

# On The Main Street

with Ford Moynes

"Take me out to the Ball Game, Take me out with the Crowd", etc. Remember the days of the Lindsay Red Birds and later on the Greybirds? Those were the days when Kent Street merchants closed their stores and as many as 1,300 and some times 2,000 people patronized games in the Fair Grounds and literally hollered their heads off rooting for the home team, when the brand of ball played in the Central Ontario Baseball League at Peterborough, Cobourg, Port Hope, Oshawa, Bowmanville, Leaside, and Lindsay was the best in the Province.

Many players were recalled to mind a few days ago by Elgin "Batsy" Bates, of Toronto, who was one of the best catchers the Town of Lindsay ever boasted about. He rambled on in an interesting manner: "Jack Oulette, of Fenelon Falls, had the fastest ball and he could really throw them across the plate and he had a fine assortment of curves. I remember a game at Port Hope when Bart Cummings was catching for Lindsay and Oulette shot the ball so hard that it knocked his glove into the wire screen. Oulette's fast balls had a tendency to shoot upwards when they landed in the catcher's mit. I recall the game at Belleville when Lefty Goyer had 13 strike outs and Oulette had 14 and even then Lindsay lost the game 2 to 1."

"Eddie Scott, known as 'Cannon Ball' was another great pitcher. He was brought to Lindsay by the Oddfellows at the same time the Shell Works brought in Les. O'Connell. Scott had speed to burn and did not use too many curves. He grooved the ball over the home plate and many a time my catching hand was puffed and sore. Even when he threw speed balls the baseball stayed right in the glove."

"Howard 'Tubby' Williamson was a good pitcher and one who used his head, a twirler who was able to size up a batter and he had a good assort-

ment of curves. I was catching Tubby in a game at Port Hope and I remember the time he was at bat and he attempted a bunt, something he was good at, but this time a speed ball broke fast in on his hands and cut one of his finger tips off."

"Among the good players in those days were "Buster" McDonald and also his brother 'Skinny' McDonald who played for Port Hope; Jack Stark; Redge Mills; Loyd Chambers; Art Carew; Bill Stalker; George (Beefy) Logan, a catcher of ability and others."



"Dick Butler, Alex Kay and Jack Rosevear were the Umpires and I think Rosevear was the best."

It is interesting to note that Bate, Stark and Mills played for a time with Bowmanville and later went to Toronto to play for the Goodyear ball team and Mills and Chambers also caught a place on the Goodyear hockey team in Toronto.