

monthly basis, meant that provincial assistance was substantially lowered. At least the town was fairly free from any huge debts.

The year of 1938 saw Lindenberg Bros. operating in town as B. Lindenberg returned from New Orleans with a shipment of bees. D. Hood was associated with the brothers who converted a part of the former Beattie store into an office and remodelled the upstairs for living quarters. Speaking of Mr. Beattie, that gentleman after 35 years as general merchant, relinquished his business to J. A. (Gus) Sample.

More incidents with thieves. This time they delighted in moving a safe from a store and depositing it in the river after removing the door (never recovered). Requests from citizens for a guard were denied. Before the outbreak of stealing ended, more safes were opened or tampered with. Seems as if the thieves were bent on conducting a "safe" business!

Fall brought with it a vote on an enlarged municipal doctor area and an increase of salary by \$700 but limiting outside practise to emergencies.

The season also witnessed tenders being called for the demolition of the old exhibition building and the erection of a new agriculture-rink structure.

As well, new electric rates went into effect, with four power classifications, to commence in June of 1939.

1939 — Facing 1939 was a council composed of Rousell, Saul, Adams, W. Swann, Gardiner and Todd with F. Swann continuing as mayor. A motion to pay each councillor \$1 per meeting and the mayor \$1.50 brought forth much comment (most of it unprintable) from the public. However, peace returned when the town fathers decided against the motion. Instead council decided to post in the office, a monthly list of all hospital, municipal and relief accounts. This seemed necessary as some relief recipients would incur liabilities and then pass the bill on to the town. Welfare receivers were encouraged to lessen their demands and even plant a garden in order to reduce the staggering relief bills. Seems incredible to think that they had to be asked to plant a garden!

Curling heroes in the names of L. and N. Birkinshaw, G. Wolstenholme and W. Thompson were dined and admired at the IOOF hall and later presented with sweaters.

As spring advanced, the first work on the agricultural society and curling club building commenced but that necessitated the removal of the tennis courts.

Unable to succeed financially, Jat Dong gave up his restaurant business.

Because of increased traffic and future plans, Councils of the rural and town municipalities met to plan for a new bridge. Work actually started in late August with some minor delays here and there. A visiting inspector found that the job was actually being done too well and thus would cost more. He thus fired the men but demands sent by councils to Winnipeg convinced the authorities to overrule their inspector and re-instate the men.

Bridge building, relief bills, unemployment and numerous other problems seemed to recede as a larger more demanding problem appeared: World

War II. Young men joined the recruiting lines, newcomers arrived in town and many citizens prepared for Red Cross relief work.

Appointed as night watchman by Council, J. Graham surprised three youths engaged in a "help yourself to other people's property" type of project. Perhaps news of that arrest was responsible for a reduction in crime for the next while.

1940 — Early in 1940, council composed of Rousell, McFadyen, F. Hales, A. Aitkin, D. Soldan and W. Swann under the leadership of F. Swann heard a proposal by the CNR to abandon the branch line serving Rapid City and district. Petitions soon followed. In cooperation with other communities, town council



Soldans Garage Rapid City, 1940.



Birkinshaw and Hotham truck, C1940. Earl Hotham driving.

retained legal counsel who then presented arguments before the transport commissioner to the effect that in spite of an unstable period in the district's life, the CNR had been able to meet costs. The lawyer won his case, presented a bill of \$1,105 (Rapid City's share was \$25) and then accepted congratulations as trains continued to roll.

Enlistings continued unabated. At home contributions to the Red Cross were many; some on a small scale like the little girls who sold lemonade and