

Do you remember visiting the farm and being literally scared to death by the big white gander when it opened wide its beak and let forth a loud somewhat blatant sound?

Do you remember the time you were chased at top speed across the barn yard by a nanny goat and a fleet footed ram? Did you have the experience of getting over the rail fence in time or did the billy goat help you over with a real bunt? Red shirts were to the ram like a red flag to a bull.

Do you remember back in 1912 when the first paved street was constructed on William Street north from Kent to Colborne? Remember the large tar material bricks and how the heavy bricks were picked up by two large Negroes and placed in position, end to end? The bricks were a foot long, six inches across and two inches deep.

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Ex-Mayor Charles Lamb of Lindsay and Mayor Elect Merle Dickerson of North Bay had two or three matters in common. Lamb had the longest service as Mayor of Lindsay and Dickerson has the same record in North Bay. Both appealed to the working men and Charles Lamb used the slogan: "A full dinner pail for the working man." Merle Dickerson was re-elected recently when he defeated three opponents.

Mayor Dickerson first entered municipal politics when he was elected a member of the Lindsay Hydro - Electric Commission. He was opposed to the Service Charge and that was one reason for his election. When in Lindsay he owned and operated an electrical appliance store.

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One hundred years ago Victoria County was dotted with a hundred hamlets and burghs. There was the small store with the four walls bulging with all sorts of merchandise from hard corn, "Wuskey" and calico to red flannels and candles. There was the rough hewn log cabin with the earthen floor, the salon, the church and meeting place and the spreading blacksmith shop sometimes under the spreading chestnut tree.

Blacksmith shops were the "seats of learning" where country gossip, politics and church matters were discussed freely.

One Lindsay gentleman recalls the days when he lived in the South Ward and had to pass the blacksmith shop on Lindsay street which was run for many years by the Cain family.

“I remember that this shop was run by a man named Harry Bell. We kids used to look in and watch the man pump a bellows with his left arm and then with his right arm and hand he handled a long pair of tongs and pulled out a red hot horse shoe from the blaz-

ing forge. The strong, sweat-browed blacksmith skilfully turned the hot shoe over and over on an anvil and pounded the shoe into shape, with different sizes for large or small hoofs. Sparks flew in all directions and the steam hissed up as he thrust the hot shoe into a barrel of dirty water. I have never forgotten that sight. It was just as exciting to watch the blacksmith turn his back to hind quarters of the animal, pick up the horse's foot by the fetlock, place the animal's leg firmly between his knees and then proceed to hammer on a steel shoe."

The blacksmith Harry Bell will be remembered by many people. He was an Irishman from Ireland and a man who had served his apprenticeship in the old country. Bell is probably better remembered as Chief of the Lindsay Volunteer Fire Brigade. These were the days when a beautiful team of big well matched bay horses were well trained. It was a sight to see the team break from their stalls when the alarm of fire was sounded



on a large bell at the fire hall tower. The team darted out from the stalls and stood directly under the set of harness suspended from the ceiling. With one movement of the hand the harness fell into place and was quickly fastened. In a few split seconds the team went thundering down the street, and volunteer firemen who were working nearby ran to the street and grabbed the steel bars at the end of the fire truck as the vehicle was rushing by and they stood on a long narrow step at the rear of the truck.

Later Chief Harry Bell was succeeded as Fire Chief by his son Jim Bell, who worked in the grocery wholesale building directly across the street from the fire hall. The latter gentleman was the first to take up living quarters in the fire hall.

What became of the Bell blacksmith shop on Lindsay Street? Harry Bell sold to Andre Cain who was joined by his sons Louis and Phil Cain. As horses were gradually superseded by motor cars the blacksmith business of shoeing horses also passed out of the picture, although before Phil Cain passed on he was recognized as the foremost maker of special light weight aluminum shoes for race horses.

Two weeks ago the one hundred year old Cain building was sold and it is understood it will be leveled to the ground. Thus will disappear another Lindsay landmark.