

Fifty-five years ago the Academy Theatre which was then called the Academy of Music, was the scene of many an amateur show. One of these was entitled "The Doll Shop" and many readers of today will remember young actors, actresses and vocalists named in the cast of characters.

They included: Grace Tremer, Mr. McGee, Miss Rita Miller, Merritt Knowlson, Lee Keenan, Bruce McCarty, Andrew Nicholson, Ford Moynes, Agnes Moynes, Emily Sproule, Elda MacNabb, Walter Dixon, Annie Anderson, Miss Kirkconnell, Fred Matchett, Lillian Murray, Gertrude Pepper, Edna Roenigk, Helen Morgan, Robie Carew, Vera Wray, Amie Workman, Helen Paton, Vernon Mills, Fulton Carter, Lloyd McIntyre, Gordon Flavelle, Neil Gregory, Earle Quibell, Maxwell Shorey.

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A clipping from a Lindsay paper of 1909 chronicles the demise of the Lindsay Free Press. The editor at the time was Joe McNaulty, formerly of the Evening Post. Later McNaulty became a member of the editorial staff of one of the MacLean Trade papers, a Canadian Lumberman. In later years McNaulty moved to the British Columbia coast. His wife was the former Miss Britton, a sister of the two well known Lindsay jewellers Jerry and Sam Britton. The Britton store was established in Lindsay over 100 years ago and was located at the corner of Kent and Ridout Streets, now the home of the IGA. The living quarters of Mr. and Mrs. Polito at the rear of the IGA Store was the home of the Brittons.

Do you remember the days when Sergt. Major Martin operated what was probably the first steam laundry in Lindsay on Russell Street West, now the home of the Victoria Laundry? Sgt.-Major Martin was a veteran of the battle of Inkerman in the Crimean War and there are many citizens who will recall the loud blast from a small cannon which was fired by the Crimean veteran. In fact this cannon boomed out on many war anniversary dates.

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A glance back in newspaper files records the names of some of the advertisers of 1907. They included: Dundas & Flavelles, now the new Walker Store; Felix Forbert, shoe merchant at present living in Toronto; E. E. W. McGaffey dry goods who operated where the Olympia now does business; The Standard Bank at the corner of Kent and Cambridge Streets with F. Loosemore as manager; W. H. Roenigk, band master and owner of a music store in the present Academy Theatre block; R. Neill, boot and shoes in the same store now occupied by the Hamilton shoe store; B. J. Gough, "the King of Clothiers", where the Victoria and Grey now stands, the Victoria Loan and Savings Co; W. G. Dunoon, druggist, now Quinn's Pharmacy; A. Higginbotham druggist, now Hargan's Drug Store; Boxall and Matthie, hardware and tin at present doing business in the same store; A. L. Campbell, grocer, now occupied by Sally Anne ladies wear; W. F. McCarty, jeweller, practically in the same location as the McCarty store of today, operated by Bruce and Bill McCarty; J. W. Wakely, dry goods, in the store now occupied by Don

Scott; D. Cinnamon, hardware one door west of Court's on Kent Street.

The annual meeting of the then Cambridge Street Methodist Church in 1910 reveals that in the absence of the minister Dr. Wilson the chair was occupied by James Boxall. The programme included: organ solo by C. C. Forsythe, tenor solo by Percy Nesbitt, reading by Elsie Richardson, mandolin, violin and piano selection by the Misses Parkin, White and Balfour, violin solo by Miss Welsh, a ladies' quartette by Mrs. B. L. McLean, Mrs. Cora Blackwell, Mrs. (Dr.) Nesbitt and Miss Brisbin, reading by Mrs. (Dr.) H. Irvine, instrumental by Mrs. F. H. Kidd.



Eighty years ago a gentleman by the name of W. M. Robson arrived in Lindsay from England and there are no doubt many citizens of Lindsay and district who can recall the Robson Grocery Store at the northwest corner of Kent and Sussex Streets. This gentleman was also a horticulturist in the days when Lindsay boasted of an active floral society.

When Mr. Robson first landed on Lindsay soil a large bush knoll was to be noticed in the then village where the large Sylvester residence now stands at the corner of Victoria Avenue and Peel Street and the whole South Ward was quite countrified in appearance.

Mr. Robson lived on what was then a magnificent piece

of property on Albert Street south, a property he had purchased from E. D. Hand, proprietor of the Lindsay Advocate. Mr. Robson spent many hours in his garden, planted every tree and witnessed these trees grow to maturity. At the time his garden and grounds were said to be among the finest in Ontario. Mr. Robson also had a fine orchard and was an exhibitor at many Fairs including the then Toronto Industrial.

Mr. Robson was a member of the Lindsay Council and was frequently the writer of letters to the Daily Paper when his subjects included: Municipal Affairs, Parliamentary Matters, Good Roads, Fire Hall Site, Review of Current Topics, Trip to the Fruit Belt, Niagara Peninsula, Town Lighting, Town Insurance Troubles. Horticultural Society Work, Police Matters, Granolithic Walks and numerous others.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Robson, according to a newspaper article (86 years ago), predicted for Lindsay "a mixed and industrious population, the banks of the winding Scugog lined with solid-looking brick buildings with tall chimneys;; the streets nicely paved with beautiful extending and far-reaching boulevards. If the town ever does take steps towards out and out beautification, and if the heights in the vicinity of the town wharf and the McDonnell estate are ever made a park, a spot of beauty, I may be regarded as the father of the scheme."