

"All you can eat for 20 cents," was the wording on a hand-painted sign which was displayed prominently on the counter in the old Big 20 Restaurant on Kent Street. The name sticks. Citizens of today's Lindsay and many scattered across the length and breadth of Canada remember the Big 20.

Today the Chinese proprietor of the restaurant now called Lindsay Cafe is in the process of moving and the Big 20 will be vacant for a time.

Many people recall the days fifty and seventy years ago when Fred Taylor owned and operated the Big 20. He was short of stature, well groomed and a genial person. It was the finest restaurant east of Toronto where hockey players gathered after a game for a feed of good old big beans, plump appetizing sausages, bread, butter and a glass of milk all for 20 cents.

The establishment was the meeting place for business men and the banquet room was often filled with curlers and Lodge members. The menus included a wonderful variety of fine food.

Following the death of Fred Taylor the management and operation was taken over by association of "Goosie" Taylor hockey fame and his partner and brother-in-law Fred A. Martin. Because of the long association of "Goosie" Taylor as a hockey player and a coach and the long career of Fred Martin as a manager of hockey teams, the Big 20 became the recognized rendezvous for hockeyists and others. "Goosie" Taylor was a member of the O.H.A. Intermediate champions in 1909. He and his partner Fred Martin were members of the one time popular Sylvester Band which became the Band of the 109th Battalion.

When the partnership was dissolved and the Big 20 taken over by a Chinese gentleman named Harry Sam, the latter kept with the name Big 20. Fred Martin assumed the managership of the Chrysler agency in the building now occupied by Manley's garage and he also at one time operated Martin's restaurant which was located at the corner of Kent and William Streets, now the home of Victoria and Grey Trust.

How food prices have changed is indicated by a few items taken from the Big 20 Menu when operated by Harry Sam. For instance: Western sandwich toasted 25c; egg sandwich 15c, salmon sandwich, 15c; fish and chips, 25c; Hot beef sandwich, 20c; tomato sandwich, 15c; chicken sandwich 25c; Hot chicken sandwich 30c; fresh made tea per pot 10c, tea per cup 5c; coffee per cup 5c; egg nog 10c; straw-

berry Sundaes 15c; banana split 25c; chicken salads with potatoes, bread, butter, tea, coffee or milk included 65c; French toast with Maple Syrup 30c; Cornflakes with milk 15c; pumpkin pie 10c; apple pie 10c; lemon pie 10c; raisen pie 10c; pie with ice cream 15c.

Many changes have taken place in store ownership of the Big 20 Restaurant Building and adjacent properties. The Canadian Foresters and the Locomotive Engineers and Firemen had lodge rooms over the Restaurant. Lenan's store was immediately west of the restaurant and the first Masonic

Lodge in Lindsay was located on the top floor.

M. E. Tangney, furniture store, was situated west of the Lennan store and the big brick block also was for some time the home of billiard parlors operated by a gentleman named Brown, another named Reeves and also by Wetherup, Brooks and Hagan.

The building immediately east of the Big 20 was the R. F. Shannon Liquor store which in time became the John O'Reilly store. It is reported that the first Lindsay Fire Hall was also located in the same spot, many years ago.