

"Old Timers" Column

WE READ in a recent issue of the "Lethbridge Herald" that on April 4, 1936, Captain William Parker celebrated the sixty-second anniversary of his entry into the North West Mounted Police. Captain Parker is now a partner in a real estate firm at Medicine Hat, and first joined the North West Mounted Police in 1874, enlisting at London, Ontario.

Born in England in 1853, Captain Parker came to Canada in 1871, enlisting in the N.W.M. Police three years after his arrival. With two hundred other recruits, he travelled through the Northern part of the United States and marched from Fargo on the Red River, 160 miles South of the Canadian Border, to Dufferin, Manitoba, (now Emerson), and remained there until the departure Westward of the Force, en route to the fork of the Bow and Belly Rivers. Leaving Dufferin on July 6, 1874, with the Force, Captain Parker passed in the general vicinity of Medicine Hat.

On the return journey Eastward of the Force, Captain Parker proceeded to Swan River, Manitoba, where he was stationed before leaving for Fort MacLeod in 1876. In the same year, Captain Parker obtained his first glimpse of the Medicine Hat valley during the course of negotiations being carried out in regard to Treaties with the Wood Cree Indians.

In his actual Mounted Police experience, Captain Parker, first settled at Medicine Hat in 1905, when he was stationed there in command of the district, with the rank of Inspector. Retiring from the Force in 1912, he remained in Medicine Hat and later acted as recruiting officer for the 175th Battalion during the Great War.

Captain Parker is now eighty-three years of age. We read in the press that on the occasion of the present anniversary of his joining the Force on April 4, 1874, a large number of congratulations and good wishes were received by him from his many friends. To these we would wish to add our best wishes also and to congratulate him on retaining his excellent physique and good health at so advanced an age. Apparently he still strides vigorously to work every morning.

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Colonel T. S. Belcher, who recently retired from the Force with the rank of Deputy Commissioner, was married on February 2, 1936, to Miss Mary Babuka at the Joan of Arc Chapel, Westboro, Ontario.

Colonel Belcher, who had a very long association with the Force, and who has resided in Ottawa since his retirement, left for the Pacific Coast with his bride after the ceremony where he and Mrs. Belcher will take up residence at Vancouver.

Although we will all regret Colonel Belcher's departure from Ottawa, everyone who knew him will join in extending their felicitations to the bride and groom and in wishing them many years of enjoyment in their new environment in Western Canada.

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Another recent marriage of interest to members and ex-members of the Force is that of ex-Assistant Commissioner G. S. Worsley, who was married on May 11th at Comox, B.C., to Miss Evelyn Marriott.