

If Lindsay and district could boast of having any Octogenarians as citizens today it is not likely they could remember the day when Kent Street from lower Ridout Street taking the north side of the main street from Lindsay to William was laid low in a great conflagration.

It was a major disaster to the town but as it very often the case, the fire was also a blessing in disguise. From the rubble of cinders, ashes and bits of steel and tin, was built the Kent Street of today, recognized as one of the widest thoroughfares to be found in the province.

Another chapter in the history of Main street is being enacted today with the remodelling and revamping of the business store known for many years as the Beall block, home in year's past of the Beall's jewellery store.

In the dim, distant past, in the year 1863, the late Thomas Beall settled in Lindsay, after having lived in Whitby and Oakwood. His first small store was located in part of the block now occupied by Eaton's department store. When he built the Beall store further west on Kent St. he felt justifiable pride that the store was at that time one of the finest in the district, to be found east of Toronto.

Here the old and reliable jewellery business was launched on a solid foundation of determination to succeed, integrity and the motto of fair play in all transactions.

Thomas Beall carried on the business until 1877 when he handed over the reins of business to his son George W. Beall. The latter was equally successful and as a small, humble but astute business man the store and business and popularity continued to thrive. George W. Beall handed over the business to his son George G. Beall, at present living in the old family residence at 9 Albert Street South. Under this keen business manage-

ment and careful customer service the store continued to grow and enjoy patronage from a large area.

The store was enlarged by taking a cigar store operated by the late J. A. Carrol and the enlarged store with its modern front was one of the most modern and well equipped jewellery stores in Ontario.

George Beall took time out to engage in worthwhile organizations, particularly curling where he was for years a skip and President and Patron of the Curling Club.

A few years ago the Beall store passed into the hands of William Walker the owner today and at the present time the old Beall store is under the process of being entirely rebuilt by a new tenant, the Agnew Surpass Shoe Store firm.