

Canada's population explosion is partly attributed to the influx of immigrants from many countries and a large number of fine people sometimes classed as foreigners have found homes in Lindsay and district. Readers can no doubt well remember when the majority of new comers in these parts were known as Barnado Boys. They were hand picked by the authorities in England and also carefully screened by authorities in Ontario.

Ray Drury, well known in this area and also well known to many war veterans was one of these boys. Today he is hale and hearty and he is a man who has served in two world wars, having enlisted at a young age with the 109th Battalion in Lindsay. For several years he was a Barnado Home guest in the farm home of Harvey Copp, a gentleman who farmed in the Islay, Fenelon distict.

Employers in those days had to sign on the dotted line, had to see that the Boys had proper clothing, plenty to eat, had a downy feather pillow on which to rest their weary heads and had to see that these boys attended church and attended social functions. Many of these Home boys from across the pond became good citizens.

Charlie Edwards, the grand old man of Fenelon Falls, who at the age of 94 took pride in battling the elements of Winter and not only shovelled off his own long walk but also the neighbours every winter, said he would never go to sunny Florida, has changed his mind. He has been basking in the hot sun of Florida for three weeks and if his in-laws have their way he will spend the winter in the sunny, sunny south. Villagers in Fenelon Falls will miss this familiar figure as he meandered up and down Bond Street in the Cataract meropolis every day Summer or Winter.

There is talk about holding a Winter Carnival in Town and the Lions Club will hold a week's Carnival in the Exhibition grounds as well as sports on the Scugog River. Several years ago Lindsay merchants held a meeting in the old Council Chamber and made plans for the annual Winter Carnival. At that meeting it was suggested that free railway fares be given to people from the North and another suggestion was to hand out dollar bills to the first customers in the stores etc. etc. to induce customers. The give away people sat back on their haunches when J. Houzer, well known self-made merchant, entered the conversation by remarking: "Let us give our customers real values rather than promoting gimmicks."

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A so-called "gallup" poll on Main Street regrading the question of parallel or angle parking shows the majority of merchants in favour of the present system, as well as many motorists. However a local business man put it thus: "Parallel parking would mean fewer cars parked on Kent Street, this would be annoying to people from the rural district and it would mean less revenue for the town and there would be just as many accidents. Many motorists lack the decency or courtesy to let drivers back out from the curb properly."

Remember the time when the police department tried to regulate traffic at the intersections by placing an iron button cage under which there was a red light, at the two main intersections on Kent Street? Cars continually ran on top of the signal light and one incident occurred when the 45th Regimental band was parading on Kent Street. The drummer, Alf. "Bruiny" Bates stumbled over the obstacle, reeled forward but was picked up by two companions and believe it or not he stepped into line and never missed a beat of the drum. He was a fine drummer.

Remember the days when the town council again tried to regulate traffic by placing large cement sewer tile filled with gravel at the two intersections. The obstacles were topped by large and beautiful bouquets of red geraniums. These traffic controllers went well until in the darkness of one night a woman motorist piled head long into the concrete structure at the corner of Kent and Cambridge Streets. The car was damaged and the police department had a hard time rectifying the mishap. That ended the flower pots.

Back in 1924 when W. G. Graham was Mayor of Lindsay parallel parking of cars was given a try out. This proved unsatisfactory and angle parking was established.

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The family name of Fish is not uncommon in old England but there are a few by that name in this part of Ontario. According to Doug. Fish, a young progressive Mariposa farmer, his father heard the call to leave the old homestead in the old Country and coming to Canada the family settled on one of the oldest farms in the Mariposa Township. This farm was located on the Valentia-Seagrave Road, the southern boundary line of the Township and not far from the Fingerboard Corners. This peculiar name was given to the location when a board sign the shape of a finger was nailed on a corner tree.

Incidentally the Fish farm goes back into history some 125 years when it was cleared of dense bush and developed into a good mixed farming area. Over a century ago it was occupied by the Beacroft family and it was in their possession until Mr. Fish's father arrived from England. Another branch of the Beacroft family lived in the vicinity of

Woodville and one son became a preacher in the Presbyterian Church after he had graduated from the Lindsay Collegiate Institute.

At the end of this Mariposa concession line was the present village of Seagrave, located in Brock township, Ontario County. This Hamlet became known far and wide because of a weekly cartoon which appeared in one of the Toronto papers, a cartoon depicting a character known as Pig Skin Peters and another character known as Archie. The cartoon was one of many from the brush of a young man called Jim Frise and the story centered around one of the old fashioned pumps which was located on the main street of Seagrave. It disappeared years ago along with the cartoon.

"How are things?" and "what do you know?" was a common salutation a few years ago and is today and the answer might be "no complaints, thank you." Many readers might remember the late Tom Arnold who operated Arnold's Garage but there are a few who knew his father who was also named Thomas Arnold. The old gentleman always replied "No complaints" although he was blind in one eye and was quite deaf — This is a lesson in a few words.

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The following bit of sport history came to light recently when an employee in the Daily Post on William Street north came across a well preserved shield or trophy. The Shield was identified with a hockey team dating back to 1909-1910. On the reverse side of the shield appears two words which are at the present time baffling, but some reader might enlighten the writer. The words were "Snedgin" and "Three".