

## At 73, The "Silver Fox" Cuts Out Of Hockey Picture

By AL MARKLE

Canadian Press Staff Writer  
VICTORIA (CP) — Times have changed since Lester Patrick, the "silver fox" of hockey, took up the game seriously 55 years ago. It's for this reason, and because he's 73 years old, that Lester announced recently he will bow out of the hockey picture.

Lester recalled in an interview that the greatest game of his career was played in a small, open-air rink in Rossland, B.C., during the 1907-08 season, shortly after his family moved west from Drummondville, Que., his birthplace.

**STRATEGY PAID OFF**  
Lester, known to Rossland fans as "that Stanley Cup player," was captain of the Nelson squad and was subjected during the first game to "the old razzberry."

He mapped the plan of action accordingly and for the first 45 minutes didn't move from his own end of the ice while Rossland scored two goals.

With 15 minutes to go the "silver fox" was the only fresh man on the ice. He held the puck almost all the time, scored two goals and set up two more to lead Nelson to a 4-2 win.

"It was wonderful," Lester says. "I think it was my greatest game."

In the 1905-06 season he was an amateur and captain of the professional Montreal Wanderers and made history when he piloted the club to the Stanley Cup, winning it from the famed Ottawa Silver Sevens.

**BIG MONEY IN 1909**  
In 1909 Patrick finally turned professional, earning an unheard of \$3,000 for 10 games with the Renfrew Millionaires, about twice as much as the prevailing salaries.

In 1911 Lester was 27, married, and on his way to Victoria with his father and brother Frank to build the first artificial ice rink in the West.

The first game, early in 1912, saw Lester playing rover for the team he organized—the Victoria Senators—against the New Westminster Royals.

The game saw another first—the introduction of numbers on players' sweaters.

In 1913-14 he led the Senators to

### Remember When

Cancellation of the spring meeting at the old Thorncliffe race track in Toronto was forced by a strike of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association against the Incorporated Canadian Racing Association, 16 years ago today. The dispute, settled during the summer, arose from protest against failure of the ICRA to elect Ryland H. New to its board of directors.

### Gale Swamps Cabin Cruiser But 4 Safe

DARTMOUTH, N.S. (CP)—A 40-mile an hour gale swamped a 35-foot cabin cruiser off three Fathom Harbor on Nova Scotia's east coast Saturday morning. Its four occupants managed to reach shore safely.

The cruiser Dunsinane, en route to North Sydney, N.S., from Halifax, ran into difficulties when its engine failed. Capt. Uriah Giles of North Sydney and Allister McRae of Sydney River worked two hours in an attempt to restart the engine. Aboard at the time were Giles and McRae's 15-year-old sons.

When the cruiser began to ship water, the four decided to row for shore in a dory. They were picked up a short time later by lobster fisherman J. Fred Purdy. The Dunsinane continued to drift in an easterly direction and was spotted early Sunday morning by Ostrea Lake fisherman Percy Gale who towed the partially submerged craft ashore. Ostrea Lake is approximately six miles east of three Fathom harbor.

Giles and McRae reported loss of their craft to transport department officials before returning to North Sydney by car Saturday evening. The Dunsinane is owned by Sydney jeweller W. J. Alteen.

### MIDGET SUB DAMAGED

PORTSMOUTH, N. H. (AP)—An explosion damaged about five feet of the bow of the United States Navy's experimental midget submarine X-1 Monday night. Two of the vessel's five-man crew were aboard, but no one was hurt. The X-1, designed as a harbor penetration vessel for use with underwater demolition teams, is 50 feet long, has a seven-foot beam and displaces 25 tons. With periscope down her height is only 11 feet. The navy did not disclose the cause of the blast.

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One of the last major highlights in Lester's life came in 1928, two years after he became manager of the New York Rangers for \$10,000 a year.

It was during the second game of the Stanley Cup series against Montreal. Rangers had won the first game and were leading 1-0 at halftime in the second when goalie Lorne Chabot was injured. Lester was 44, hadn't played hockey in two years and had never played goal. He donned the big pads.

The rest is history. Patrick let one goal by but Rangers won in overtime.

That was his last appearance in a hockey game.

He left his job in 1947 but remained in an advisory position for three more years. In the 22 years he actively directed the team, he was out of the playoffs only three times.

He returned to Victoria in 1950, revived the Cougars and then faded into the background. He was forced out last year when general manager Fred Hutchinson died.

That was his last trip out of retirement, he says.

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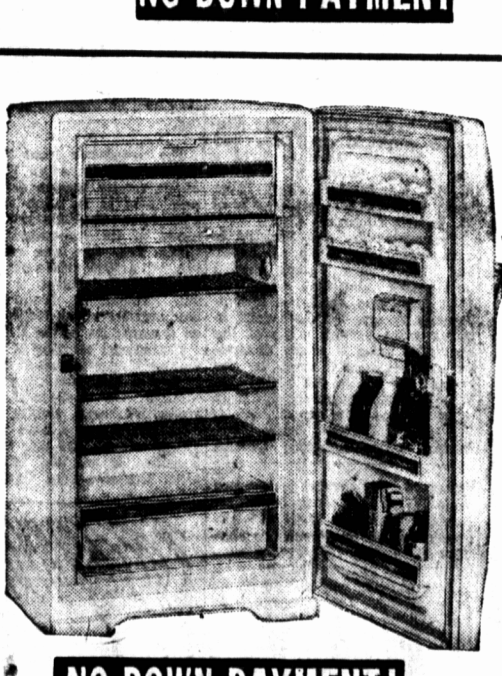
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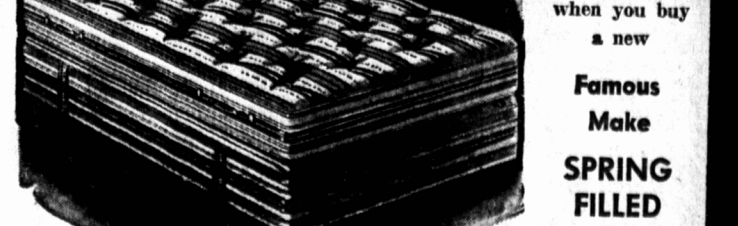
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