

How many readers can recall the days when it was not unusual to hear a hand organ on the main street? The instrument attracted a crowd but the antics of a monkey on a string was even more interesting. This trained monkey, dressed with a small coat and a wee hat, perched on its head, attracted the most attention. At times the animal carried a small tin can, or cup, and the idea was to toss coins into the cup. It was surprising the amount of money collected in this manner. If the street vendor noticed heads and shoulders at the upstairs windows the monkey was quick to climb the wall and collect the money in the tin cup.

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The game of curling in Lindsay dates back to 1885 and beyond when the game was first played on the icy Scugog River and at one time when youngsters were not allowed in the curling rink it was not unusual to see numbers of boys playing with homemade wooden blocks topped with a handle made out of a bent nail. Several years ago one of these old curling stones could be seen in the local club house. Today this object would be a good collector's item.

It is reported that at the same time some ingenious boys used to steal small tea kettles from the home kitchen, fill these articles with stones and use the improvised stones on the Scugog River.

In the early days of curling, in the Arnprior district, and more particularly in the Montreal district, curlers used iron "stones", an article about a foot high with a handle on the top and the running surface of the iron was flat with a narrow ridge close to the outside rim.

The idea of the game has not changed through the years — but it was mostly a draw game and the iron stones could draw three to five feet, and at times the "house" became cluttered with these irons but experts could draw

through ports, around the stones and with a little extra weight move the stones from the rings. At times the stones on the outer circles used to sink an eighth of an inch into the ice and it took an effort to bang them to the hack.

Many curlers today will be interested in learning that the game of curling originated in Scotland for many years, and to this day, curling stones used in Canada come from across the Atlantic. Mentioning the word Atlantic, recalls the fact that when the Lindsay Club purchased its first consignment of stones, with white handles, the steamer Athenia was sunk by a German submarine and the shipment went to the bottom of the Atlantic and of course remains there today. The second shipment arrived O.K.

At the time the Lindsay Club decided to buy matched stones, members of the club were invited to give the stones to the club, for which they received no payment, and these stones were then sold to new clubs in Western Canada. In this manner the Club got rid of a motley array of granites, some of the stones being large and weighing 45 to 50 pounds. The 50 pound stones were used by the lead and were not allowed to be used by any other members of the rink. It is recalled that one ardent and expert curler, Dick Butler, for many years was the only player to use the big stones when he was in an Ontario Tankard and other big events. It is also remembered that at times curlers who used their own rocks had them re-sharpened at the Allan Bros. Monumental Works, at that time located one door north of the fire hall.

In the days of old the Lindsay Club participated in many out-of-town games and it was customary to place the stones in a leather harness, load them on a sleigh and have them hauled to either the CPR or GTR stations where they were placed in the baggage car and hauled away to

such places as Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Orillia, Beaverton, Cannington, Oshawa, Toronto and Peterborough. At times these stones, when taken out of the heated baggage cars, had to be placed in snow drifts outside of the rink in order to cool them off. Otherwise when the heated stones were placed on the curling ice they would invariably sink a fraction of an inch.

History also records that the Lindsay Club wound up the season with an oyster banquet which was generally held in the Big 20 Restaurant and this was a gala night. It is also remembered that the local Club held an annual church parade when curlers assembled at the rink and marched in a body to the church where a special service was held.

In the day before the advent of the motor car curlers travelled by train and on different occasions when the Club won the Ontario Tankard it was customary to form a parade. march to the railway station, give the victors a rousing welcome and sit down to a sumptuous repast in the same restaurant.

These were also the days when there were few telephones but Lindsay had an enthusiastic supporter of curling in the person of Thos. Matchett who was in charge of the up-town ticket and telegraph office of the CPR and he was generous and obliging when he placed bulletins on the window, usually after every end.