George Cassidy of Ladysmith

He lived to be 99 and was with the Force when a recruit was given a badge, a gun and a billy club.

WHEN George Cassidy passed away at the age of 99 on January 27, 1948, the B.C. Provincial Police had another of the original links broken. Although he had resigned from the force over thirty years before, Constable Cassidy had started with the force when a recruit was given a badge, a gun and a billy club and told to go out and do his duty. The uniform of the day consisted of the above mentioned.

George Cassidy started his police career in South Wellington, and was later transferred to Ladysmith where he was the only policeman in the settlement of over 2,000. Later, in 1904, when Ladysmith became incorporated, Mr. Cassidy remained with the Provincial Force and worked harmoniously with Mr. J. Collander who was made a constable to comprise the whole Ladysmith City Police. After this time George acted as policeman at large from Ladysmith to South Wellington as a member of the Nanaimo Detachment.

One of his most exciting experiences was when he set out in a lurch to arrest an escaped convict who had stolen supplies and a gun and a boat. Using some sort of intuition Constable Cassidy caught up to the man only to find himself looking at the business end of the pursued man's gun. No one knows what persuasive method was used but it is known that George did pull out his gun and ordered the man to give himself up. Thus he again became a boader in the Ladysmith gaol.

Born in Killeybog, Donegal, Ireland, Dec. 18, 1849, George landed in New York at the age of 21, but his Irish blood moved him westward to Cheyenne where he became a miner. Among the men he knew in those days were William (Buffalo Bill) Cody and others who have gone to the West.
In Memoriam

Through nine eventful years, Mr. Brookhouse piloted the fortunes of our magazine until he received the call which awaits us all. Beginning as an idea in 1938, the first issue was published in October of that year, and was at once acclaimed a major contribution to the field of police publications. From the start, Mr. Brookhouse felt that he would have to maintain a high standard in keeping with the best traditions of the Force, and through eighteen issues this standard has never been lowered. On the contrary, there has been considerable improvement according to the many favorable letters received.

Published as a hobby, Mr. Brookhouse devoted all his spare time to our magazine, sitting far into the night in his study at 1872 Parker Street, Vancouver, reading manuscripts, writing editorials, checking copy, and doing all the multitudinous things necessary to a successful production.

A member of the staff of the "Vancouver Sun" for many years, "Brookie" as his many friends called him, retired from business shortly before he passed away. It had been his intention to continue publishing the "Shoulder Strap" after his retirement. He felt that he must have some association with the craft he had followed for a lifetime, and besides, he was reluctant to drop the friendly relations with many members of the Force which had developed through the years from a feeling of mutual good-will and understanding.

A pleasant, fatherly man of quiet and studious nature, "Brookie" always had time to speak to a policeman, whether a member of the Force or of some other organization. He was in close contact with most of the police publications on both sides of the Atlantic. Through his efforts our magazine became widely known and could number among its subscribers people in such distant places as India, Australia, the Straits Settlements, the British Isles, and many points in the United States.

Exchange privileges on material published in the "Shoulder Strap" were freely accorded to other police journals upon request, and there is no doubt that "Brookie" did much at a time he was short of material suitable for the high standard he had established and wished to maintain. So he had to prod and wheedle some of the old "stand-bys" for more copy so that the magazine could be published in time.

"Brookie" will long be remembered by his associates and many friends as a man of character, friendliness and devotion to principle. And in this, the first issue to be published without his hand at the helm, we still feel that it is his spirit and indomitable perseverance which is making possible for us to "carry-on".

Peace and rest to you, "Brookie" after a full and useful life.

George Cassidy of Ladysmith

The late Albert Brookhouse promised international goodwill for the Force. He believed that nothing short of excellence should be the goal of the official organ of the British Columbia Police;

Through the difficult period of war, with concurrent paper and labor problems, to the post-war problems of rising costs of publication, "Brookie" pursued his task of publishing the magazine twice annually. It cannot be conceived under what handicap he had to operate. Many

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