

Weadicks Honored

AUGUST 9, 1950, will be entered on a page of Western Canadian history as an important date. It will long be remembered by Guy and Florence Weadick, for on that day at High River, Alberta, the townspeople, those of the High River countryside and a group of old-time friends and admirers, represented by Indian Chieftains and their families from the Blackfoot Reserve at Gleichen and a strong contingent of business men and ranchers from Calgary, gathered to publicly acknowledge and thank the famous couple for the contribution they have made to Western Canada's growth over the past 40 years.

Several hundred people, gathered in High River's Memorial Building, heard Mayor H. B. Macleod eulogize the work of Guy and Florence Weadick in publicizing the town and the community, and paid tribute to the man in whose fertile mind originated the Calgary Stampede, which was "second only to that of High River". The mayor, on behalf of the people of High River and community, presented a scroll of appreciation and a beautiful mantle clock with appropriate Western design.

Indian friends, dressed in full regalia, formed a colorful backdrop to the stage on which farewell ceremonies took place. The chieftains had postponed their annual Council in order that they could be present to express their appreciation, through Chief Simon Big Snake, of the friendship of the Weadicks over the years. They were each presented with beaded belts.

Guy Weadick expressed his appreciation of the kindness and generosity of his friends, extolled the community, and ventured to suggest that the people in the district should appreciate and talk more about the heritage and the natural advantages they were privileged to enjoy.

The big surprise came, however, when Chairman Clark Colwell called upon A. L. Smith, K.C., M.P., from Calgary for a few words. Art Smith stated that, to the regret of everyone, the health of Mrs. Weadick made it necessary for them to go south to a less rigorous climate. He said that when their friends suddenly realized they were leaving, a spontaneous move centering in Calgary took place to show appreciation and recognition to the Weadicks for all the fine work they have done over the years. In only three days so many Weadick friends came forward that he was able to bring each a token of affection and esteem. To Florence Weadick he presented a beautiful wrist watch engraved "Florence Weadick, a real partner". Turning to Guy, he presented a solid gold cigarette case and read so all could hear the inscription, "His countless Canadian friends and admirers will always remember that Guy Weadick originated and gave to the Province of Alberta the world famous Calgary Stampede".



pede". He said his friends too were thoughtful and had included some cigarette paper. When Weadick discovered it was a cheque for \$10,000.00 he was for the first time in his long career in public stunned to a point where all he could say was "Thanks".

Mr. Smith had previously explained that this sum was given by individuals and not by institutions or corporations.

There was something unique and uplifting about the Weadick farewell party in High River. It was a function where human beings acted like human beings,

spoke and acted from the heart and that atmosphere dominated the Memorial Building in High River on August 9th.

(It has been subsequently learned in Calgary that on short notice 87 individual friends and admirers contributed within the brief space of three days \$12,010.00, that after meeting the cost of the watch, cigarette case and an appropriate Western Scroll upon which will be penned the name of each of those who were part of the Weadick presentation, two cheques aggregating \$11,300.00 were presented to Guy and Florence Weadick.)

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