

on the MAIN STREET

Mar. 15/69



From time to time "old timers" and many not so old, recall the days when large passenger steamers plied the water between Lindsay and Sturgeon Lake. Recently a citizen remarked: "In 1890 the steamer "Esturion" was the Queen ship of the Kawartha Lakes. It was over 100 feet long — a paddle wheel boat owned by the Boyd interests of Bobcaygeon under the company name of the Trent Valley Navigation Company."

"She was a sturdy, well built boat with a lower or

main deck, an upper deck and a wheel house on the hurricane deck. Below the main deck (in the hold of the ship) were the boiler and engine. She was fired by four foot slabs of lumber and surplus wood from the lumber mills which was taken on at Lindsay and Bobcaygeon."

"The main deck (front) was used for freight etc., even a couple of cows were taken down and back each spring and fall for two of our citizens who spent the summer season at Sturgeon Point — Messrs. C. D. Barr and J. D. Flavelle."

"The back of the main deck was a spacious and well run dining room run by the wife of the Captain — Capt. Maurice Lane. The purser was a Mr. John Diamond, (or Byment); then there was a deck-hand and the engineer. That was the crew."

"The present basin and docks at Lindsay St. were not sufficient for the Esturion, so she docked on the east side of the river at a point about opposite Francis Street. There was a road (an extension of Lindsay St. N.) and a railway siding through sawmill yards to this dock and on a hot summer day it was a stifling walk through piles and piles of lumber to get there, carrying a picnic basket as well."

"The Esturion started early in the morning from Bobcaygeon, calling at Sturgeon Point about 7 a.m., picking up many Lindsay cottagers (and tourists who stayed at the hotel) — well run by Mr. Simpson, who also ran the Simpson Hotel in Lindsay. The boat arrived at Lindsay at 8:30 a.m. in time for the businessmen of the town to get to their stores and offices and the travellers to catch the 9 o'clock train for Toronto. There were always hotel buses and hacks waiting to pick up passengers."

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Thousands of young people today will probably never have the thrill of walking on a pair of stilts on Kent Street, turning the sharp corners in a rink on a pair of roller skates, or sitting in the theatre balcony passing lozengers to the girl friend and the candies wore the printed information

"I love you" and "kiss me quick".

Then there was the dance for older young people and the box social when the lunch boxes filled by the girls were auctioned off and the young man sat and had lunch with the girl whose lunch box he had bought in the auction for as high as \$5 and that was a lot of money.

Remember the girl with the long black curls who sat ahead of you in school and how you dipped the long "pig tail" in a bottle of ink?

Remember the day you caught a baby mouse, took it to school in your pocket and tossed the mouse up the floor to where a class of girls were learning a song and how the gals screamed and got up on the nearest chair or desk? Remember?