

A Brass Band, in fact, any kind of a band is a definite asset to a municipality, a hamlet or a thriving town. Lindsay has good bands in the distant past and has two excellent bands today. Canada is one hundred years old, Lindsay is over one hundred and thirty years old and it is reported that away back Lindsay had its bands, chiefly fife and drum bands which were bold enough to head a parade of Orangemen from year to year.

Boys are naturally musically inclined. Remember the days when school boys used the blade of green grass for a whistle, or perhaps it was a whistle made from a gad of slippery elm or it may have been the then recognized tin whistle or perhaps a small mouth whistle the size of a 25c piece. Many a good tune was played on a fine tooth comb and the Jew's harp was a more difficult instrument to play with the thin blade that vibrated on the teeth. Also, away back, a pair of bones were popular with Minstrel Show end men, and many performers used the castinets.

It is interesting to note that 100 years ago "Soldiers" belonging to Lindsay's first Salvation Army Band had the experience of being stoned on Lindsay Streets. For this "misdemeanour" many of these "soldiers" spent a night in jail. Many of today's Senior Citizens can recall when the Salvation Army Band consisted of a large bass drum and perhaps one horn when the drum was often placed on the ground and bystanders were invited to toss on their one cent pieces.

One of the oldest bands in Lindsay was conducted by a man named Allie Brown and he must have been a good musician for he had six sons who became known in Canada, United States and abroad as the "Brown Brothers Saxophone Sextette". Several years ago the last of the six Brown brothers (Tom) returned to Lindsay and became a leader of the Citizens' Band. While in Lindsay, Tom Brown presented a show in the Academy of Music with proceeds going to the local band. The programme included a saxophone sextette modelled after the famous Brown Brothers' unit and among the members were Pat Jakins, Ross Endicott, Norm Clarke and Tom Brown.

— The Sylvester Band was one of Lindsay's finest, a band numbering 35 musicians, a band which was followed by the 109th Battalion Band which made a remarkable impression Overseas during World War One. Both these bands had outstanding band masters in William Roenigk and William Heffernan and the bandsmen included such players as Jack Bradshaw, Charlie Davidson, George Caruth, Herb Hardy, Mark Ingle, Art Hooper, Alf Bates, Harry Stoddard, Roy Wynn, Norm Clark, Pat Jakins and R. Shenkel and others.

Art Hooper, known as "Hoop", was in many respects a master bandsman. He took to the drums like the proverbial duck takes to water, and was an expert on all percussion instruments. His young life included the time he was picked up by a Circus band and when he drummed his way through United States, in-

cluding Circus performances in Madison Square Gardens, New York City. He returned to his home town of Lindsay, following the death of his father and was for many years identified with local bands and musical organizations.



Arthur Hooper was a "natural" musician and at one time was the head of a concert orchestra which played one night stands throughout the district. As a member of the orchestra fifty or seventy-five cents for an engagement and that was considered good money in those day. When they were given a dollar a night that was a bonanza, and out of this amount they had to pay for the car gasoline. If a tire happened to blow or the engine refused to go because of wet plugs — that was all in the game.

It is also worth mentioning that Art Hooper was the first operator of the silent movie projection machines in Lindsay. For upwards of 52 years he sat in the little fire-proof "house" which was located for many years in the gallery of the theatre and took care of all projections on the large white cloth screen. He was closely associated with the late Hi Meehan, manager and owner of the Academy Theatre and when the Academy was closed as a movie picture house he was induced to take a position in the theatre at Trenton. A few years later this historic and antique movie projector machine became the property of Mr. Hooper's son, Arthur Hooper, now of Ottawa who in turn donated the article to the Victoria County Museum.

Incidentally it is of interest to note that Jack Hooper was boy soloist in St. Paul's Anglican Church in Lindsay, and was also a soloist at a number of Lindsay Minstrel shows. Jack Hooper was for some time a reporter on the staff of The Daily Post, and later a representative for the Toronto Telegram in Trenton. As a young man, Jack followed his father as a projectionist and for a time was the operator and manager of the theatre in Minden and later on in Trenton. For some years past he has been with a movie film department in the Federal Parliament Building at Ottawa. While living at Minden, Jack Hooper married Gwen Lindopt, a daughter of Mr. William Lindopt, now a resident on St. Paul Street, Lindsay. Mrs. Arthur Hooper has been a resident of Lindsay for many years, a life-long worker in St. Paul's Church, Evening Auxiliary and is now residing on King Street in Lindsay.