

Aug 2/69
Main Street

with Ford Moynes

Edgar Rolland Warner is a name that is definitely of English derivation and the name does "not ring a bell" in the minds of many readers. However, the name "Tuck" Warner definitely does.

"Tuck" Warner saw the light of day in old England and he was a wee laddie of three summers when he embarked with his parents to Canada, naturally he was too young to remember the voyage in a sailing schooner across the briny deep. This gentleman, however, is well versed regarding life in Lindsay and particularly because of his association with many Lindsay brass bands dating back to World War One when he failed to measure up to physical standards. He did, however, pass with flying colors all tests as a bandsman and he has fond memories of his acceptance as a water boy and as a cook with the 109th Victoria and Hali-burton Regiment and the days at Valcartier and Petawawa Camps when, as a mere lad, he and Harry Joyce were the regimental water boys.

In this historical story a conversation with "Tuck" Warner revealed the following incident: Two young men, back in June 1911, joined the ranks of the 45th Regimental Band here in Lindsay; their names were Harry Joyce and Edgar Warner. They were asked if they would like to go to the Military Camp in Kingston for two weeks as mascots.

Not knowing what that word meant, they decided to go. They turned out to be orderlies. George Preston (Pinky), was the cook for the band, so according to the story, Tuck and Harry on the first morning, had to go about a block and a half to get water to get things ready for the meals.

The chores included peeling potatoes, splitting wood, lighting fires etc. To obtain water they used a large galvanized wash tub. They filled the big tub up to the brim and being two "good little soldiers" as they thought, they started by the left quick march, took the vessel by the handles but it was too heavy to lift. They dumped out 4" and again set forth but only got about two or three feet and still found that they could not carry the water so they dumped out several more inches and changed sides. When they reached the "end of the journey" there was only 1" of water left in the tub and it is reported that Mark Ingle remarked "here comes Nip and Tuck" and that is how the nickname originated and stuck to this gentleman all throughout his life.

As many readers well remember, Lindsay had a number of exceptionally fine brass bands and particularly in the pre-war days and the stirring martial airs, so very popular with Major General Sir Sam Hughes, Canada's Minister of Militia, namely "The Lass of Gowrie" and "Colonel Bogie", caused many a heart to beat faster and also caused many a young recruit to sign up in the service to King and the Empire. The bandsmen at the time included: Harry Stoddart, cornet; George Carruthers, Fred Martin and Charles Davidson, trombones; Herb Harry and Fred "Goosie" Taylor on the clarionette; Art Hooper on the snare drum and Alf. Bate on the big bass drum; Mark and George Ingle, alto; "Toot" Winn, euphonium; Bill Smith, clarinette; Harry Joyce, cornet. Edgar Warner, picalo; Nort Pogue, alto; Jack Nutall, snare drum; Jimmy Metcalfe, cornet; Frank Pearson, cornet; Wm. Heffernan, assistant band master, cornet; Art Nixon, trombone; F. A. Martin, trombone; Joe Shade, bass and W. H. Roenigk, bandmaster.

When "Tuck" Warner made his first appearance in the band room above the old Kent Theatre at the foot of Kent Street he was fortunate when he sat next to "Goosie" Taylor who took him under his wing. Young Warner was an apt musician and besides being in the band he also had a natural singing voice and for a time sang in the Cambridge Street United Church Choir and in Lindsay Band minstrel shows which were very popular in the days gone by.

Always a worker this young English Canadian tried his hand at baking bread for Warner Brothers, then located on Victoria Avenue; working as a cook in the Big 20 Restaurant; for a spell in the A. B. Terry Bake shop and restaurant and as a cook when the band went to camp. Not satisfied to make bread as a living he served his apprenticeship as a plumber at Boxall and Matthie's shop and later started in the plumbing and tinsmith business with his partner, Teddy Hore.

To conclude, Tuck Warner was for 26 years in the 45th and Citizen Band, playing at many military manoeuvres, band concerts in the park and on numerous street parades. In the early days of World War I it was common practice to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and march with the band to the G.T.R. and C.P.R. stations when the departing soldiers were given an enthusiastic send-off on their way overseas.

"Tuck" Warner proved to be an interesting and informative conversationalist.