

FORD MOYNES

# on the MAIN STREET



Today "Main Street" recognizes a former Lindsay citizen who was at one time on the staff of a Lindsay newspaper, who, when leaving his home town for the broad Prairie lands of Western Canada followed his journalistic career by founding a weekly newspaper in Brooks, Alberta and also one at Basano, Alberta. As the country progressed so did the newspaper business. Leonard D. Nesbitt was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Nesbitt and for many years Nesbitt Senior was employed with the Sylvester Manufacturing Company.

After starting his newspaper life in Lindsay this gentleman spent some time as a writer in the City of Woodstock. While attending public and high schools in Lindsay he was always a keen competitor in sports and was especially active in the game of baseball, as well as rugby. A newspaper clipping has the following to say regarding the somewhat diversified career of this gentleman:

"Len took the 'leap' into the world at Lisburn, Ireland in 1888 and from there came to Lindsay, Ontario and later to Calgary in the pioneer days of the west's opening.

The significant point insofar as the Hanna Herald is concerned, is that February 29, 1968 is the birthday of the actual founder of this newspaper. Back in the early 1900's Len Nesbitt and the late Herb

McCrea were great friends, young men, full of ambition, optimism and the will to work. Len and Herb became fast friends in and around the hamlet of Langdon and later Calgary. It was Len who decided that the new town of Hanna would be a good place to start a weekly newspaper, and induced Herb McCrea to tackle the job. Gathering up a wagon load or two of the necessary printing equipment Herb took off overland in 1912 and in that year the Herald was founded. The following year Herb acquired ownership of the Herald and it has been in the family name of McCrea ever since.

Len continued his writing career, and another prominent Alberta weekly newspaper, the Brooks Bulletin, now owned and operated by his son James, was one which he started in the pioneer days. Later Len became publicity director for the Alberta Wheat Pool and in this capacity became well acquainted with many farmers, as well as others connected with the western Canada grain trade. His publication "Tides In the West", is recognized as an authentic account of the grain industry and Wheat Pool operations.

One could use reams of paper in telling the life story of Len Nesbitt. A modest Irishman, and a quiet fellow "for the breed", he more than likely is content to accept the traditional "Happy Returns of February 29" . . ."