

Violin playing is not becoming a lost art throughout the Dominion, but there are few violinists in Lindsay today. Several years ago, Claude Wade had a violin class in Lindsay and did well. A musician well known years ago was Ragnar Steen, who was not only a violinist but was a teacher. His orchestras in Lindsay, Whitby and elsewhere were among the best.

Today, Mrs. Florence (Perry) Berlet has a class for violins with a number of promising pupils.

It has been stated that it takes more artistry and more technique to master a violin today than it does to operate an airplane, because of the extreme delicacy of the instrument.

Probably the most gifted violinist in these parts today is Harry Strickland, who at the age of 98 years, still subjects himself to arduous methodical training of long hours duration. He has been a resident of Kenstone Beach, near Bobcaygeon for several years. His eyesight is good and his technique brilliant.

For several years he was a leading violinist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. At this time of life, Harry Strickland still familiarizes himself with his well kept library of music, still is able to master complicated violin music, and according to one of his friends, has never lost his touch and his ability of sensitive pitch.

Turning back the pages of memory, a few years, it is recalled that Cambridge Street United Church boasted of having a good orchestra of strings and a few horns. Mr. and Mrs. Perry (Mrs. Florence Brokenshire - Berlet) and their son William E. Perry, now the masterful and talented organist and choirmaster of St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church, were the backbone of the orchestra, and other violinists in the orchestra included Norman Skitch and Ross Morrow.

Norman Skitch became one of the most accomplished violinists in Lindsay. He made a fine contribution to the art, and was, while a resident of Lindsay, co-operative in con-

tributing as a member of the orchestra, to the Kiwanis shows, and as a solo violinist at Cambridge Street United Church and elsewhere.

Other local violinists in Lindsay included the two Day brothers, Charles Holmes, Margaret Crum and William Perry.

It is not generally known, but Victoria County can proudly boast of a manufacturer of violins. He is George Wilkinson, who has been a resident of Burnt River for many years past. In the prime of his life, he was an agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway but since his retirement, the manufacturing of violins has been his hobby, in fact a lucrative avocation in life.

Mr. Wilkinson has turned out some of the finest, most delicate violins ever manufactured in Canada. His market includes the T. Eaton Company, and his sales have also included some of the most fastidious musicians in Canada.

Should the teaching of string instruments form part of the educational curriculum in public and high schools in Ontario? There are many of artistic and cultural temperament who

would say yes to the idea. Lindsay has been very fortunate in having teachers of reed instruments as well as horns, particularly since the Boys and Girls Band has been functioning, and it is the belief of William E. Perry and others interested in the development of music, that there should be a place for the teaching of string instruments.

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There are many types of clubs in Lindsay and district, in fact Lindsay is reported to be "over clubbed".

The club least known to readers is probably the Pioneer Button Club. This came to light a few days ago when "Main Street" received an enquiry for information regarding the Wallace Button factory which was reported to have been operated by Captain Wallace, a member of the 45th. Regiment, and the location was given as William Street north.

The inquiring party, Mrs. Sanderson, of Janetville, happens to be a member of the Pioneer Button Club and is collecting old buttons as a hobby.

The Club has many mem-

bers in Southern Ontario and recently two members from the Newcastle area attended a button convention at Boston, Mass.

Digging into the report that a button factory was operated by a gentleman named Wallace, it was learned from different sources that Captain Wallace operated a small woollen industry and was the pioneer of Horn Brothers Woollen firm, and did not operate a button factory.

It is claimed that one resident of Lindsay has two buttons in an antique collection, said to have originated at the Wallace Button factory.

Incidentally, the late Captain Wallace has a son, Harold, a resident of Vancouver, B.C., who has been quite successful in business and who renews acquaintances in the Lindsay area every year.