

ON THE MAIN STREET

July 26/68



Remember the day when a resident on Jane St. glanced out of a window and beheld two boys at the top of the tall water reservoir, painting their names in large black letters.

The boys were Hugo Beall, son of George W. Beall, Albert St. and his painting partner, Jack Squiers, son of Mrs. C. M. Squiers, Russell St.

At the time, these two school boys lived side-by-side on Glenelg St. Other boys had made the dangerous climb, but did not have a brush and a can of paint with them.

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Leo Begley, publisher of four trade journals, employed by the McLean Publishing Co., Toronto, was in town recently visiting his mother, as well as being on assignment.

As publisher of Hardware Merchant, Mr. Begley visited Messrs. E. G. (Ted) Oke, owner of Edwards Hardware Store and Laverne Gamble, owner of the Boxall and Matthie Hardware Store.

"In all my travels for trade journals," said Mr. Begley, "I do not know of any place where they have two competitors side-by-side and on the very best of terms. In fact it is unique."

The two stores are among the oldest established in the province. The proprietors deal with each other, at times buy together and the managers at times have occasional coffee breaks together.

Mr. Begley started his newspaper and editorial career with the The Lindsay Daily Post, where his father was editor for several years. Leo was quite active in sports and as a sideline was a good vocalist.

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Many manufacturing firms and local business concerns have been tied in with the history of Lindsay for innumerable years. For instance Hick's

Flowerland dates back to the days when E. E. Maxsom, an Englishman, started a greenhouse on Angeline Street south.

The McCrea Foundry establishment was launched in a small way by J. C. Makins, a machinist, who also became one of Lindsay's first lock masters. One of the oldest men's clothing stores is owned and operated by W. E. Ferguson, the forerunners of which were Ed. C. Armstrong and Leo Rovers and Mr. Ferguson learned the business as a boy with F. W. Sutcliffe and the store was located where Zeller's is now doing business. The Benson Hotel is upwards of 100 years old, always carrying on under the same name. The Olympia Tea Room was established by the late Tony Bakogee who operated a tea room at Barrie while his brother ran a tea room at Oshawa.

Gregory's Drug Store is said to be the oldest in Ontario and the present operator, Sonny Gregory is a fourth generation of the family doing business in the original stand. The McCarty Jewelry store had its beginning when the late W. F. McCarty was engaged in a small way as a watch repairer and this business is one of the oldest of its type in the Province. The Mackey Funeral Home, founded by the late James Mackey, was a continuance of the furniture and undertaking business dating back

to the days of J. W. Anderson and Robert Nugent. The Tangney Furniture firm is one of the oldest and was launched by the late M. E. Tangney who was also a Funeral Director. The Hardware stores operating under the names of Boxall and Matthie and Edwards Hardware have retained their identity for upwards of a century. James Boxall was originally from Port Perry and J. G. Edwards learned the business in Bobcaygeon. The Cote Welding shop on William Street north was started by the late A. E. Cote and was the first of its kind in this district.

Victoria Laundry dates away back to the days of Major Martin who fought in the Crimean War. The Little Book Shoppe, now operated by Gordon Mayes, was named by George Little who was brought to Lindsay as a baseball pitcher from Kingston in the days of the old Midland Baseball League of which the Lindsay Red Birds were champions. More anon