



FORD MOYNES

ON THE MAIN STREET

Sept. 7/68

There are no centenarians in Lindsay and consequently no one who can recall the first fair of the Victoria Agricultural Society. It was held on the block of land now contained within the boundary of Kent, Sussex, Russell and Victoria Ave. The fence hid from view the race track and the stalls and wooden lean-to's used for all kinds of displays. It was also known as the militia drill sheds.

There are, however a number of octogenarians who well remember the fall fairs held in the present beautiful grounds on Adelaide St. N., where the big annual show will open its gates in September.

Many citizens remember the Knowlson family, who years ago built a large, swanky home at the corner of Russell and Simcoe Sts., the present St. Mary's Church site which was donated to the church and for many years the Knowlson's owned the present Gregory block on Kent St. W., at William St.

It is not generally known that the present fair grounds were bought from "grandfather" Knowlson for \$3,000.

Mr. George Beall, Albert St. S. remembers as a lad when he and his young playmates received a real "kick" at the fair. "We used to sit along the race tracks with our backs pressed against the picket fence — it was dangerous and it is not allowed today. One of the greatest thrills was to watch Felix and Albert Forbert perform all kinds of stunts on the slack wire and on the tight wire. They also rolled hoops across the stage, did a lot of Indian club swinging and presented clever juggling. They were Lindsay boys and they were the best in those days.

"There was a larger showing of all kinds of fruit and vegetables. Every person had a garden those days and had all kinds of fruit and this included my grandfather, Thomas Beall, who was a very fine gardener. He is the gentleman who planned and planted the present Beall grounds and park on Albert St.

"Everyone went to the Lindsay fair and it was always a good one."