

ON THE MAIN STREET

Publicity in the right medium pays. Recently an item in this column told the story of the octagon house on Peel Street in Lindsay and that these homes are as scarce as hen's teeth.

Clare Staples, a resident of Glenelg Street, was one of the counter-long coffee drinkers in the popular Jackson restaurant a few days ago and he volunteered the information that there is an octagon residence on the old "Lifford Line" in Manvers township and he should know because he is not only a former resident of the area but was at one time a frequent visitor in the odd shaped house. The eight sided rough-cast house is over a century old but it looks like the best farm home in Manvers and it is just that. Years ago it was owned by a farmer named McKee but for many decades past it has been owned by Gervin Mulligan of Bethany and although the farm is now used as ranch pasture land, the octagon dwelling has been painted solid white with black trimmings. The tenant on weekends and on holidays is Gerald Mulligan, a teacher in Toronto. "I remember the house for when I was a mere lad I thought the ceilings were high — and they are; and I could not reach the coat hooks and I might have a hard time reaching them today. The house appealed to me then and I have always admired it."

Incidentally Lifford is one of the oldest settlements in Manvers Township and it was a hive of industry in early days and even after the advent of the automobile. "There was a good general store, a blacksmith shop, a hall, a church and several houses. These places disappeared years ago" said Mr. Staples. "They vanished in the days of progress. Talk about hills" added Mr. Staples, "they are still plentiful but

they have been flattened out. There was one farmer back there who had an old Ford car for climbing hills and a more luxurious model for going to church and visiting around the district."

Even today there are a row of lovely solid stone houses on the Lifford Line and the neighborhood has produced numberless good farmers but many of the offspring have moved away and several young men in the district commute daily to the General Motors plant at Oshawa.

According to our informant, Lifford had for years a real good baseball team, champions of Manvers and Northumber-



land and Durham Townships.

Other one time prominent landmarks in the Manvers Township included Fleetwood and Mt. Horeb. Villages that were once the hub for business and entertainment have practically disappeared. Even the good old and unbeatable Manvers potatoes are not as plentiful as they once were, "but fortunate the man who can place Manvers spuds on the dinner table today," so says Clare Staples.