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Ex-Supt. G. B. Moffatt

On Dec. 13, 1949, ex-Supt. G. B. Moffatt celebrated his 95th birthday at his home 931 Transit Rd., Victoria, B.C. In the picture he is shown receiving Mrs. Nora Foster of the Canadian Red Cross who brought him gifts of fruit and flowers.

Ex-Superintendent Moffatt joined the NWMP on June 17, 1878, as Reg. No. 189 and was discharged, time expired, three years later as Quartermaster Sergeant. On Sept. 1, 1883, he was appointed an inspector in the NWMP and seven years later was promoted to superintendent. Within the next few years, ill health forced him to request several extended leaves, in efforts to secure specialists' treatment, and on one or two occasions he travelled to the U.S.A. on this account. Finally, by Order-in-Council dated Dec. 20, 1902, he was retired to pension because of his illness and the retirement became effective Mar. 1, 1903. At that time he was Officer Commanding "A" Division with headquarters at Maple Creek.

However, the old gentleman has long outlived most of his contemporaries in the Force, and indeed the learned doctors who pronounced him unfit for duty. It is interesting to note that of the officers created in the original Force—the NWMP—there are three other survivors, ex-Commr. A. Bowen Perry, ex-Supt. G. E. Sanders, CMG, DSO, and ex-Supt. R. Y. Douglas.

Ex-Superintendent Moffatt's father, Lt.-Col. K. M. Moffatt for a time commanded

the Royal Canadian Rifles and later made his home in Toronto. Mr. Moffatt has no close relatives still alive. His wife died in 1941; a son served in World War I and died in 1925. ●●●

Venerable Pensioner Passes

Someone once said, "History is the essence of innumerable biographies." Actually history and biography are closely allied, and this is so true of the early history of the Force, much of which is still comparatively unknown. The story of the North-West Mounted Police in its early years in the west, is interwoven with the stories of the men who made up that Force. And so little is known of those men; so few of them are left.

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Seventy-one years ago a husky youth appeared at the NWMP recruiting office in Ottawa and applied for enlistment. The West was the new frontier—the NWMP was making it a better place in which to live. Orrin Wells Evans yearned for the excitement of the open prairie. Law and order still had to be carried to the lawless elements and the Indians and many of these learned the hard way. To his quiet country home at Low, Que., in the ruggedly beautiful Gatineau countryside, had come tales of fame and fortune to be won in the service of the colorful new police force.