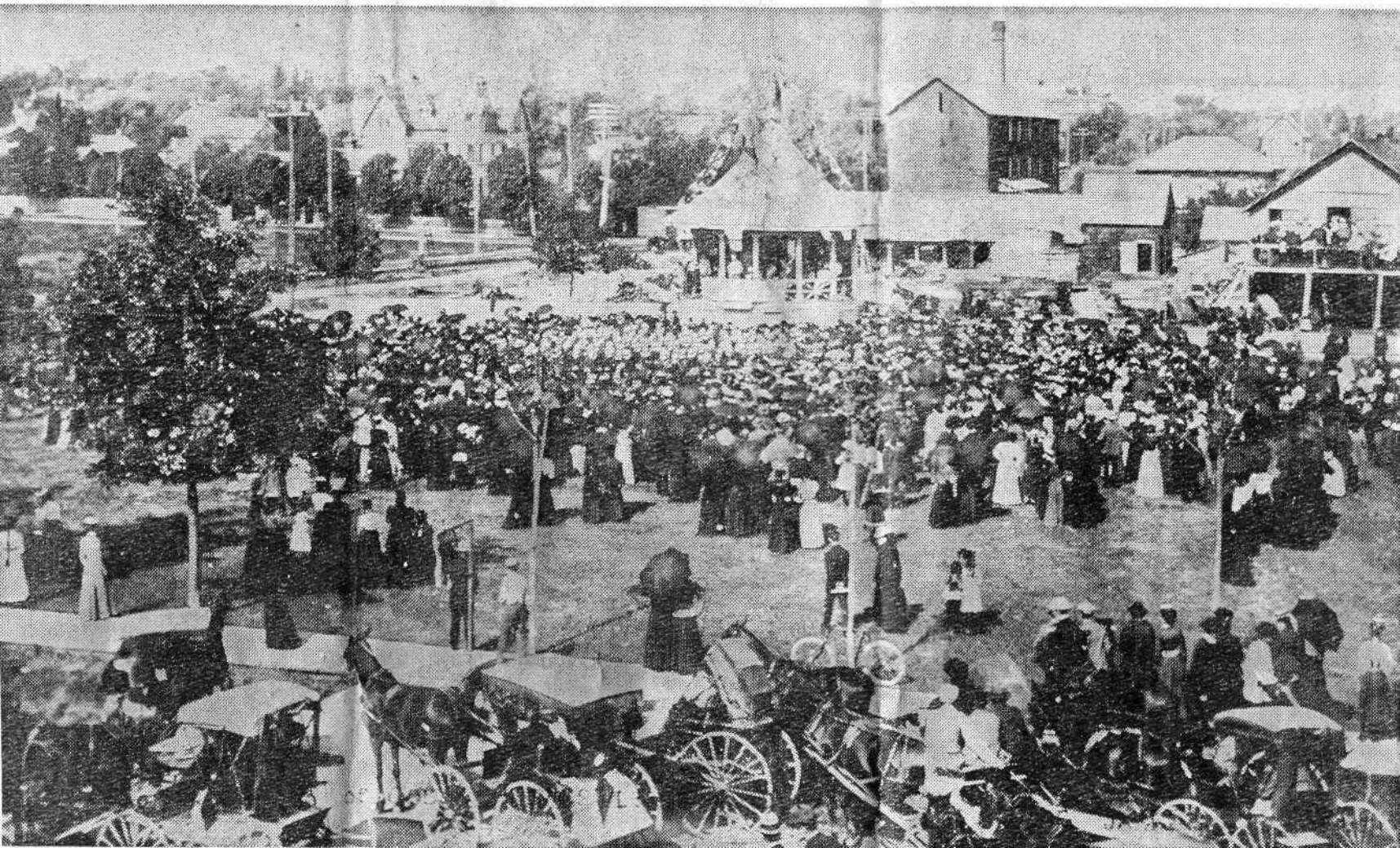


CROWDS WELCOMED COLONEL SAM HUGHES ON HIS RETURN TO LINDSAY FROM THE BOER WAR . . . STREETS WERE DECORATED WITH TREES, ARCHES AND FLAGS . . . A TALE FROM THE PAST BY FORD MOYNES



“Welcome Home Our Guest” reads the banner under the bandstand where Col. Sam Hughes speaks at Victoria Park at a reception in 1900. Picture through the courtesy of Mrs. Ross Arnold of Lindsay.

How many readers remember the Boer War? How many can remember where the accompanying picture fits into the Boer War? The picture shows the first bandstand Lindsay ever had, in the days when the town boasted of having a very fine musical organization.

The bandstand was located a few feet west of the present public library on Kent Street, west of the town hall. To the north of the bandstand, running along Victoria Avenue was a baseball diamond and among the players at the time was the late W. J. (Bill) Ferguson. The diamond was the battle ground for many a frenzied argument and many hectic baseball games.

Many of the players had never heard of a fielder's glove

and the catcher's mitt was large and usually padded with one of dad's socks. The bats were long and somewhat willowly. There was no catcher's mask.

In the background can be seen a section of the Sinclair Carriage Factory, with the men wearing white aprons looking on. It was a large carriage factory where could be seen some of the smartest wagons, carriages, sleighs and buggies to be manufactured in Ontario.

The boss blacksmith was Bill Stewart and the head painters included Jim Mark, Les Veitch and others.

What were these men watching? The monster welcome extended to the then Colonel Sam Hughes on his return from the Boer War in South Africa. It is reported to have been a

tremendous ovation to Lindsay's war hero, the soldier who became Canada's Minister of Militia, in World War One. The statesman-like soldier who accomplished the herculean and gigantic task of recruiting and sending overseas Canada's first expeditionary force to battle in Flander's fields.

The main street was decorated with evergreen trees and gaily bedecked arches. It is reported to have been a very hilarious occasion — throngs packed the street and the then Queen's Square, whistles shrieked and people yelled themselves hoarse.

Just think of the lamentable situation today no bandstand. Too bad the old bandstand was allowed to rot and decay. What a historical tale was wrapped around the band-

stand in Victoria Park, no longer there as we approach Centennial year.