

Main Street Comments

James Marshall Wilson, associated for many years with the General Steel Wares Company of Toronto, but now retired, strolled along Lindsay's main street Tuesday hoping to meet someone he could chat with concerning former days of lively sports in Lindsay. In those days gone by he was known as "Spike" — a small, wiry ball of fire when on the grassless ball diamond or on steel blades in the days when hockey was the word on everybody's lips. "Spike" was one of the many fine ballplayers who lived in the east ward when the ward boasted of one of the best sand lot teams in Lindsay: in the days when there were several good teams. He was a catcher on the diamond and managed to hang on to speed balls delivered by the husky blacksmith Perce Cullen. He was a prodigy of Bill Cinnamon, Norm McGill, Herb Workman, Bert Menzies and others. He remembers playing baseball on the vacant lot behind the curling rink on Peel street and he recalls that Percy Skitch was also a catcher for the rival North Ward team.

"Spike" Wilson was what used to be termed a scintillating hockey player, along with his side kick, a young husky chap named Amos McWilliams "Goosie Taylor" was one of his coaches. Other players who went on to fame in Lindsay hockey where the famous blue and white shirted junior midgets. He played in the town league with Sylvester's and "Reddy" McGrath and Tony Buck were stars. Hoe Parkin owned the rink on Lindsay street south. Although young Wilson moved to Toronto in 1906, where he played hockey for some time, he recalls playing with Jas. Newton, Cliff Sullivan, Leon Koyle, Bill Stoddart and Ken Randall before these lads reached championship calibre. He recalled the days when he worked in Flavelles egg and chicken plant on King street and it was there that he came in contact

8 Oct. 1964
with Artie Parkin, who later coached the Lindsay Midgets. The game was recalled when

Lindsay played the Toronto Canoe Club in the old Mutual Street arena, when the Toronto hockey mogules were startled by the performance of a Lindsay player registered as Yarnold, but who on investigation by the O.H.A. was found to be Oulette of Fenelon Falls. The Lindsay team was tossed out of the Association along with Parkin.

"Spike" was fast and he turned down an offer to play with the old Marlboros but he did take part in the well known hockey tournaments held at Markham in the days when a team from Fenelon Falls cleaned up with such players as Dayman, Bateau, Gould, Vickers and others.

Kent street has blossomed since those days, recalled Wilson, "but I see the name of Edwards, Boxall, Matthie, Gregory and McCarty on the signs" he added.