

on the *May 12/69* MAIN STREET



Remember the regattas which were annual events at Sturgeon Point, Pleasant Point and Thurstonia Park on Sturgeon Lake many summers ago?

Long before the creation of cars the method of transportation to lake front cottages was by water and there were many types in the boat realm — large passengers and freight steamers like the Crandella and the Esturion, big and sturdy vessels with lots of leg room on the top deck. Hundreds of private boats plied the twisting Scugog River and were tied up along the shores of Sturgeon, Cameron, Balsam and other adjacent lakes and there was Retta with the owner Joseph Brown wearing a Captain's hat. There was the Flo Mac, owned by Tom McConnell, proprietor of the Royal Hotel and there was the Flora Mac which belonged to John McCrae, the gentleman who operated the McCrae Foundry. These boats carried passengers and were loaded down to the edge of the water,

especially on Saturday nights. The yachts were propelled by steam. It was remarkable how the pitots could navigate their craft down the Scugog, darting past stumps and half submerged logs in the pitch darkness, especially when the moon failed to shine. Eyes were trained to pick out certain landmarks and passengers had absolute faith and trust in the skippers. Remember?

There were many fine yachts, tugs, yawls and steamers and they included the Etang owned by Tangney's which at one time carried Her Majesty's mail to postmaster Percy Skitch at Thurstonia, Postmaster R. L. Morgan at Pleasant Point and Postmistress Florence Walkey at Sturgeon Point.

Wib. Shelly of Sturgeon Point was skipper of a beautiful steam cruiser which later became the property of A. T. Claxton at Pleasant Point and afterwards was owned by Dr. H. A. Nesbitt who had the boat moved to his summer home at Ingoldsby, Haliburton.

R. L. Morgan, of Lindsay and Pleasant Point piloted a steamer and well known boat owners at Sturgeon Point included the Hopkins brothers and the Wilson brothers, and the Flavelles had a number of different kind of water craft.

A swanky "schooner" was owned by Lady McKenzie and it was housed in a large shed at the big bridge east of Kirkfield. This beautiful yacht, the Wawanett, often docked at the town wharf in Lindsay. When it was sold and became a small passenger boat and an excursion boat on the Muskoka Lakes, its termination became a sensational story as history records that the Wawanett sank in northern waters with a tragic loss of several lives.

Well known boats in recent years included cruisers owned by Dr. M. J. Gorman and J. W. Lightbody.

Dr. W. Henderson, a Bobcaygeon boy, who was quite successful in New York where he owned a hospital, was the owner of a lovely yacht which frequently docked at the Lindsay wharf.

So much for yachts. The

story of large passenger boats like the Crandella, the Esturion, Bessie Butler, Lintonia and the story of steamtugs like the Marie Louise, Vanderbilt and Alice Ethel and others, is yet to be unfolded.