A picture of the once renowned marathon runner Tom Longboat is included with this column today. It was lent to "The Post" by Councillor Carl Brown, and was snapped when Longboat performed in Lindsay many years ago.

The picture brings to mind Longboat's fabulous career as well as the fact that Lindsay some years ago boasted of another long distance runner, Albert Smoke.

Few people in Lindsay know that the late A. T. Claxton of the Claxton's store and a former Mayor of Lindsay was many years ago a 22 miler and that he was in a race against Longboat which was held in Winnipeg.

The then young Claxton was a resident of the Canadian West and at one time was one of three brothers operating a mercantile store at Grenfell, Sask. One brother still runs the store as James Mackey of Lindsay can testify.

A year ago while trailer-touring in Western Canada, this young Lindsay businessman noticed the Claxton store and brought back a picture to show Ronald Claxton of Lindsay, a son of the late Mayor Arthur Claxton.

It is reported, but not verified, that Longboat, a long-legged, tall Indian once visited Lindsay and ran a race with a horse from Reaboro to Downeyville and back to Lindsay. Many citizens recall watching Longboat run around the half mile track at the fair grounds. His manager was the well known Tom Flannaghan, who controlled the reins when the marathoner represented Canada on the Olympic team in Europe. There Longboat became champion of the world.

Remember Albert Smoke another famous runner? He lived in Peterboro but later took up residence in Lindsay. Smoke was fleet of foot and ran Longboat a close second when they raced from Peterboro to Lindsay — 26 miles over dirt roads.

Albert Smoke represented Canada on the Olympic team in Europe and his son Albert Jr., has a good picture of the Canadian team, which according to the picture, also included bicyclists.

Remember Alfie Shrubb, the little man who hailed from Toronto and was the winner of many marathon races in Canada, particularly around Hamilton? He was for many years the gentleman who looked after the Cream of Barley camp at Bowmanville. He also raced in Lindsay in the days when Doug. Brandon, also a marathon runner lived in Lindsay as an employee of the Northern Casket Company.

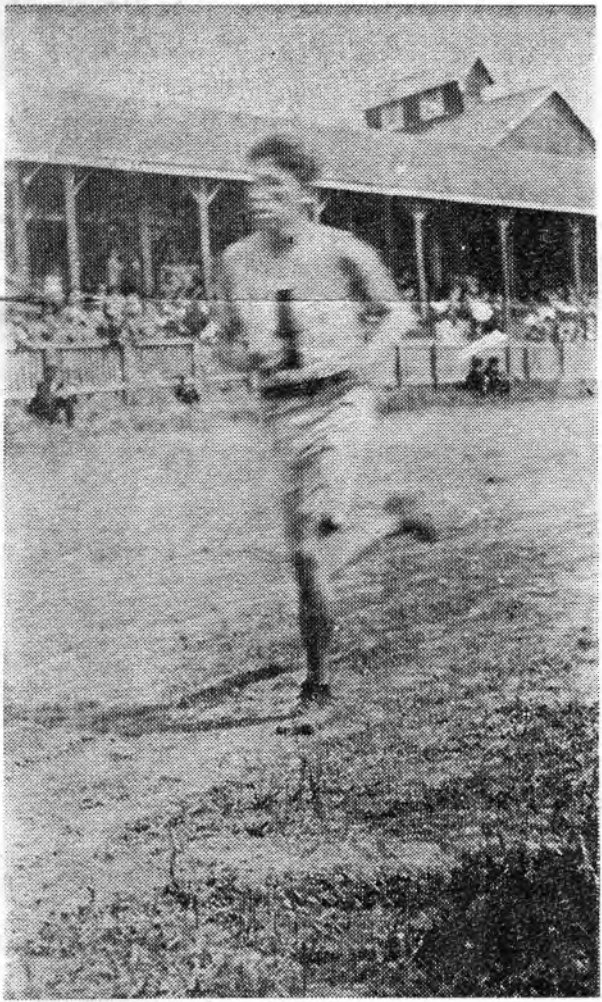
Brandon started a number of young long distance runners in Lindsay including John McMullen. Brandon moved from Lindsay to become owner of a casket manufacturing company in Western Ontario.

Remember the day when "Slats" Reilly, a journeyman printer with the Daily Post, ran a race against a horse at the Lindsay fairgrounds? Reilly was long and lanky and a very good runner.

At the time, two Blair Brothers operated a men's tailoring shop in the Blair block, now the home of Crest Hardware. One of the brothers owned an old run down race horse which he drove at times for a pastime. A race was arranged and betting took plase. The old nag of the dirt

track won but the printing printer turned in a good performance.

So much for marathon runners and some celebrities with world recognition.



Pictured on the dirt-track at the Lindsay Central Exhibition grounds is Tom Longboat, a Six Nations Indian who won the Boston Marathon in 1907. He could beat the best long-distance runners of his day and held the world record for 15 miles. The picture was loaned to "The Post" by Carl Brown, Sr.