

On February 25, Don and Didi McDonald hosted a wine and cheese. Jack Schram presented each member with a copy of the book he produced on the history of "O" Troop's training compiled from the many letters he had written home, with cartoon sketches he had drawn for their 25th anniversary reunion. The book will be the permanent history of "O" Troop and Jack has asked each member to provide him their history in the Force after training so that he can include it into the book. Who knows, it might even be used in teaching the history of the Force in the 1950s?

On Thursday, the Troop attended the RCMP Vets Mesa Reunion. The highlight of the dinner and dance was guest speaker, one of our troop mates, Henry Starek. Hank, as he is known to all, was posted to North Battleford after training and had left the Force early looking at other opportunities (was it to further his education, or because of the five-year no-marriage clause imposed by the Force at that time?). Hank was a member of the Vancouver Police for 29 years, of which the last 10 were as Deputy Chief, before retiring in 1983.

On Friday, those who did not golf went to the famous Apache Junction Fleemarket. In the evening Steve and Judy Onderko hosted a BBQ and many more stories were told, especially about the Ride and our instructor Cpl. George Cutting. On departing, we agreed to meet again in Regina at the AGM in the year 2000.

Steve Onderko
Treasurer RCMP Veterans' Mesa Reunion

✉ **ANNUAL FLORIDA REUNION**

Dear Editor,

The weather on March 5, 1998, was nothing short of phenomenal — 75° F with not a cloud in the sky. Just days before, terrible tornadoes to the north of Fort DeSoto Park had taken 40 lives. Yet here were 135 police officers and their wives enjoying the 3rd annual picnic at the park, some of whom had

travelled from Haines City, Florida — a community where, a day earlier, a young police officer with one year of service had been killed on duty, leaving behind a wife and six children. So, for many reasons, these get togethers are important.

Next year we will do it again: March 4, 1999, 11:00 to 16:00, Site #6, Fort DeSoto Park, North Beach, Florida.

Bob Jadis
Reunion Organizer

✉ **CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS MOUNTIE?**

Dear Editor,

This hand-painted picture was given to one of our local citizens who has lived in Fernie, British Columbia, for years. We are baffled as to whom it may be. Any help from your readers would be much appreciated.

Thank you in advance,
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