

“Old King Cole was a Merry Old Soul and a Merry Old Soul was He”, was a tuneful ditty often sung and hummed in days' gone by. There are a number of lovers of the old time songs and stage plays in Lindsay who candidly recall the old days of local amateur theatrical productions and the presentation of “Ten Nights in a Bar Room”, “Knautical Knot”, “Madam Butterfly”, “Pinafore”, “Queen Esther”, “The Old Homestead”, and other performances of bygone days.

Memories go back to the days when Lindsay was the home of a number of Lindsay persons whose names were seen on bold six foot posters on the old bill-board; and to the days when the Lindsay minstrels paraded on Kent

Street behind the Citizens' Band with Bandmaster Bill Roenigk and cornetist Bill Heffernan playing sweet notes on the euphonium and the cornet and Alf Bates and Art. Hooper were experts on the kettle and bass drums.

Those were the days when Hi Meehan and Harold Mercer and Fred Roberts were the laugh-provoking black - faced "End Men" and Herb Middleton was the Interlocutor.

Above were the days of a number of fine singers like Mrs. Walter Reesor, Mrs. Geo. Blackwell, Mrs. Peter Spratt and others. Other singer people who had singing and talking roles included Tom Murtagh, Percy L. Nesbitt, Walter Reesor, Mrs. F. A. Loosemore, the Moynes Brothers, James Mackey, Mary Flurey, Elva Roenigk, Mel. Robson and Frank Brimmell.

The late Cecil Carl Forsyth was organist and choirmaster at Cambridge Street Methodist Church and was the producer of a number of Academy of Music performances, the biggest and most dramatic one being "Queen Esther", based on the Biblical story. The leads included Mrs. W. R. Widdis, Mrs. Walter Reesor, Mrs. Geo. Blackwell, Rev. Bilkie a curate and tenor soloist from St. Paul's Anglican Church, Harry Brimmell, bass singer, and Mrs. Howard Nesbitt.

Theatrical stars from Lindsay who made a mark for themselves in theatrical performances across the continent and particularly in the United States included the famous Brown Bros. Saxaphone Sextette — six brothers who were born in Lindsay, the

songs of bandmaster Allie Brown. This famous band of musicians only gave one performance in Lindsay but hundreds across the border.

Another famous concert pair of real artists were known as the Pepper Twins. They were small of stature but magnificent performers as they toe-tapped and danced as well as warbled the old tunes of the gay nineties.

Lindsay's repertoire of stage and concert artists included Jim Perrin, whose domicile was on St. Peter Street. He joined the Mae Marks theatrical group, a dramatic and vaudeville group which toured Canada and the Eastern United States. First he was a tap dancer and later a dramatic actor. Perrin's brother Al. has been the successful operator of the Golden Slipper at Haliburton for several years.

James Meehan, a farm boy who lived on the Bobcaygeon road, north of town, became famous for his lead role in the "Man on the Box", which performed one night in Lindsay. This fine artist married Miss M. Newton, a Lindsay elocutionist.

There were many other talented actors, actresses and singers in Lindsay in days gone by who brought a certain amount of glory to the old town.

A Lindsay star in the theatrical world was the late Mae Edwards who was born and went to school in the south ward. She became a star and then formed her own theatrical company. Her husband, Charles T. Smith was also associated for many years with the theatrical business.

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"Main Street" items are known to be interesting to many readers, but mistakes do happen and hence this correction.

Reference was made to George McFadden, who was the popular "Wallpaper King", as he operated a store on the north side of Kent Street, near Lindsay Street. He was also one of the curling "greats" of his day.

Credit should have been given to James McFadden, father of Herb McFadden of Lindsay, who became a hero when he plunged into the Scugog River and saved the life of Roby Carew, now Mrs. C. G. Frost. A gold watch which was presented to the rescuer is the proud possession of Herb. McFadden. It is suitably engraved and was presented to James McFadden by John Carew, the "Lumber King" of Lindsay and district.