Mate Hero in Sinking, Saves Skipper's Life

Capt. B. I. "Curly" Bell, skipper of the 40-foot tug Harvan, is alive today because his 21-year-old mate, Ronald Bestward, had presence of mind and courage to act before their craft went down late Saturday.

CAPT. B. I. (Curly) BELL
". . . Ron grabbed me."

RON BESTWARD
". . . it was nothing."

The tug had just passed under Lions Gate Bridge, pulling an empty scow, when the bridle started to tighten, pulling the tug over on her side.

CAPTAIN AT WHEEL

Capt. Bell was at the wheel and Bestward had just stepped from the wheelhouse to the deck.

The mate started aft to loosen the tow cable but found he was too late. He thought of the skipper and turned back.

"The whole thing happened in seconds," Capt. Bell told The Vancouver Daily Province as he sat in his home at 135 East Seventeenth.

"I felt the ship start to heel and grabbed at the wheel. Before I could move, the water was at the ship's bridge door.

"The wheel was in my hand and as the ship went over I started to pull, but as fast as I pulled the wheel spun.

"A second more and I would have gone over and under with her, but Ron dashed into the wheel house and grabbed me. We dived out the door together and the next thing I remember we were in the water."

HELPED SKIPPER

Both men worked their way to the scow behind them where Bestward pulled himself aboard and then helped his skipper to safety.

As the craft went down, her whistle blew.

W. J. Mooney, chief signal officer at Lions Gate Bridge, swung his searchlingh on the scene. He notified the Straights Towing Salvage Co., owners of the Harvan, and Dispatcher Gordon Lott swung into action to get Capt. Tommy White, skipper of the tug Port-O-Van to the scene.

It was Capt. White who brought the cold and half-drowned men ashore.

"IT WAS NOTHING"

Bestward, a new man with the company, was laconic about the rescue.

"Aw shucks, it was nothing," he said. "Anyone would have done the same. The water wasn't cold. It was colder sitting on that scow for an hour and a half until we were rescued."

The Harvan is though to be resting in about 110 feet of water.

HE WALKED AWAY UNHURT after his car turned over. Early today J. R. Burns of North Vancouver was driving along Cassiar from Second Narrows Bridge when his car hit an ice patch, skidded and turned over. Both Mr. Burns, above, and J. M. Wade, a passenger, escaped without injury.

Paper Bag Explosives Rock Terminal

ALEXANDRIA, La., (AP) — Southern Railway bus lines' officials said Sunday "a number of windows were blown out of our terminal here when a man ran through the place and left a paper bag of explosives."

The explosion damaged the windows of a bus. No other vehicles were in the car barn at the time.

The explosion was the latest of a long series of violent incidents which have accompanied the strike of Southern Railways' drivers. The strike began last May 20. A number of bus lines have been fired on, several terminals have been stoned, and the terminal at Hattiesburg, Miss., was the target for several explosions.

Army Holds Rents to $20

Army authorities announce rents charged service men for emergency married quarters they occupy do not exceed $20 a month.

This is the case for men of all ranks, and the charge is deducted from their pay.

Rents are based on services and fixtures provided in the quarters, and are fixed to return within 18 months the approximate $200 it cost to reconvert barrack blocks, guard houses and H-huts to living quarters.

IWA to Seek Wage Boost

PORTLAND (AP)—Delegates of the CIO International Woodworkers of America representing five states, announced they would ask employers for a 32½ cent-an-hour wage increase plus a 7½ cent-an-hour welfare fund bonus.

James E. Fadling, president of the IWA, said the closing conference of 219 delegates, representing 40,000 CIO woodworkers in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and California, believed the wage increase could be paid by industry even if substantial reductions are made in lumber prices.

The union also will ask for six paid holidays. The existing contract calls for a minimum $1.32½ cents-an-hour for a 40-hour work week of five days.

The amount of the wage increase to be asked in British Columbia will be determined at a "wage and contracts" conference set for March, according to Al Parkin, a spokesman for the IWA in the province. Besides the higher wage, the union will demand a union shop clause and a health and welfare plan.

DOLPHIN SQUARE 'PARTY' ENDS

Food Ban Returns Gulls To Thames

By ERNIE HILL
By Leased Wire to The Vancouver Daily Province, Copyright 1948

LONDON — The dive-bombing gulls have gone back to the Thames and the sooty little birds that inhabit Dolphin Square are hungry again.

But there's one new note added in the neighborhood beside the river where stand 13 connecting apartment houses replete with swimming pool, dining room, bank, stores, beauty parlor, cleaning shop, squash court and ballroom. That's the order by Manager H. D. Castle has just issued to Dolphin Square's 3000 human residents.

Mr. Castle's order, in the form of handbills entitled, "Feeding of birds" requests:

"Will all residents please refrain from feeding seagulls and pigeons by throwing food from windows or placing food on balconies, ledges, windowsills, etc. The practice is objectionable from a sanitary point of view, particularly as it encourages vermin."

It all started when the warm-hearted people of Dolphin Square, aglow with Christmas spirit, began to toss more and larger bread crumbs for the birds.

GULLS JOIN IN

Gulls up the Thames saw the clutter of birds and went to investigate. In a couple of hours there were 200 or more visitors and in a couple of days 2000.

It got unsafe to walk out the door of your flat. A power-diving gull, hellbent for a cold biscuit, was likely to knock you out. The sidewalks, balconies and streets began to look like the bottom of a bird cage on Monday morning.

Then a certain old maid reported rats. A big one, she said, was gnawing on her window.

The rat was the last straw. The management was tired of seagulls and trying to clean up after them, anyway.

Japan's Land Reform Beats Schedule, Allied System To Be Ready by June

By Leased Wire to The Vancouver Daily Province, Copyright 1948

TOKYO—Land reform, one of the Allied occupation's biggest undertakings, is running so far ahead of schedule break-up of Japan's feudal land-owing system will be virtually complete by June.

That was the prediction of a SCAP spokesman. He revealed nearly five million acres of land will have been transferred to tenant farmers by summer.

The Japanese government has purchased approximately 3.5 million acres for resale. Already 300,000 acres have been sold to peasants who because of unprecedented prosperity created by food shortage, have been able in many cases to pay in cash.

Alberta Engineer To Take B.C. Government Post

From The Vancouver Daily Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Norman W. McPherson, who resigned recently as commissioner of highways in Alberta, will arrive here January 20 to join the Department of Public Works as assistant deputy minister.

Mr. McPherson, an experienced bridge engineer, is expected to take over the deputy minister's post when A. L. Carruthers retires in June.

Blast Injures Servicemen

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP) — A soldier and sailor were critically burned when leaking gas from a hotel room heater exploded as one of the men lit a cigaret.

M.S. Gentry, the soldier, was blown through the door of the auto court cabin in the blast. Jim Hannett, the sailor, suffered third degree burns.

Three Shot In Holdup

MONTREAL (CP) — Three patrons were wounded by machinegun fire Saturday night when four gunmen held up a gambling house on lonely Cote de Liesse Road, near the outskirts of the city.

While police reported $400 was taken from a gaming table, unofficial reports placed the total loot at $7000 as several gamblers claimed to have been robbed.

The shooting occurred a few minutes before the arrival of a provincial police morality squad which had planned to raid the farm house where the gamblers had been operating a "flying barbotte" game.

One bandit was armed with a sub-machine-gun while at least two of the others had revolvers. The gunmen lined house attendants and patrons along the wall and ordered them to take off their trousers.

Then they carried out the robbery.

Car, Speeder, Bus Rush Streptomycin To Pioneer Miner

PIONEER—Shipment of streptomycin was rushed to this interior mining community from Vancouver in a record overland time of 12 hours to save the life of a pneumonia-stricken patient in hospital here.

An employee of the Pioneer Gold Mines Ltd. office at Vancouver, motored to Lillooet, where he was picked up by a P.G.E. gas speed boat and rushed to Shalalth. A special stage of Neal Evans Transportation Co. Ltd. completed the last leg of the trip.

Heavy snow in the Pioneer district prevented the trip being made by plane.

Jap Claims Commission At Lytton

LYTTON (CP) — Appeals to the Japanese Property Claims Commission by Japanese-Canadians resumed here today, Mr. Justice Henry I. Bird presiding.

More than 40 claims are to be heard during the week-long session scheduled here.

The hearing will be the second of its kind in Canada's history. The first, held at Kamloops in December, dealt with 18 claims totalling nearly $68,000 in its five-day session.

It is expected that the application deadline of Jan. 15 will see more than 3000 claims filed. Total compensation sought ranges from $10,000,000 to $12,000,000.

A total of 100 claims are expected at Toronto, where Japanese-Canadians who went to Ontario from B.C. will be heard.

Mr. Justice Bird, a one man royal commission believes "it is quite likely" the hearings will take three years. They will be followed by final argument by opposing counsel in Vancouver. Claims will go to the secretary of state in Ottawa for final disposal.

Japanese allege their property, sold by the custodian of enemy property when they were evacuated from B.C.'s "protected areas" during the war, was sold at prices much below "fair market value" at the time.

Following the hearing at Lytton, another will be held at Kamloops. The commission will also sit at Vernon, Grand Forks and Nelson before moving east. Hearings in B.C. are expected to cover 14 weeks.

'Good Samaritan' Loses Property To Men He Helped

A good Samaritan act that "backfired" was reported to police Saturday night, and detectives are looking for two youths suspected of stealing $106 worth of property from rooms at 540 Burrard.

Norman Woodland told officers he befriended a youth 10 days ago and took him to live in his room. Then the youth brought a friend and Woodland gave up his room to the two of them, staying himself with a fellow tenant, George Moore.

Later Woodland missed six shirts, an alarm clock, a suitcase and papers from his room, and Moore reported theft of a $65 overcoat.

Widespread Plot for Smuggling Germans Into Canada Claimed

LONDON (CP)—The Daily Telegraph said statements taken by officials at a London passport office and from a man in prison "have led to the discovery of a plot to smuggle aliens into Canada."

Scotland Yard officials told the Canadian Press no confirmation was available.

The Telegraph said that numerous arrests in the Dominion and in Britain are expected to follow weeks of investigation by Scotland Yard's special branch, co-operating with Canadian police and with investigators of the control commission in the British zone of Germany.

The paper added: "It is suspected that several hundreds of aliens, mostly from Germany, have passed through Britain into Canada with the aid of faked British passports."

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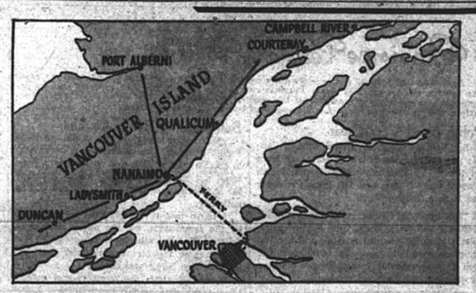

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