

had been boarded up except for four well aft on each side.

On the upper deck, there was a promenade all around protected by an open wood rail, an open deck forward, and a shade deck aft, with a cabin miships. At the forward end of the upper cabin was a small octagonal "birdcage" pilothouse with domed roof and decorative finial, and a four-sectioned window in each side. The ship had no masts but there was a tall steering pole at the bow. Photos show no evidence of a jackstaff aft.

The smokestack, tall and thin and with almost no rake, rose up through the hurricane deck just forward of the aft end of the upper cabin, an apron around its base. An open pipe rail ran around the hurricane deck, and there was a lifeboat on each side, just abaft the stack. The stack was painted black, the cabins white, and the hull and trim a dark colour, which may well have been green.

The BELLE's first excursion was such a success that arrangements were made for a grand moonlight excursion under the auspices of the Wiarton Lacrosse Club, to take place on the evening of Saturday, September 6th. Unfortunately, owing to severe weather, the excursion had to be cancelled. Pondered the "Echo", "What's to be done with the ham?"

WIARTON BELLE finally passed her steamship inspection on Monday, September 15th, and then assumed her route. The first advertisement in the "Echo" read: "Steamer WIARTON BELLE, Edwin Dunn, Master. The first class upper cabin Steamer WIARTON BELLE will ply between Wiarton, Owen Sound and Lion's Head, calling at Colpoy's, Oxenden, Big Bay, Presqu'Isle and Intermediate Wharves as follows: Leave Wiarton daily (Friday and Sunday excepted) at 7 a.m., returning at 8 p.m. Leave Wiarton for Lion's Head early Friday morning. Leave Lion's Head for Wiarton and Owen Sound every Friday afternoon. Arrive at Owen Sound daily (Friday and Sunday excepted) at 11 a.m., leaving for Wiarton and intermediate ports at 4 p.m. Fare: From Wiarton to Owen Sound 75¢; From Owen Sound to Wiarton 75¢; Return tickets \$1.25. From Wiarton to Lion's Head 75¢; From Lion's Head to Owen Sound \$1.00. The carrying capacity of the WIARTON BELLE is sufficient to meet the requirements of the increasing trade on the Peninsula."

On Tuesday, September 16th, she went on an excursion to Cape Croker, and two incidents ensued. Anchored off Cape Croker, with most of her party ashore and only a few passengers remaining aboard for lunch in the cabin, the first accident befell her. Still aboard were Rev. Wm. Hall and his family, and Miss Agnes McDougall. The only boat available at Cape Croker for landing passengers belonged to Rev. A. Glazier. Operated by his two sons, it could safely carry four adults, but as the pastor's boys had successfully landed several loads, the passengers got venturesome. Into this boat went Rev. and Mrs. Hall, with their two girls and baby, when Miss McDougall, having been invited to join them, attempted to get down from the steamer and, in so doing, slipped upon the side of the boat, overturning it and its eight occupants.

The wildest excitement prevailed, and for a time it was thought they would all drown. Mrs. Hall sank twice before a Mr. Mottram, of Toronto, plunged into the water and rescued her. He then saved Rev. Hall and Miss McDougall. In the meantime, the two boys seized a rope which had been thrown from the BELLE, and they supported the Halls' oldest child. The second child was floating close to the steamer and would have drowned had not a Mr. Ely jumped in and caught her as she was sinking. A lifeline was handed to him, and this supported them until the lifeboat and another boat from shore arrived. At this instant, it was discovered that the baby was missing.

The infant was found by the BELLE's engineer, Wm. Dunn, beneath the overturned boat. When taken out of the water, the child was dead to all appearances, but later was revived. As if this were not enough excitement for one night, while returning from Cape Croker to Wiarton, an Indian named David