

On The Main Street

with Ford Moynes

Feb 15/68

When the old Canadian Pacific Railway at Myrtle was levelled to the ground by fire a short time ago there was one well known resident of Lindsay who had a feeling of regret at the passing of the large red painted structure which was once his home. That gentleman is T. R. Price, Regent Street. As he once remarked: "Nineteen of the best years of my life were when I lived at Myrtle. It was one of the busiest station on the main line and in those days many long passenger trains and much longer freight trains passed through every day, or pulled into sidings for overnight. In fact we worked some times all night. The days were long and the pay cheques were not by means fat, but the job of Station Agent had many compensations".

Mr. Price continued: "There was actually a lot of fun, more so in some ways than in this modern world of today".

Often in a small hamlet in early days at Myrtle both young and older men had time for Church, politics, secret lodges and sports. It is interesting to note that T. R. Price found time for all these activities and that as a hockey player on a Port Perry Intermediate he played in the old "band box" ice rink located on Lindsay Street south. "We used to drive through snow drifted roads, in below zero nights. We did not have the luxurious uniforms, the pads, the gloves etc., that they play with today" said "T. R." He continued: "As a rule we had one hockey stick. Many a time after a game players had to climb into a cold sleigh or cutter wearing shirts wet with perspiration and drive 15 miles or more back home and some times get back home just in time to go to work. Today hockey players have everything handed to them on the old proverbial platter but I guess that is all right for this day and age".

Adding to the story a Lindsay railroad man stated that Station Agents away back had a multitude of duties, handle all baggage, look after all orders for passenger and freights, as well as special trains and there were many, attend to weigh bills, sell tickets, keep the fires going, sweep, shovel snow, carry coal as well as try and keep cantankerous and complaining people happy.



Incidentally T. R. Price has filled important positions at many railway posts and was for some time Agent at Port Hope before coming to Lindsay. He was the courteous and capable representative of the C.P.R. in Lindsay for several years prior to his retirement. His community life has included the Past Presidency of the Rotary Club at Port Hope, membership in the Lindsay Curling Club and Lawn Bowling Club and several years and a member as Secretary of the Lindsay Parks Board.

He is also the wearer of a Masonic fifty year jewel.