

the violence of Custer's battles with Sitting Bull, but it has more drama, more raw courage, more human emotion, more depth and more compassion than the Custer story. Why then, has the Custer story and everything else connected with his side of the story been raised to prominence in American folklore? John Walsh still remains largely unknown in Canada, let alone in the United States and yet, surely, he is the kind of man we modelled our policing philosophy after. He set the standard not only for the Mounties, but for Canadians as a whole. It is a vision of courage, ingenuity, peace and understanding that is typical of the RCMP and the Canadian way.

This Canadian way of policing didn't end with John Walsh. Another great Canadian — and Mountie — Sam Steele, also negotiated with Sitting Bull in the same dignified manner. Later, Steele was given command over Northern British Columbia and the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush. The contrast between the lawlessness which prevailed on the American side of the Chilkoot Pass and the relative calm on the Canadian side, was due almost entirely to the presence of the Canadian Mounties enforcing the rules of entry and conduct as laid down by Steele. There was a vast difference between the early lawmen of frontier America, with their standards of violence and power and those of Walsh and Steele who represented peace and good government.

If I, as a Canadian, have a complaint about the Mounties — and I do — it is their reti-

cence in talking about their own good deeds, their historic avoidance of publicity. Their desire for secretness over their lives and records have deprived Canada of many good and positive symbols of its past. The Mounties and their exploits are a part of our past.

In spite of the hardships of a killing climate, a great nation was born, built on those foundations that the RCMP was in large part responsible for creating. Ours is a far better society than most. We can walk the streets of our cities; in Bogota, there is a murder every 20 minutes, 28,000 per year.

The history of the Mounties is the history of Canada in many ways. Their experiences, their deeds, their methods and their lives have been an expression of the National Canadian psyche. And yet, without making it part of the historic record, without telling the tales, without integrating it into popular culture, their example is likely to be forgotten and lost forever. I do not want this to happen, but for many young Canadians, the meaning of being a Canadian is already lost. It is a problem of attitude, of perception, of crossover culture with the U.S. and a lack of vision. For their part, the Mounties have kept the peace and done an admirable job, but there is more they must do. They simply **MUST** open their books and talk about our history or let us help them talk about theirs. We need models, we need to know about the Mounties' skills (...) They are in a unique position to help bring the country together, to give it a vision for the future by looking at our past (...) ♦

## ARRESTING PLOY

**Twenty-nine Britons believed they had won camcorders in a market survey when they received letters inviting them to a Liverpool hotel. When they arrived, police arrested them for failing to attend court.**

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