Kelowna In Bygone Days

FORTY YEARS AGO
Thursday, February 7, 1907

While being trucked off the barge on Monday, a piano overbalanced on the truck and fell upon the ice going partly through it. Before being rescued from its perilous position, it was considerably damaged by water and it is understood the consignee refused it.

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Last Friday, while proceeding to fork hay from a stack for cattle feed, Mr. Gruyelle found a golden eagle in a half-frozen condition on the stack. He captured the bird without difficulty and brought it to town, eventually selling it to Mr. J. Milligan, of the Palace Hotel, who has it on exhibition. The eagle, strange to say, is quite tame and does not object to being stroked and handled, a unique fact, as most predatory birds lose nothing of their native fierceness, even if kept in captivity and fed by hand for years.

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The mother of Mr. D. E. Gellatly, of Gellatly, an aged lady of 88 years, arrived from Rossland by Monday's boat to pay a visit to her son. In spite of her advanced age, she is quite active. She was taken across the ice on Tuesday by Mr. Gellatly in a cutter drawn by manpower and had a narrow escape from a ducking in the lake, as two of the party dragging the cutter broke through. The sleigh fortunately did not follow them and the immersed victims scrambled out again. We are told that Mrs. Gellatly was in the powder explosion that occurred in Rossland last year which killed Mr. Ingram, formerly chief of police. She was rendered unconscious for several hours by the concussion but escaped without permanent injury.

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The ice on the lake suddenly disappeared on Saturday afternoon, being driven from the lake shore in front of Kelowna by a brisk easterly breeze which broke it loose. However, the same night the bay froze over again and the packed ice having accumulated in the narrows between town and Siwash Point, a number of people walked and skated over the frozen surface the following day to the west side. The "Aberdeen" and "York" did not attempt to penetrate the ice barrier south of town on Monday but jointly broke a way into the wharf here. Navigation to southern points seems definitely closed for some time to come at time of writing (Tuesday) although there is still open water for some distance south of the accumulated ice in the narrows. Mail for points down the lake was landed here to await conveyance across the ice.

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Incomplete results of the provincial general elections are given in this issue. With many polling-places still to hear from, the standing of the respective parties was: Conservatives, 22; Liberals, 12; Socialists, 3; doubtful, 5.

In the Okanagan constituency, which then included the whole valley from Mara to Penticton, with fifteen polls to hear from, the respective candidates stood as follows: Price Ellison, Conservative, 699; Dr. K. C. MacDonald, Liberal, 478; J. Logie, Socialist, 76. The vote at Kelowna was: Ellison 77, MacDonald 86, Logie 10, and at Benvoulin (apparently the only other polling-place in the Kelowna district) Ellison 51, MacDonald 13, Logie 2.

THIRTY YEARS AGO
Thursday, February 8, 1917

The honor roll of the Anglican Church now contains 171 names.

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Mr. Lynn Harvey left this morning for Vancouver, where he intends to join an overseas unit, probably the Army Service Corps, for service abroad.

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Two soldier's kits, belonging to the 131st Battalion were found in the Aquatic Pavilion at the beginning of the week. Apparently they had been left there by deserters.

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Mr. W. E. W. Mitchell's launch dragged her anchor and went south during the strong north wind last week. The vessel was then blown across the lake and was later blown north again on the west side, being picked up by the ferry and towed to safe quarters none the worse for its unguided jaunt.

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Last Friday morning the lake froze over to a thickness of one and a half inches, reminding citizens of last year's frigid ordeal. The "Sicamous" easily ploughed her way through, though it made her some five hours late on her southward journey. The ferry "Aricia" however, was brought to a standstill with engines running full speed but by backing up and making a succession of charges, she also reached the west shore. This is the second time in twenty years that the lake has frozen to such an extent.

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Four carloads of apples from the Kelowna district went down in the C.P.R. steamer "Mount Temple" which was sunk recently by a German submarine in the Atlantic. Two of these carloads were shipped from here by Stirling and Pitcairn and the remaining two were consigned by the B.C. Growers Ltd.

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Among the list of officers and men submitted by the British Commander-in-Chief at the front to the Secretary of State for War, as deserving of special mention by reason of their distinguished and gallant services and devotion to duty, are Lt.-Col. G. H. Brush, Lt.-Col. A. R. Harmon and Capt. Cleminson, three former residents of the Kelowna district.

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Mr. R. A. Copeland and Mr. T. Morrison returned on Friday evening last from their trip in the southern Okanagan for the purpose of forming additional locals of the United Farmers of British Columbia, formerly known as the B.C. Agricultural Organization Association. They report a very successful trip, having formed branches at Penticton, Trout Creek, West Summerland, Naramata, Westbank and Gellatly, with the probability that Peachland and Marron Lake may form up in the near future. Messrs. M. Hereron, S. T. Elliott and A. McQuarrie, who toured North Okanagan in order to form locals there, do not appear to have met with the same success as the two delegates who went south.

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At the annual general Vestry meeting of the Kelowna Anglican Parish, held on Jan. 24th, the Rector, Ven. Archdeacon Greene, appointed Mr. J. R. Beale as his warden in place of Mr. E. M. Carruthers, who, owing to increased duties and residence four miles out of town, was obliged to decline appointmnt for another year. Mr. G. A. Fisher was the unanimous choice for re-election as People's Warden, Mr. R. E. Denison was re-elected as Auditor and the following were chosen as members of the Church Committee: Messrs. P. DuMoulin, L. E. Taylor, W. Whiffin, F.V. Royle, D. Lloyd-Jones, F. W. Groves, A. C. Poole, C. Johnson and R. E. Denison.

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Owing to growth of the work, it was found no longer feasible for the City Clerk to carry on the secretarial duties of the local branch of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, and Mr. J. R. Beale was appointed as full-time secretary at a salary of $80 a month, half of the amount to be paid by the city and half through local contributions.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
Thursday, February 10, 1927

The work of driving piles for the new ferry wharf has commenced, also that of grading an approach to it.

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G. H. Dunn has received word that last Sunday's broadcast from the local radio station was heard clearly at Gull Lake, Sask.

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The celebration of the Chinese New Year was carried out last week with much less hullaballoo than usual, the display of fireworks being tame in comparison with former efforts. The one big night was on Thursday, but the bombardment was comparatively brief.

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At the annual meeting of the Kelowna Board of Trade, held on February 8, President W. R. Trench was re-elected for another term, and N. M. Foulkes was chosen as vice-president, both by acclamation.

Statistics obtained by the secretary, E. W. Barton, showed that nearly a million dollars was paid out in 1926 for labor and purchases of supplies in connection with the operation of canneries and packinghouses in Kelowna, the details being as follows: wages, $430,450; boxes, $294,495; nails, $10,140; paper, wraps, $69,185; freight (partial) $24,500; sacks and cans, $95,920—total, $938,840.

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Mrs. F. R. E. DeHart was re-elected as Regent at the eighth annual meetin of Jack McMillan Chapter, Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, held on Feb. 8. Other officers chosen were: first vice-president, Mrs. W. Lloyd-Jones; second vice-president, Mrs. Dayton Williams; secretary, Mrs. R. Bruce Deans, re-elected; treasurer, Mrs. S. M. Simpson; educational secretary, Mrs. J. H. Trenwith, re-elected; echoes secretary, Mrs. J. W. Jones; standard bearer, Mrs. G. Chaplin; councillors, Mesdames F. B. Lucas, O. France, W. F. Hopkins, R. S. Moe and J. Galbraith.

TEN YEARS AGO
Thursday, February 11, 1937

The new executive of the Kelowna Junior Board of Trade was composed of: president, R. F. Parkinson; vice-president, Don Fillmore; executive, I. Newman, H. Mitchell, Art Henderson, Ed Neff, W. McGill and J. R. Armstrong.

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"A change in direction of the wind blocked up the channel of the Kelowna-Westbank ferry this morning and cut off Kelowna from southern connections.

"Express, mail and passengers were brought across the ice this morning on sleighs. Two male bus passengers from the south crossed over the ice which was cracking alarmingly, but two other men and one woman preferred to turn around. There was only one man from the north walked across to catch the southbound bus stranded at the ferry wharf.

"Shortly after one o'clock the ferry left the Kelowna wharf in an attempt to break through. Three boxes of dynamite were carried on board to assist in the operations.

"With a change in the weather and the temperature slowly rising, it is not anticipated that the ferry will have much difficulty in reopening its channel across the lake."

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Margaret Taylor, Kelowna badminton star, failed in her bid for the provincial championship, losing to the title holder, Mrs. Kier Patrick, in the finals, 3-11, 14-11, 11-4. R. Lupton, Kelowna, lost in the men's finals to A. Godfrey, Nelson, 15-13, 17-14.

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The 'flu epidemic was declining and all schools in the Okanagan were expected to reopen on Monday. Eleven teachers and 536 pupils being absent had forced the closing of the Kelowna schools.

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Rinks skipped by Harry Chapin and Dr. A. S. Underhill won the major honors of the first bonspiel of the Kelowna Curling Club.

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"There are more rumors of war than a real danger," declared Rev. Father Jansen, of the Rutland Catholic parish, in an interview with the Courier folowing his return from a visit to Germany, his native land.

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"Prairie trade wants good quality fruit," was the theme of a report presented to the B.C. Fruit Board, following an intensive investigation of Okanagan fruit on the prairie markets.

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On February 7th the mercury hi 14 below and was 4 below on t 8th. The rest of the week was w above the zero mark, the lo being 11 above.