

FORD MOYNES

# ON THE MAIN STREET

*Feb. 3/68*



Fifty-four years ago the Machine Telephone Company had a branch in Lindsay on William Street north where Lynn's Lunch is now located. The Manager was Hammond Lee, who was also Plant Manager. Head office was in Brantford, known across Canada and the United States as the home of the Alexander Graham Bell, the founder of the Bell Telephone Company.

The old Machine Telephone Company, which was a dial machine like the Bell of today, had over 300 customers in Lindsay and was a going concern until the plant was gutted by fire in 1925. Many people will remember the courteous young lady who attended to the office management at the William Street office. Her name was Miss Etta Begg, now well known as Mrs. Charles Lamb, wife of the former Mayor and M.P. Charles Lamb.

In 1919 another present resident of Lindsay arrived from Brampton to become head

electrician and technician at the Lindsay plant, G. S. Owens, a resident of Cambridge Street north. Mr. Owens was also despatched to inspect the cable line out of Peterboro, which was reported as being faulty. Despite an organized effort by certain business men the Peterborough venture failed to materialize.

At the time the late Jim Davis of Lindsay was assistant to Mr. Owens. Another well known man engaged as Superintendent in Peterborough was Dan McCabe, who is still remembered by old time baseball

players as a speed ball pitcher.

Gregory's drug store in Lindsay was one of the first business places to have a Machine phone on the wall and to receive calls. It is stated that Mrs. Ed. A. Gregory was a shareholder of the company as was her brother the late Robert Neill of the R. Neill Shoe Company of Peterborough.

Following the fire of 1925 Mr. and Mrs. Hammie Lee moved to Thurstonia Park where they operated a Lodge for several years. They have been living retired for some years past in Toronto.