no such thing as a speeder in those days because the RCMP car could hardly make any more than 40 m.p.h. for fear it might shake apart. In the wintertime, it was necessary to rent a horse and cutter to make an investigative patrol.

Honourable mention should be made of Ken McWilliam, known as the invisible policeman of McLennan. Ken is now running a service station near Evansburg, Alberta, and ex-S/Sgt. John West, was able to confirm, under oath, and spiritual consumption, that he spent most of his working day trying to find Ken. Ken claims he was looking for John.

The Ladies Hospital Auxiliary of McLennan deserves many thanks for their efforts in decorating the hall.

submitted by Sgt. G. I. Simmonds

"L" Division

(Headquarters — Charlottetown, P.E.I.)

Painting Presented. On April 30, 1982, the Honourable George R. McMahon, Q.C., Attorney General and Minister of Justice for Prince Edward Island, presented a Henry Purdy painting to C/Supt. R. M. Culligan, Commanding Officer "L" Division. (Mr. Purdy is Director of Art for Holland College in Charlottetown.) The presentation took place at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown during the intermission of a concert presented by the RCMP Band from Ottawa.

The gift to "L" Division was to commemorate the division's fiftieth anniversary of provincial policing with the province, and is the latest example of the outstanding rapport and support enjoyed by the Force from the province and people of Prince Edward Island. The painting will be available for the enjoyment of all staff and

visitors at "L" Division Headquarters as it is being prominently displayed in our staff room.

Regimental Dinner In April of this year, many members of "L" Division joined the Commanding Officer, C/Supt. R. M. Culligan at CFB Summerside as Col. C. R. Parent graciously provided the base facilities to host this event.

Members were provided with a most scrumptious meal with generous portions of buffalo meat highlighting the menu.

In keeping with tradition, the junior member present, Cst. Bob McWhinney, was served the first meal by C/Supt. Culligan.

Insp. Jack MacLaughlan introduced the head table with some telltale stories, much to the de-