

FORD MOYNES

ON THE MAIN STREET



Slowly, steadily and surely the old Grand Trunk-Canadian National Railway in Lindsay and District has been "ebbing" away and today it is almost completely disintegrated although there are many who continue to hope that the railway line from the East into Lindsay, North to Haliburton and West to Toronto will survive.

Many fine gentlemen were associated with old railway days in Lindsay and one who is still remembered by many people as D. C. (Judge) Trew was widely known as the title signifies as he was a Judge of poultry. His occupation, however, was that of Librarian for G.T.R., the office occupying rooms in the second story of the old Grand Trunk station.

The name of D. C. Trew was known practically all over the Dominion and in many towns and cities outside of the Dominion, chiefly because of the reputation he enjoyed as a poultry judge.

The following article concerning Mr. Trew appeared in an issue of the Post on July 2, 1924:

He saw Lindsay grow from a small town to the larger metropolis. He saw the Midland Railway grow and merge into the Grand Trunk Railway and later into the Canadian National Railway.

In 1871 Mr. Trew was clerking in a general store in Orono, Durham County, and in the same year he moved to Lindsay, along with Mr. John Foster, who purchased the general store owned by Sanderson Bros., and located in the building now occupied by the Benson House shaving parlor, formerly the hotel bar. James and George Sanderson were well known businessmen of Lindsay at the time. A year later Mr. Foster sold to T. McLean and Mr. Trew at the time was offered a more lucrative position by Mr. J. R. Dundas, founder of the old and reliable firm of Dundas and Flavelle Ltd., at the time Mr. J. D. Flavelle was head bookkeeper in his uncle's store, along with Mr. Trew, were the chief clerks in this

general store. Later Mr. Wm. Flavelle arrived from Peterboro and became clerk in the store. Then the store was a small but progressive one located at the corner of Kent and York streets.

Some years later Mr. Duncan Ray formed the firm of Ray, Thornbury and Trew who started a general store business in a fine store at the corner of Kent and William streets, now occupied by the Bank of Commerce. It was then three storeys high but was later destroyed by fire and rebuilt with two storeys. Dry goods, clothing, millinery and carpets were handled by this firm. After five years Mr. Trew sold out his interest to Mr. Ray to accept the position of chief clerk with Mr. C. L. Baker. The latter had conducted a very fine business in a store at the corner of William and Peel streets, occupied by the Orange Lodge. Mr. Baker then built the Adams Block, corner of Kent and Cambridge streets. Mr. Arch Campbell was bookkeeper in the same store.

Later on Mr. Trew went into business with his brother-in-law, the late Robt. Smyth, in the store later occupied by E. E. W. McGaffey, J. W. Wakely and later by Maunder and Allin. Later when he secured the position of Librarian with the Grand Trunk Railway, which position he filled successively and with much credit to himself and to the company.

This was in 1889 and the Library at the time was located on Victoria Ave., near where the freight sheds are at present situated. The station agent at the time was Mr. Rich Matchett and the freight agent was Mr. John McHugh, noted financier, New York City. Shortly afterwards in the year 1888-89 the new station was erected. Previous to this the station was located on the avenue, and previous to that was situated on King Street, the first agent being Mr. Thos Gladman, who was followed by Mr. Alex Burton. The only line of tracks was from Port Hope to Lindsay, this line afterwards being extended to Bea-

verton, the tracks crossing the Scugog river in the vicinity of Horn's Mill. Later on the line to Midland was built and the Midland Railway afterwards became the Grand Trunk and today is known as the Canadian National. The engines in the olden days were fired by wood and it was nothing unusual to see big stacks of wood piled along the tracks. The smoke stacks on the engines were tall. The round house was then moved from Port Hope to Lindsay, Mr. Storer being in charge, and later on the lines to Blackwater and Haliburton were built.

Mr. A. M. Paton followed Mr. Matchett as agent and then Mr. R. G. McCraw, A. J. McNabb and F. G. Sandy.

Mr. Trew recalls Lindsay as a town, but a straggling one. The business part of the town on William Street north, which was the main business section. However there were a number of good stores on Kent Street. From the Pym House (today Woolworth's) to the corner of Cambridge Street, there was nothing but a commons, with the exception of one small frame dwelling, the home of Mr. Jas. Hamilton, proprietor of the Hamilton Carriage Works. From the Keenan block (Benson House) to McConnell's Corner, (Lindsay Street) on the north side there was but one small frame structure, a barber shop conducted by a negro. On the south side of Kent Street the Simpson House was located at the corner of York and Kent, and the Adams block at the corner of Kent and Lindsay Streets, but there were no stores in between. The old English church was situated on the present post office (now Dominion Store) site and there were no structures between the church and Cambridge Street to the west. The residential section at that time was mostly on Bond St. The section now occupied by the Slyvester shops was then occupied by the drill sheds at the back of which was a swale and much low brush.

South on William Street, the Bank of Montreal was located on the east side of the street, between Russell and Glenelg streets. The Ontario Bank was at the corner of Russell and St. Lawrence streets, Mr. S. A. McMurty was then manager. The Registry office was located in the residence at the corner of Glenelg and William streets.

The Grand Trunk Library is one of four such libraries in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the others being located at Belleville, Montreal and Stratford.

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Quite frequently former Lindsay boys "hit the headlines" and one of the most recent was W.O. "Wib" Thomas of Cobourg who was elected Warden of Northumberland County. Warden Thomas has been in municipal politics for several years. In every day life he operates a successful automotive business. Many people will remember the parents of Warden Thomas, namely Mr. and Mrs. Fred Thomas, owners of the Hupmobile garage, which was located in the premises immediately south of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were quite active in the Oddfellows and Rebekah Lodge in Lindsay.

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History — past, present and future — has been and is being written in prolific manner in all parts of Canada, and Cen-

tennial year provided the spark. Lindsay and the County has been no exception. Dr. Watson Kirkconnells history of Victoria County sparked the situation. A writer is assembling facts and figures for the history of Ops Township. The latest book just off the presses at the plant of the Bobcaygeon Independent is the history of the Township of Verulam. The writer has forwarded a dollar bill to the gentleman who compiled the wealth of detail. (Perhaps there should be a fee for this boost!)

Thos. Martin, for many years a tiller of the soil, a successful farmer, for over seventeen years a member of Verulam Council, a Past Warden of Victoria County, former Clerk of the Township, delved deep into the history of the Township and compiled the historic data and following a year of research has been successful in producing a booklet, which will no doubt be readily sold. The history as printed and the pictures go a long way back over the Century and a quarter from the time "Red" Junkin married the first white girl born in Verulam to the naming of the Township after the Earl of Verulam, the advent of the Boyd's and the Dunsford's and the days when Charles Fairbairn was a Tory member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the first school, first church etc.