

Microminiaturization of Records

by S/Sgt. Ron NEDIG

The Force recently started a program of microminiaturizing records at Headquarters. The responsibility for the micrographics unit falls under the Dormant Records Section of "R" Directorate.

So far, work completed has been of a minor nature as renovations are necessary to prepare a proper air conditioned, air cleaned area for handling processed films and loading film into jackets. It is expected that the unit will be operating to capacity sometime in 1977.

With the equipment received to date, they have been converting historical files to microfiche and in particular service files of N.W.M.P. members. The paper has become very brittle and hard to handle with age and if the information is to be retained, microfilming is the best route to follow.

Following the N.W.M.P. service files,

the unit will concentrate on old nominal roles and general orders which will be preserved for their historical value. When production reaches peak capacity, plans are to concentrate on various categories of active operational files at Headquarters.

As a point of interest, the first file charged out in microfiche form to Cpl. Don Pearson of Benefits Section on November 17, 1976, was that of Reg. No. 322 ex-S/Sgt. George Sackville Cotter. Cotter served in the Force from June 9, 1879, and was discharged time expired on June 8, 1884. He ranched for four years re-engaging June 8, 1888 and retired to pension on April 30, 1904. Cotter passed away on December 16, 1947 at the age of 88 years and is buried at Dunnville, Ontario. A former friend, Doctor R. D. Blott of Dunnville, recently took up the torch to have the Force provide a headstone for Cotter's grave, which is why his service file was drawn.

And You Think You Have It Rough...

These days it seems almost everyone works harder than everyone else and receives less pay for their efforts. A man on Detachment does more than a man at Headquarters, and vice-versa. Well, if you think you are hard done by, consider this item we found in the May 1972, RCMP Gazette.

Regina's first constable, appointed July, 1892, was ex-Corporal James William of the Mounted Police. He was Irish and had been in the Mounties for 11 years. He was paid fifty dollars monthly and was given one free uniform each year. His duties were spelled out in some detail for he was "to look after the

licenses of transient traders, billiard table licenses, dogs and dog tags, obstruction of streets, refreshment houses, matters affecting the public health, bread, buildings, market, impounding stray animals and birds, ring the town bell (secured in 1890 and capable of being heard fifteen miles away) at 12, 13, 18 and 19 o'clock on every week day, wait on the Council and perform any other duty belonging to the Office of Constable, act as health inspector without extra salary and maintain law and order generally, besides acting in the capacity of license inspector under the Liquor License Ordinance." As you may divine he was kept busy and he did it all on foot and unarmed.