

Norm McConnell of Mill Street, a gentleman with a good memory recalls the name of a former well-known Lindsay citizen who was an inventive genius, the late George Irwin.

George Irwin lived at 154 Lindsay Street south. He apparently had great inventive ability and was also considered a real opponent in argumentative duels.

George Irwin was the first man to make a central needle float in a gasoline carburetor. He saw the need of this type of float while working in Hamilton in 1907. Without getting a patent on the invention he sent the plans to a Brass Company in Detroit and had several made for his own experimental use. Practically all gasoline machines later on used the idea.

Mr. Irwin built the first two cycle marine engine ever to appear in Canada. Many of these marine engines were in use for many years. He did all the pattern and machine work in his own shop behind his house.

It is also reported that George Irwin designed and built a number of motorized cars for the use of invalid persons.

His creative ability was not solely confined to the invention of mechanical devices. As an accomplished musician he made all his own instruments as well as many for other people. He believed that every man should have a hobby to occupy his mind during his spare time.

It is said that Irwin once made the statement "Radio has made the young people of today lose their initiative in making music for themselves".

In 1888, George Irwin went to the west coast and his violin was the standard instrument in many orchestras of that day, and up to the year 1893.

Returning to Lindsay he started a mandolin and guitar orchestra. There were seven in the orchestra — Ed. Robson, Grant Shannon, Ellis Lee, Harry White, Fred Thomas, Arthur Parkin and George Irwin.

Although he never had a degree from any University, he

was a professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor for nearly eight years. During that time he taught pattern and experimental work.

In 1914, he made patterns for the Sylvester Company in Lindsay and as Mr. Percy Menzies recalled, Irwin was in charge of the first gasoline

engine built by this company.

Later he made patterns for the Madison Williams Company, as recalled by Charles E. Williams, a resident of Cambridge Street north.

The topic of this historical item, George Irwin, according to information celebrated his 80th birthday in 1948.