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## Manvers sportsman was expert baseball player, keen curler and lawn bowler

Manvers, the township situated immediately south of the Township of Ops has long been noted for the raising of the best potatoes in Ontario. However, the township is also noted for its many fine families — the Burn's, Hickson's, McGill's, Armstrong's, Porter's, Stinson's, Staples' and many others including the Ferguson's. One of the best known and most popular members of the Ferguson family is W. J. (Bill) Ferguson who came to Lindsay as a boy of nine years and is today one of Lindsay's well-known citizens.

Few residents of Lindsay can remember the days when there was a row of small humble frame homes on Victoria Park, facing on Kent Street and when there was a small store at the south-west corner of the present park manned by a Mr. Lennon, when a wide and fast flowing creek ran its course through the park and when there was

a small bridge across Kent Street in front of the Loblaw store of today.

These are fond memories for William Ferguson who resides at Albert Street south. As a lad in knee pants he attended the North Ward school and later the old Grammar School which was located on Kent Street east of the Collegiate. He had a well-grounded education under such able teachers as Miss Wray, Samuel Aromur and Duncan McDougal.

As a lad he took to the field of sports like a duck takes to water and he became an ardent and expert baseball player, a hockey player and as he grew older, was actively identified with curling and lawn bowling.

His name was inscribed on many a trophy, especially in baseball and lawn bowling. He even tried his form as a lacrosse player.

Young Ferguson thrived on baseball and learned the rudiments of the game on a diamond which was located on Victoria Avenue, north of Kent Street and closer to Peel Street, and it is interesting to note that the first bandstand was then located at the corner of Kent and the Avenue, near the present Carnegie Library.

Baseball days developed to the time when there was an enclosed ball field on the block bounded by Glenelg, Cambridge, Melbourne and Victoria Avenue. The old Mansion hotel did business at the corner of Glenelg and Victoria Avenue — the present Moose Hall. A high board fence surrounded the field.

Early baseball players included such one time household names as Little, McAdam, Bates, Sisson and others. As Bill Ferguson grew older he developed into a first class ball player and as a catcher. He was a member of the Clothier's team which won the town league in the early nineteen hundreds. Other players on the team included Howard Brokenshire, Percy Moynes, Chuck Walsh, Lennon, Menzies. Later on catcher Ferguson played for another Town

League championship team which represented the YMCA and some of the players included Perce, Ford and Mel. Moynes. Cy Emerson, Bert Menzies with Thos. Stinson as the President. Catcher Ferguson glibly recalls the days of the famous Red Bird baseball team which included such players like Cinnamon, McLaughlin, McGill, Workman, Little, Menzies, Mark, Miller and others. The YMCA was located at the corner of Kent and Lindsay Streets where Houzer's and Moody's stores are now located. Previously the "Y" was located in the Adams-Blackwell block at the corner of Kent and Cambridge Streets.

"W. J." was also an active lawn bowler and was one of the original members of the first club which operated two greens on the lawns between the Town Hall and the Public Library. As a bowler he played in many tournaments in Lindsay and district.

For more than seventeen years he played with the Lindsay Curling Club, and here once more he was quite good and was a member of a fine team.

Being of a versatile nature, Bill Ferguson was at one time best known for his membership in the Lindsay Citizen's band and with the band of the famous old 45th Victoria Regiment in the days when Col. Sam Hughes was in his prime as a soldier. One of the best bands of the day included such popular bandsmen as Jack Bradshaw, Charlie Davidson, George Carruth, Fred Martin, Harry Stoddart, Joe Young, Mark Ingle, Steve Ingle, Art Hooper, Alf Bates, Herb Hardy and others.

As a businessman "W. J." followed the busy life of a drygoods salesman and was well known as one of the managers of the Sutcliffe firm. His skill as a show card artist and as a window dresser was quite evident and he tutored many young show-card and sign painting students. For several years he was advertising manager for the Sutcliffe firm.

On his retirement from the mercantile business Mr. Fer

guson took up the profession of sales representative for insurance company and again he was quite successful. He was respected for his integrity as well as his ability.

Today the subject of sketch enjoys the company of his family of two sons, Ronald and Grant, the fellowships his friends and the versatility of his T.V. He followed NHL games during the hockey season and will be sitting millions of baseball fans summer to watch the best stars perform.