

new, 1965 ON THE MAIN STREET

How many Main Street readers have ever held a divining rod in their two hands? It is perhaps more often called a witching gad. Its purpose was to ascertain the location of water underground.

By means of a divining rod many good hard-water wells were located and built and wooden or iron handle pumps installed:

John Deyell, a farmer living at Mount Horeb, father of the late J. W. Deyell of Lindsay, was one of the champions of the rod, and one of the most successful users of the cherry gad.

It had to be a good gad from a cherry tree, for any other kind of wood would not give results.

John Deyell was uncanny when it came to finding well water. One day he was surrounded by a group of curious and skeptical gentlemen as he was engaged to find well water for the Benson Hotel. As he walked along the crust of the earth holding a witching gad in his two hands, the gad began to twist so hard he could not hold it still. "Dig right there and you will find water" said the amiable gentleman. Others tried to work the gad but it failed. John Deyell, and other well finders, had some special veins or cords in their bodies which responded to the witching rod.

Many decades ago, whenever a home owner gathered a few dollars together it was to seek a man qualified to sell and install pumps. Jack Dennis lived on Lindsay Street south, one house south of the railway tracks on the west side of the road. He sold hundreds of pumps in the district.

Thomas Mosley was an ex-

pert well driller and many reliable pumps were installed in Mosley piping. The deepest wells were found in an area lying south of Ridout Street and east of Lindsay Street, where many wells were sunk 60 feet.

It is interesting to recall that the Mosley family lived in a rough cast house at the corner of William and Wellington Streets. It was there that Grant Mosley first saw the light of day.

The second rough cast house at the same corner was occupied by J. C. Makins, a machinist, who later sold his business to John McRae. Mackins was for a time the bridge tender at the then swing bridge on Wellington Street.

Another man named McLuhan also drilled wells in the Lindsay district.

With the growth of the Lindsay Water Works, these wells long ago disappeared from the horizon. Two of the most popular wells were in the north ward, one on the Court House property at Colborne and Cambridge Streets, and the other on the Workman property on Wellington Street, which is still being used.

Lindsay also had an artesian well in the north ward, with ever flowing cold water. It was on the north-east corner of Victoria Park. Another was located on the Sylvester residential property on Victoria Avenue. A dandy artesian well flowed day and night on Wellington Street, on property owned by Robert Chambers, and now occupied by Mrs. Fred Bruce.

These flowing wells provided water with an iron flavour. Many years ago these wells ceased to flow when the Water Commission installed a pumping station in Victoria Park.

Cherry trees are scarce in these parts, but if any main street reader has a tree, why not break off a crotch about three feet long and try finding water deep in the bowls

of the earth. Any farmer should be particularly intrigued with the idea.

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This is the time of the year when housewives rule the household and demand that "things be done", it's housecleaning time.

Carpenters, painters, decorators, masons and tinsmiths are as busy as cats on a tin roof. Sometimes old newspapers come to light as wall boards, baseboards, etc., are repaired and repainted.

A few days ago Mrs. S. Shea, 17 Russell Street, picked up a round aluminum disc when it fell out of a baseboard. One one side were the words "Robert Quibell Dairy" and on the opposite side were the words "good for one pint". The finder showed interest and curiosity, and wished to discover what year this dairy operated in Lindsay.

The consensus of opinion appears to be that the coin above mentioned must have strayed into Lindsay. Senior citizens in Lindsay can recall the Davy Dunoon dairy, the Murtha dairy, the Hutton dairy the Archer dairy, the Walker

dairy, and the McMullen dairy, but not a Quibell dairy.

Lindsay has had comparatively few dairymen, but those who did sell lacteal to the people of Lindsay were well known for reliability good service and good products.