

5222, St. Petersburg, Florida, after January 1, 2001.

By Dave Sear

RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION 19TH ANNUAL MESA REUNION Friday, February 25, 2000, saw 171 veterans, their wives/partners and a few friends meet at the Mesa Regal R.V. Park in Mesa, Arizona, for another annual reunion. From 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. everyone had a chance to renew old acquaintances and tell the same old stories that improve from year to year.

At 6:00 p.m., Mesa Reunion President Bob Head (Reg. No. 18465) welcomed everyone and had the veterans indicate, through a show of hands, the province or state they represented. Bob then introduced the others at the head table: Mesa Reunion Vice-President Roy Beaton (Reg. No. 21562), Doreen Robertson, Jackie Beaton, William James (Robbie) Robertson (Reg. No. 18006), and Beverly Head. After the singing of "O Canada" and the "Star Spangled Banner," a moment of silence was held for departed members. Bob Head then gave a short recitation in memory of these members: *They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them. We will remember them.*

Ken Johnson (Reg. No. 17754) gave a toast to the Queen, and Gloria Salgado, Manager of the R.V. Park, gave a toast to the President of the United States of America. Finally, Jackie led in singing grace to the tune of Edelweiss: *Bless our friends, bless our friends. Come, O Lord, and sit with us. May our talk, glow with peace, may your wisdom surround us. Friendship and love, may it bloom and grow, bloom and grow forever. Bless our friends, bless our food, bless our families forever.*

After an excellent buffet of fruit, salad, potatoes, chicken, ham, roast beef and black forest cake, Vic Irving (Reg. No. 17484) gave a toast to the Force. This was followed by a toast to the ladies by Carl (Duke) Dukeshire



Mesa Reunion vice-president Roy Beaton presents Cowboy Poet Robbie Robertson with a commemorative plaque at the RCMP Veterans' Association 19th Annual Mesa Reunion in Arizona.

(Reg. No. 17505). Carl's wife, Joyce, responded for the women present.

Ken Johnson introduced Robbie Robertson, the guest speaker. Robbie joined the Force in 1952 and took his discharge in 1955 when he joined the Regina Police Department. He reengaged in the Force in 1968 and went to pension as a staff sergeant in 1994. Robbie is internationally recognized as a Cowboy Poet and is president of the Alberta Cowboy Poets' Association. He entertained everyone by reciting a selection of poems he had written and others about life in the early days of the Mounted Police. Roy Beaton thanked Robbie and presented him with a commemorative plaque. His wife was given a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Before the dancing began, Bob Head asked everyone to sign a Get Well card for Arnold Friberg. Arnold is a friend of the Mounted Police and a renowned artist who has painted many RCMP scenes over the years. Everyone attending the reunion was given an RCMP calendar done by Arnold through the courtesy of the Potlatch Corporation. Arnold had planned to be at the reunion again this year but his visit was postponed because of ill health.

Saturday saw the annual golf tournament. Thirty-five golfers took to the fairways to