

Mr. and Mrs. George Paterson

By T. L. SHEPHERD, West Plains, Sask.

TO most of us, the words "Old Timer" bring to mind a wrinkled old lady, or a man with a long white beard. Neither George Paterson nor his charming wife fit into that class. But when a man has lived 60 of his sixty-three years in the same yard, that should rate him as an Old Timer. And Mrs. Paterson has lived fifty-one years within ten miles of the place, but of course she came to the district as a very young girl, being one of several daughters of the late James A. Gaff. Affectionately known as Ma Pat, even to her own grandchildren, the years and the troubles of pioneer life seem to have rested lightly in her capable hands. Always ready to see the brighter side of life, both the Patersons make welcome additions to any dance, card party or social event of any kind. I hope that as the years go on, that they devote less time to their work, and more time to enjoy themselves while they may.

George Paterson's father, Sgt. Pry Paterson, N.W.M.P., helped to build old Fort Walsh, Medicine Lodge and hauled the logs to build the Ten Miles Police Detachment, ten miles south of Fort Walsh. Fort Walsh is about 35 miles southwest of Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, in the Cypress Hills. Later, Pry Paterson was stationed at the Ten Mile, and at times his wife was a very popular cook for the Mounties and the many callers that drifted along. Knowing that part of the district and liking it so well, it was only natural that George Paterson and his brother Charlie should take up homesteads surrounding the police barracks, in the early summer of 1903. George left school in Maple Creek at the age of sixteen to start ranching, and, knowing him as I do, I'm not surprised that life in the open should appeal much more to him than "book learning" at that age.

George Paterson modestly admits that he wasn't the first one to start irrigation south of the Cypress Hills. Henry Marshall held the Number One low water right on Battle Creek, later shared with "Dad" Gaff, while the Linder Bros. also had made a start on their irrigation on the ranch now occupied by Jim and Ben Mitchell. These ranches both adjoin the Paterson place. George turned the first sod in his irrigation ditch with eight horses hitched to a heavy John Deere road plow with a man, and we hope a

strong one, holding the handles. Once the sod was broken, they then hitched the same eight horses to a home-made "A" shaped affair about twelve feet long by four or five feet wide and used this as a sort of a grader to push the dirt out of the ditch. For some reason, this type of a machine, if so it could be called, was always known as a "Go-devil". With eight bronks hitched to it in flytime, it was well named, for many the mixup and runaway they had, and "they sure did go like the devil," said George.

Of course, this was long before the days of the P.F.R.A. and the big powerful machines used to move dirt now. George said that, including building the dam in Battle Creek, it took them thirteen years to complete that job. Knowing irrigation as I do, I'd say that an irrigation project is never completed, for George and his son Jimmy were cleaning a ditch with their big rubber-tired tractor and a ditcher the morning I went along to get a few more facts for this article. But although it has taken him many years of hard labor, and also considerable expense, he has developed one of the best projects on Battle Creek that has paid him good returns over the years.

I asked George if he ever used to take part in the old time cattle roundups. He said "Yes, ever since I was a kid of sixteen, to as long as they lasted." That would have been until about 1912, he thought. But long after the country was settled, we had the "Six Months Herd Law" and around a thousand head or more horses used to run out in the winter between the Shaunavon-Manyberries railway line, clear down to close to Havre, Montana. That would be the country south of Govenlock, Senate and Consul, now mostly turned into P.F.R.A. pastures. I can remember one of the last horse roundups; I think it would have been the spring of 1926 or '27. Jackie McKinnon was the roundup boss. He had a few old time riders, and a bunch of young farm boys. But Jack was the type of man who could kid the young lads along, and make them all feel that they were real cowboys.

George said that they used to have the "summer roundups" during June, when they would gather the stock to brand the calves. Then a later roundup in the fall, when they would cut out the beef for



Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Paterson

shipping, and take the rest of the stuff towards home for wintering. He said that each rider had from seven to eight good saddle horses, and that they'd change horses from two to five times a day. Cutting out was a tough job for a horse, and they used to figure that two hours was about as long as a horse could be worked on that job. Of course, when cutting out the beef, the horse herd would be held not too far away, so a change was not difficult to make.

George said that it sure used to rain in those days. Not like the little showers we get now. He said that "the roundup was camped one day in the Woodpile Coulee, down south of where Consul is now near the Montana line. John Parsonage was sick that day (the only record I have of an old time cowboy ever being sick) and had to stay in bed all day. It started to rain, and boy, oh boy, how it rained! Before long that dry coulee started to run and in the pouring rain we had to move the camp, tent, John Parsonage and all to higher ground. Even the prairie became so soft that we had to send one of the men back home to get more horses to haul the wagons." Too bad that we can't catch a rain like that this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Paterson were married October 14th, 1909. The following year

WE BUY

- CATTLE HIDES
- HORSEHIDES
- HORSEHAIR
- SHEEPSKINS
- RAW FURS

Registered Wool Warehouse No. 14

J. E. Love & Sons

403 - 4th Street East

CALGARY

ALBERTA

MID-WEST LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO.

Established by

B. J. Bergeson, Sept. 2, 1918, Member Sioux City Live Stock Exchange

SIoux CITY STOCK YARDS

SIoux CITY, IOWA



Phone 86511—Reference, any Sioux City Bank

their son, Jimmy, was born, and two years later Roy came along. In 1915 a daughter, Meda, arrived. She is married to Lyle Wilson and lives about ten miles east of the Paterson home ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Wilson have two boys of school age and two younger girls. Needless to say, Ma Pat and George are great favorites with their grandchildren. Mrs. Paterson is a great hand to remember birthdays, and while the children were attending the West Plains School, she would never miss a chance to help out with a birthday party at school. Only Ma Pat has that "God Bless Everybody" sort of attitude and when it came time to pass out the gifts, there were gifts not only for the child who happened to be having the birthday but gifts for every child in school.

Mrs. Paterson is not a large woman and has remained very active all her life. Of course, she had a good start that way for as a girl in her teens she used to run, and win, most of the foot races at the local picnics. Nor were her activities confined to foot work, for she and her older sister, Mrs. Ross, used to think it great sport to chase coyotes with hounds. I asked if their horses ever used to put feet in the badger holes and fall and perhaps get the girls tangled up in a stirrup. She said "That's an easy one to answer for we used to have to ride bare-back. 'Us girls' just didn't own saddles!" Although there were still the big prairie wolves around when she was a girl, they never did happen onto one of them when they were out with the hounds. From what I hear they say it was lucky for the hounds that they didn't. But Ma Pat and Mrs. Ross used to trap coyotes and by mistake they caught a pure white wolf one day. She said, "Dad wouldn't let us carry a gun of any kind as he considered them too dangerous for young girls." When they caught this wolf there happened to be an old tent pole nearby. Facing up to the wolf with the pole, the darn thing made a grab for it and one of the girls poked it down its throat while the other one hit it over the head with a willow picket. Yes, guns would be dangerous for young girls to handle, but killing a prairie wolf in a trap with clubs... that was just sport!

Mr. and Mrs. George Paterson have seen good times and they've seen mighty tough ones too. But like the rest of the pioneers of those days their wants were few. They would go to town in the fall and stock up on the simple food requirements such as flour, sugar, salt, baking

powder and a few things like that. They would be well supplied with their own potatoes, cabbage and roots. They would have sealers of wild fruit and no doubt a couple of good-sized pigs salted down. Then they'd kill a beef, and should the supply of tame meat run low, there was often a little wild meat to give variety to the diet.

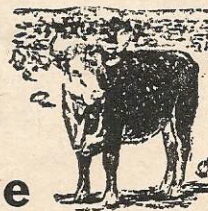
In the tough years they slipped behind a little with the taxes, etc., but when fortune smiled they were right there with the hard steady work to take advantage of it. After living in log houses for thirty-five years, they now have a nice modern home with electric lights, hot and cold running water and an oil-burning furnace. But log cabin or modern home, it is all the same to the Patersons. They make every visitor feel very much at home. During the coldest weather last winter they both went to Rochester for a check-up and were both pronounced in good shape. "Just take it easy," the Doctor said, "and let up on work a little. Get away once in a while for a visit around." There is nothing the folks enjoy more, but when there is irrigation to do or hay to be put up, or any other of the hundred and one jobs around a fair-sized ranch, it is pretty hard to break the hard work habit. But we all wish the Patersons many more years of happy life among us, for they are just the right kind of folks to have for neighbors.

Freight on Livestock Going to Winter Fair

Ottawa, July 31, 1950. — Shipments of livestock going to the Toronto Royal Winter Fair will be more costly this year following the cancellation by the railways of special rates on exhibition livestock. The Canada Department of Agriculture will, however, continue its policy of paying 75 per cent of the freight on exhibition livestock where the province of origin agrees to pay the other 25 per cent, it was announced today in Ottawa.

On account of the extra cost now involved, the federal Department has also decided that each provincial Department of Agriculture should henceforth exclusively determine what stock should or should not receive such freight assistance. Freight on carlots of livestock assembled and shipped to the Royal Winter Fair, and in carlots returning to points of origin, shall be initially paid by the provincial Department of Agriculture concerned. Reimbursement of 75 per cent of the charges will be made on submission by

STOCKMEN!



the MARKET plus

The "plus" margin of profit at market results from providing a balanced finishing ration. **Money-Maker** Beef Making Concentrate is accomplishing substantial results for an increasing number of Alberta Beef Producers. Start one of your Fall Market lots on a test — Now!

See Your Local U.G.G.

Agent for



BEEF MAKING CONCENTRATE

A quality product of
**UNITED GRAIN GROWERS
LIMITED**

the provincial Department of Agriculture of a bill for the federal Department's share. Such livestock shipments shall have been previously approved by the provincial Departments. The regulations apply to carlot shipments only and from assembly points outside of Ontario. Any expense incurred before the carlot is assembled, and after reaching the assembling point on the return journey, will not be considered a charge against the federal Department of Agriculture.

The federal Department has informed the provinces that the conditions of this freight payment will be similar to those of other years under the new freight rate structure. As already mentioned, the jurisdiction of the provincial Departments, however, will be greater than in the past. — Information Service, Canada Department of Agriculture.



Selling Registered cattle for you is my profession.

Past performance is your guarantee.

Write or phone me for your sale date

J. ALLEN BAKER — AUCTIONEER

License No. 207-49-50

Phone — High River 1704

CAYLEY

ALBERTA

REPRESENTING RANCHERS AND FARMERS ON ALBERTA'S THREE PUBLIC MARKETS

An Auction Selling Service now available
each business day on the Calgary and Edmonton Markets.

Another Service Given by Your Public Market

Consign your stock to us in the usual way; we will do the rest. Purchases made on your order or we will help you if you want to make your own purchases.

Please Note: Our livestock market report is broadcast each day from our Calgary office over CFCN at approximately 12:43 p.m. through the courtesy of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Market the Co-operative Way

The Alberta Livestock Co-operative Ltd.

LIVESTOCK MARKETING AGENTS

CALGARY
Alberta Stockyards
55160

LETHBRIDGE
Lethbridge Stockyards
2961

EDMONTON
Edmonton Stockyards
71544