

# STILL HALE AND HEARTY — MRS. S. SHARPE OF LINDSAY CELEBRATES HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

"The Good Book says that the average span of life is three score years and ten, but the Gracious Lord has been good to me for on Sunday, May 3rd I observed my Ninetieth birthday", said Mrs. Sam Sharpe, of Lindsay, who resides with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sexsmith at 76 King Street. It might be that this friendly and kindly senior citizen will live to see her "Ninety and Nine" birthday. Friends and neighbours who had a cup of tea and a piece of birthday cake a week ago Sunday were delighted to see the bride of seventy years ago looking so hale and hearty.

When Mrs. Sharpe (the former Margaret Menzies) of Fenelon Falls was married seventy years ago she and her husband started their honeymoon by attending a Chinese-named production or play in the Lindsay Theatre of Music on Lindsay Street, the theatre which is now undergoing renovations.

Mrs. Sharpe is proud of her ancestral tree and rightly so, the Menzies being one of the pioneer families in the village of Fenelon Falls. She mentioned with pride that her great grandfather's name was Robert Langton Menzies and that the Langton family created early history in Fenelon Township. The then hamlet of Blythe in time achieved a certain degree of fame because of the books written by Langton and his sister Annie Langton. As a matter of fact Mrs. Sharpe's father was the first white child born in the settlement, the majority of the inhabitants having been Indians. Mrs. Sharpe is also justly proud of the fact her mother was one of the McCrimmons, a name highly respected in the Glen in Mariposa Township.

The subject of this historical sketch is in many respects a remarkable woman. While she had only two months of schooling in the little frame "red schoolhouse", and this when she was only seven years old, she realized at this early age that she must learn to read and decided that one way would be to learn how to read story books. A friend secured her a membership in the public library. When she presented her ticket to the librarian she was asked what book she wished to read and her reply was a logical one,

"I would like you Sir, to pick one out for me". As time went on she was able to learn to read by sight following the procedure of having a young friend read the stories to her. The young girl had a great desire to read and soon became adept and to this day reading is one of her great pastimes.

As a girl, Margaret Menzies was quite athletic and she recalled vividly her thrilling experience shooting the fast running rapids at Rosedale at the head of Cameron Lake. "My young brother was with me in the canoe and we decided to dare the treacherous and very fast rough water. Once we entered the rapids I said to myself, 'Goodby, Fenelon Falls and home' for I thought we would perish, but we came through all right. I loved that canoe."

"These were the days before the locks were built at Fenelon Falls and it was great

fun to watch the hundreds of logs shoot down the large wooden slides and to watch the horse-powered apparatus shift the platform at the end of the sluiceway.

Mrs. Sharpe witnessed the growth of Fenelon Falls, called the Cataract Village and was interested in all phases of its development, even to the days when the Falls had one of the best championship hockey teams in Ontario, a team that was not defeated for a long time. The players included: Alvin "Snake" Gould, Cecil "Dodger" Deyman and his brother Louis, Edward "Pete" Beteau and others.

Fenelon Falls was proud of a number of fine progressive citizens including such names as: Burgoyne, McCallum, Brandon, Junkin, Heard, Northey, Neilson, Aldous, Twomey, McDougall, Jordan, Fitzgerald and others.