

On The Main Street

with FORD MOYNES



Many stories lead to other stories. The short item regarding Fred Robinson, of Saskatoon, a former Lindsay boy, who was in the shoe business in Lindsay many years ago with a partner called George Ewart brings to the fore the story of shoemakers and shoe stores in the dim distant past and not so far back.

W. L. White lived at the corner of St. Lawrence and Russell Streets, the present Roman Catholic residence for the Sisters. He actually was a manufacturer of boots and shoes, for boots were more common than shoes. His store on Kent Street was later occupied by a man named Hocken, a shoe merchant and another occupant of the same store was a gentleman named Walsh and the store today is occupied by the Bata Shoe firm.

Felix Forbert ran a popular shoe store where the Artistic Ladies Wear store is now located. Mr. Forbert entered into rest a few weeks ago. For a time Felix Forbert's father Frank Forbert ran a shoe repair store on Kent Street and also sold a few shoes.

The present Reward Shoe Store has always been in this fine old business, from the days of Robinson, Ewart, Foy, Sisson, Menzies and Bisette were managers.

The Montreal Shoe Store was for many years the Neil Store with W. J. Carlisle in charge and one of the well known salesmen was former Alderman W. D. Stevens.

A man named McCullough carried on a shoe business for a short time in the store now occupied by Don Lytle's Men's Wear and for many years Dwyer's grocery.

Harold McMullen was a successful shoe store operator in the store now occupied by Kenlin Photography and was followed by Joe Leith.

Norm Bisette is the well known manager in the Agnew Surpass Store and John Cole is the proprietor of a popular shoe store on Kent Street, while Art Hill is the manager of a successful shoe store business under the name of Leslies.

For many years Jake Houzer carried on a large shoe business in work boots and White's Economy store on William Street South is another well known outlet.

Perhaps one of the best known shoe men in the years long ago was Mose Grozelle. For a time he had a small frame shop at the north west corner of King and Caroline Street and later he moved to a store on Lindsay Street next to the bridge where he had a sign reading "Hospital for Sick Shoes". Grozelle also manufactured many pairs of girls shoes.

Cobblers, as they were known by in days of yore, have almost disappeared. Barbo's shop on William Street

South is now one of the busiest outlets in the district.

Remember the hard working shoe repairman with one hand clutching a well-balanced special hammer, the other expertly used for clutching a sharp-pointed steel awl with a wooden handle, the right foot rising up and down as he operated a device holding the leather and the cobbler's mouth full of tacks.