

A fascinating story on "The Incredible Doc Kelly" in the Toronto Star Weekly brought back memories of the past to many people in Lindsay, especially as it linked up the story of his travelling show at the old Academy Theatre and tragedy of a former Lindsay girl by the name of Hart.

Remember the distant days when Doc. Kelly and other men of good character presented shows on the market square, the days when an old fashioned carriage stood out under the light from a kerosene lamp? When the barker or showman sold Banyan Tantalac and many other home-made remedies said to be capable of miracles? ? The days when these remedies obliterated warts, moles, hairlips and grew hair on bald pates?

The medicine, or herbs, secured from Indian "medicine men" which, when taken internally were lauded for their instant removal of pains and all kinds of ailments?

Doc. Kelly was one of these notorious showmen. Part of the story of his visit to Lindsay is related as follows: "Back in 1886, the year he brought out his first medicine show, he was up around the Lindsay, Ontario district. One amateur night, a fifteen-year-old farm girl came up on the stage and won first prize with a dance. Seven years passed. In 1893

their paths crossed again near Chicago, when his medicine show played a two week stand in a town where she was working in a restaurant. She neglected her job and practically haunted the show grounds and it was quite evident that she had set her cap for "my dear fellow Canadian" as she would call him.

But her ardour met with no response; it was a one-way affection and after the show moved on, her letters to his farm near Newboro, Ontario, went unanswered. Eventually drifting to Colorado, the former Canadian farm girl, then known as Pearl Hart became the only woman in American western history ever to hold up a stage coach and was nicknamed "Two Gun Pearl" as a result.

Captured by a posse, at Yuma, on her release in December 1902, she learned the whereabouts of Doc Kelly's lady minstrels and two months later arrived at the Texas city he was playing, penniless but with hopes still high. Generous to a fault he gave her a spot in his chorus line-up, also some walk on bits.

The incredible Doc Kelly, King of the Medicine men, died suddenly of a heart attack in the Mansion House hotel at Uxbridge. The Medicine Show dies with him.

Doc. Kelly's secret for a successful salesmanship career, according to his own words: "The secret of a successful sales pitch is a smash opening,

a crash finish and keep them close together”.

A young woman named Leila Koerberg, born in Cobourg, Ontario and later known as Marie Dressler, once worked for Doc. Kelly.

It is stated by some Lindsay historians that Marie Dressler once lived in Lindsay in a house on Lindsay Street South.

The name of Hart was very familiar in Lindsay and district some years ago and there are families with the same name living in the district today. Further information regarding the heroine of today's story will be appreciated, although it would come as a surprise if the story can be substantiated.