

FORD MOYNES

# ON THE MAIN STREET



In the early Nineteen Hundreds Lindsay had a champion hockey team and a champion baseball team. The Lindsay Midgets carried the blue and white colours of the 1909 season to the top of the long ladder by winning the Ontario Hockey Association championship from Stratford. The team comprised L. Basil Newton, Cliff Sullivan, Leon Joyle, Bill Stoddard, "Pacer" MacDougall, Ken Randell, Frank Cote and Fred Taylor was coach.

The champion baseball team of earlier years known as the Red Birds, was recalled a few week's ago when George (Teddy) Miller passed away in Toronto. He was a Lindsay boy, an expert printer and was married to the late Ethel Wilkinson of Lindsay.

Norman McGill now living in Ottawa had this to say of Teddy Miller: "He played at short stop but he was also a good pitcher and he had the widest scooping out curve I ever saw".

"That was a good ball team, about the best east of Toronto. Bill Cinnamon, a hardware man was the catcher and I played at first base. I remember I used a baseball mitt which was bigger than the catcher's decker of today. I lived at Janetville but I never missed a game with the Red Birds".

Herb (Pony) Workman played at second base and Bert Menzies, a shoe man, was the regular short stop. George Miller, who was a book store merchant, was brought from

Kingston to play baseball in Lindsay and he covered the third base area. In the outfield we had Bill Stalker, a Sylvester Company man in right field, Joe Mark of Valentia, in centre and Dick Grey was in right field. Bill Simpson of the Simpson Hotel was the Manager.

Continuing Mr. McGill added: "We had a good hitting team. Workman was the smartest second baseman in the business around that time and had a chance to play with the Rochester N.Y. team in the American League. He was swift on his feet, could hit hard and he was a lively fielder. Bill Cinnamon was a good man behind the plate. In fact the boys were all good. In late years Bob Menzies was connected with the team. There was no skinned diamond at that time and the bases were chiefly small sacks filled with sand. The bats were usually long and most of them were heavy. The outfield was fairly good but at times the grass was almost as long as hay and outfielders once in awhile tumbled into holes. However, the spirit was the very best and every man played positions well".

"A man named Jack MacAdam was a very good ball player. Except for Dick Grey now living at Cannington, I guess I am one of the last of the Red Birds. I do not think Grey was a regular with the original team. Grey became one of the best pitchers later on, a regular speed artist. They were good days and

every village and hamlet in the hamlet in the country had a baseball team. Rules have changed and now I hear that some amateur leagues are adopting rules where a batter can be out on two strikes and a runner can go to first on three balls instead of four. I do not think this will add to the popularity of the game".