



Maple Ridge's First Policeman

From "Ramblings from Memory" by Dorothy Irene (Mrs. Raymond) Laity about her husband's uncle Edmund Pope.

The girl who came from Scotland to Colorado, USA, to marry John Henry Laity was Mary Jane Pope, daughter of Captain James and Elizabeth (Richards) Pope of Cornwall, England. She had a brother, Edmund, and several half-brothers and sisters. Mary Jane was a woman of high standards and good morals, but Edmund was a bit different. He was married and had two children, and it is said that he escaped out the back door as the sheriff came in the front door after him. He managed to get on a boat heading for Canada. In all probability he worked his way over. He got up into Quebec working in a logging camp with French Canadians. There were language barriers and he got into a fight and either killed or thought he killed a Frenchman. He knew they would think nothing of killing him when it was found out so he ran away. After about a day and a half tramping through the woods he came to a clearing and found he had hit the railroad that was being built through to or almost to Winnipeg. Well, a train came along and the crew was English speaking and took Edmund as far as they were going. Edmund was a good worker so he was never starving. He wrote to his sister, Mrs. John Henry Laity of Port Hammond, and told her of his circumstances. John Henry sent money for him to come to Port Hammond where he worked clearing land to pay back the debt. Money was sent to England to bring the wife and children to Port Hammond where they lived several years in a little shack on the Laity farm. Later, Edmund cut ice from the Fraser to store in the ice house in operation at Port Haney at that time. Still later he moved to River Road and was Constable for several years in Maple Ridge. After the death of his wife he was grave digger and caretaker until his retirement. He had one daughter and one son. The son, Johnny, was killed overseas in World War I. The daughter, Edith (Mrs. George Donahoe), now lives in the old home on River Road (1961), and her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren live nearby and in Vancouver.

Men used to wax their mustaches so they could be styled. This "Mustache Cup" was created so that the styled mustache would not be damaged by tea or coffee nor would it collect liquid to drip on difficult-to-laundry clothing.



Opposite
Chief Constable Edmund Pope,
Maple Ridge's first policeman.