

FORD MOYNES

on the MAIN STREET

2022-20/69



"He was taken for a ride" is an expression very often heard. It might refer to a bad day with stocks and it might have reference to the day the star boarder ran away with the landlord's spouse.

Mentioning "Rides" do you recall all the rides in your short or long life? The first ride on a small three wheel velocipede, the ride on a tandem bicycle with your girl friend, the ride on a farmer's stone boat, the ride on a teeter-totter and the thrill and sensation of riding on the broad back of a horse when it was driven into the waters of a lake --- that is something.

Then there was the first ride in the straw filled farm sleigh with a hot iron wrapped in a newspaper at your feet and listening to the snorts of the horses trotting along a road filled with snow drifts and pitch holes.

Then there was the first ride on the old merry-go-round, hanging on to the neck of a miniature pony and wishing the music would last an hour. The first ride on a ferris wheel and sitting in awe and almost breathless when the wheel halted and you and the girl friend were at the very zenith looking down on the multitude below. Remember the ride on the midway as the boat slipped through darkened passageways.

Then there was your first ride in the old Henry Ford fliver with the two large mule eyed brass headlights. It was quite a dare to step the old crate up to three miles an hour going through a country village.

Then there was the first ride behind a steam locomotive and you saw sparks emitting from the smoke stack as the wheels whistled and clanked over the rails.

Then the first ride down the Scugog River in a steam yacht and the thrill of the first trip on the placid river on board the old Esturion side wheeler on a moonlight night in the days when moonlight excursions were delightful experiences.

Then came the first ride in

a flying machine when you risked your life stepping into a two seater plane and paying a couple of dollars for a five minute flight in a "boat" where your feet actually protruded through the flimsy floor boards.

Remember sitting in a sea flee on Sturgeon Lake when the nose of the "flee" stuck up in the air and obstructed your view or at least minimized the outlook. Then came the experience at the Montreal Expo. where you sat in a craft which actually "flew" through the air a half a foot above the water.

Thrills and spills, but sticking in memory is the experience and thrill of climbing to the top of the garden fence in order to sit on top of the bicycle with the big six foot wheel and the tiny small wheel which acted as a rudder. That was perhaps the biggest thrill of a small boy years ago.

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Fleecy facts about the Town of Lindsay: The Hotel Benson was named after Ed. Benson and many years ago was recognized by commercial travellers as one of the finest hosteleries on the road. Miss Teresa Benson, a daughter, is residing in Toronto. Another popular proprietor of this hotel was a fine looking gentleman by the name of George O'Neil who moved to Hamilton as the owner of the Connaught Hotel. John Wardrobe was another owner who is still remembered by many people as was Walter Hyatt, as well as Burns and Lonergan.

There were gangs in Lindsay years ago, but they did not let their hair and side jams grow long like the hippies of today. The East Ward "tar gang" did not tar and feather anybody but young men from the said to be high-toned North Ward were brave if they walked home a young lady from the East Ward and had to take to his heels after kissing his girl goodnight under the shadow of the front door. If he did not run he was not chased.

There was always rivalry between baseball and hockey teams and games were keenly contested. They were played

on school grounds and also in a vacant lot behind the curling rink, on vacant property at the corner of Wellington and Albert Streets, and on the Spratt lot at the corner of William and Melbourne Streets.

Town League baseball teams played in the Fair Grounds and the games attracted enthusiastic fans. Grant Ferguson, of the local Manpower Office, has in his possession a large picture of the YMCA team and his father is named as a catcher and others on the team included three Moynes brothers, Percy on first base, Ford on second base and Mel as pitcher.

A gentleman named Wally Lamb opened what is claimed to have been Lindsay's first motion picture house known as the Lyceum. It was located in the premises now occupied by Lindsay Bakery, and screen pictures were interspersed with vaudeville and some times by local songsters like Vivian Laidlaw, a popular Lindsay amateur. Wally Lamb opened a number of picture houses in different Ontario towns. He was a brother of the late Rev. Percy Morland Lamb who became an Anglican prelate and a brother of Mrs. Harry W. Peirce, Duke Street, Lindsay.

Hotels and taverns in Lindsay, at one time, numbered the magic number of Thirteen and they were scattered all over the town --- on King Street, Victoria Avenue, both north and south on William Street, on Lindsay Street and several on Kent Street. The Benson Hotel is one of the hosteleries a century old and

the first slogan was "A Home on the Road". Other proprietors besides those mentioned before included Wileman and Daw, William Nugent, now a member of the Ontario Liquor Control Board and the manager at the present time, managing the hotel for an Investment Company of which he is a member, is a former Mayor of Lindsay, Joseph Holtom. At one time the Benson Hotel had a fine reputation for an excellent cuisine but of late years the dining room provi- lege has been leased to the management and operators of the Cottage Team Room Restaurant.