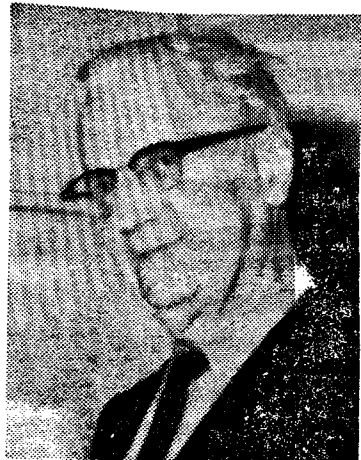


*Nov. 24/66*

# ON THE MAIN STREET



Remember a gentleman named Selby? It is interesting to recall a statement made by a Lindsay citizen a few days ago. He was gazing at the octogan house on Peel Street, one door west of the Salvation Army Citadel and he observed: "This is the only eight-sided house in Lindsay and district and I doubt if you can find another one in Ontario."

A child was born on a sailing vessel on the Atlantic Ocean; the vessel brought a large number of people from England to Montreal and many of them reached Port Hope and some found their way to Lindsay. A young man named Selby grew up in Verulam Township, around Dunsford and he is the gentleman who lived in this octogan house.

What many people do not know is that this man's name was actually Nie Independent Selby and that Nie was the Captain of the sailing vessel and the vessel was called the Independent.

Remember the old time wooden cash drawer under the wooden counter in many stores? The drawer was concealed from sight. It contained three bowl-like places for holding coins while the folding money was placed at the rear of the drawer. The smart merchant had a cash drawer with an alarm bell hidden from view. The storekeeper could open the drawer with out touching the bell but should a burglar try to steal money from the drawer his fingers hit the bell and the alarm was sounded.

These old cash drawers are scarce today, probably a collector's item or an article to be found in the museum. One

of these very old money containers is reported to be in the museum at Fenelon Falls and was once owned by a prominent storekeeper and butcher named Copp, who was a storekeeper in the Cataract village for many years.

Remember the railway Call Boy? Severay years ago when Lindsay was known as a railroad town, when upwards of one thousand people including families received their livelihood from the Grand Trunk Railway, when many dozens of men were Engineers, Firemen, Brakemen and Conductors the Call Boy was an important cog in the wheel.

At the time referred to many passenger trains, freight trains and way freight trains pulled their way through Lindsay every day, many started from Lindsay, a terminal town.

There were practically no telephones, hence the need for a Call Boy. There were two such characters in Lindsay, each working about 12 hours a day and receiving the magnificent wage of 50 cents a day. One Call Boy was stationed at the Freight Sheds

and the other at the round house and they received orders at the depot. When a crew had to be notified that they report for duty to go on a run the Call Boy hopped on his bicycle and wrapped on the door of the railway man's home. It might be in the dead of the night and loud knocks on the door usually resulted in the lifting of an upstairs window and the Call Boy would holler "Report for the 1.45 or the 3.30 am freight". This routine the Call Boy followed all through the night.

Fair weather or stormy weather, cold or warm, sleet or rain, snow or mud the Call Boy had his duty to perform. He was a part of early railroad life in Lindsay. Remember?

Perhaps Archie Wakelin and some other "Boys" could enlighten citizens and friends further on this responsible job of former railway days in Lindsay.