

1874 - Although Thames streets were not exactly paved with gold there was sometimes gold underfoot. When Williamson Street was formed large quantities of mine debris were used and, escaping notice at the mine, gold sometimes got shot down for road metal. "It would pay well to do a little fossicking" sagely advised the Evening Star.

1883 - Luminous paint was to be tested by the Harbour Master to see if it was suitable for use on the beacons of the Thames (Waihou) River. The optical experiment was first to be tried on the Goods Wharf lamp posts.

1896 - A horse pulling a carriage laden with Mrs Cleave and some children was startled at the Shortland end of Pollen Street when a loose shaft knocked its flanks. The horse broke into a gallop and the driver lost control. When nearing Butt's Corner it had reached considerable speed but canny Constable McPhee and a young man managed to halt the runaway's progress.

1900 - A great crash of boulders in front of his horse frightened the wits out of Mr Bilby of Pollen Street, Thames. An agent for the Singer Company, he was returning from Coromandel around the coast on horseback and had by chance pulled up his horse to light his pipe. He just escaped being buried alive under hundreds of tons of earth. The bemused Mr Bilby turned back to Mr Jamieson's for the night and the next morning the hospitable gentleman kindly showed him the old track leading to Thames.

1915 - At a Paddy's Market in Thames some Hauraki Plains folk set up a 'poultry yard.' Eggs, butter and cream jostled with fowls, ducks, turkeys, and wild and suckling pigs which would be arranged already dressed for the table. This innovation was hoped to be a boon to shoppers.

1875 - Mr Mumford, tailor, of Pollen Street, was cutting a piece of zinc with a tomahawk when a small piece flew up, striking him in the eye. He was taken to hospital suffering excruciating pain. Dr Fox promptly chloroformed him and performed the necessary operation. There was no hope of saving his sight and the stoic Mr Mumford returned home soon after the operation sporting an eye bandage.

1889 - Constable Christie came across a poor little fellow lying in a doorway in Brown Street, Thames, at half past midnight one Sunday morning. The lonely lad was brought before the court and an order was made to have him sent to the Industrial school as a neglected child.

1901 - An elderly man prowling about Thames had absconded from the Old Men's Home at Tararu where he had been comfortably housed and fed. He had since roamed the streets at all hours sticking up Bushmen for beer. It was doubtful that the Charitable Aid Board would re-admit him to the home and, as he appeared to be incorrigible, he was sentenced to two months prison.

1877- Brawling barmaids in a Thames hotel allowed their angry passions to overcome their discretion resulting in one of them seizing a tumbler and hurling it at the other who promptly ducked out of the way. Observed by someone wearing beer goggles, these "nymphs" weren't dispensing their usual "nectar and pleasant smiles" and the consequences he felt could have been most serious.

1879 - Wanted - One or two respectable Gentlemen as boarders in a private family - Apply Y  
Z, Advertiser office.

Wanted – a respectable girl as a nurse - Apply after 10 am, Mrs Aitken, Sealey Street.

Wanted – a strong boy, one used to horses, for our delivery cart. - Hewin Bros, Thames.

Wanted – a Boy (about 15) to make himself useful - R Burra, Bookseller, No 12, Brown  
Street.



Looking down Pollen Street, Thames, showing premises on left of: Robert Kirk, Chemist; Whitehead Bootmaker; Johnson Bros.; Isaac Brown and Co.; and other shops beyond; woman with pram on footpath (extreme left); boy with bicycle (left); horse and gig tethered to verandah post and car in road alongside (centre left); girl on bicycle (centre rear) and cars in road and parked (rear); buildings on right just visible; power lines and poles either side of street.



Looking along Pollen Street, Thames. Showing (on left) The Junction Hotel; St James' Presbyterian Church. At right is J Paul - saddler. With cyclists, horse and cart and a man sitting at the top of a telephone pole.

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