

On The Main Street

May 30/68

with Ford Moynes

Victoria Day goes a long way back, and oldsters well remember the old saying "the 24th of May is the Queen's birthday . . . if you don't give us a holiday we will all run away." There is at least one resident of Lindsay who remembers the popular holiday and he is F. Reynolds who for many years was a conductor on the old Grand Trunk Railway for it was on the 24th of May over 24 years ago that he was the winner of a greasy pole race which took place at the Town Wharf. Years ago old and young took part in water sports at the Lindsay Street bridge in the morning and at the baseball diamond at the Fair Grounds in the afternoon. Walking the greasy pole was fun and it was not easy. A long thirty foot flag pole was firmly nailed to the wooden wharf and then lathered with grease and the one who could dash out on the greasy pole and grab the flag at the end became the winner and many a competitor slithered off into the Scugog before he skidded half the length of the pole. It was fun for the contestants as well as the onlookers.

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From time to time memories are tested. For instance a

well known Downeyville farmer A. Clancy volunteered the information a few days ago that it was a blacksmith by the name of Pat Callaghan of Downeyville who was largely responsible for the mechanical success of the Sylvester combine threshing machine which was made in Lindsay and was the pioneer combine in the western grain fields of Manitoba.



"Richard Sylvester had the vision and Pat Callaghan was a genius with his talents along mechanical lines," said Mr. Clancy. "He could make anything he set his mind and hands to do. Richard Sylvester was also a smart man and he had vision. For many years the Sylvester binder and Sylvester plow were recognized as the best in that type of machinery.