

In the great transition which has taken place regarding stores and shops, has been the disappearance of the butcher shops. They were seldom called stores. Remember the days when a large round block of real hard hardwood had its place behind the counter, on which was a large cleaver and also a small saw and a big long sharp knife? Generally there was a cut down large and "beautiful" quarter of red beef and in the middle of the meat was a good-sized bone. The floor behind the counter was covered with a carpet of sawdust, as was, at times, the floor in front of the counter. Arrayed high up near the rear wall, hung several parts of beef or the clean slab of pork and in a glass show case was contained cuts of beef ready for the scales and a large plotter heaped with big fat homemade sausage and at times a slab of cooked pork or bacon. There was a plate of pig's knuckles, cuts of liver and at times a selection of tongue.

The butcher was a talkative chap and wore a long, generally white, apron and he was an expert at the weigh scales, generally there were more pounds than the customer wanted and very seldom less weight than was asked for. There was one butcher away back who was very exact on giving the customer the exact weight and to do this he was known to cut a sausage in half, and it is reported that another butcher at times tipped the scales by weighing his big thumb — this trick, however, is not substantiated.

Lindsay had a number of good butchers including a very popular gentleman,, Jack O'Halloran, who succeeded his father Mike O'Halloran. This was a spotless store. Adams Bros. ran a large grocery store and a butcher shop at the north-east corner of Kent and Cambridge Streets and also a warehouse

and abbatoir on Cambridge Street north. One butcher was a big man named Braund, and another butcher was called Jordan. P. J. Campbell, Walter Arksey, Lynch and Alvin Walker were in business and Jim Primeau father of Joe Primeau, the popular hockey pro was a butcher on Kent Street.

When the Dominion Arsenal closed in Lindsay one employee, Murray Greenhaugh, started a butcher shop in the old Robson Block which was at the north-west corner of Kent and Sussex streets. Mrs. Greenhaugh is reported to have been a superior butcher to her husband.

Seward Stone ran a shop at the corner of Queen and St. Paul streets and Don Blackwood ran a fine small butcher shop on Kent Street near Cambridge Street.

William Langdon, one of Lindsay's most popular butchers, was induced to come to Lindsay to play baseball. He established Langdon's Meat Market, today a fine general store. He followed the butcher business for some time before branching into a grocery store.

In this day and age the old slaughter house has practically disappeared to be succeeded by the modern packing plant and abbatoir, although it is said that the slaughter house on the northern outskirts of Lindsay is still being used. Today all abbatoirs and slaughter houses are under the strictest supervision. Today, also, there are many housekeepers who definitely

prefer a hunk of real good meat to be found in some shops, to the modern packaged beef or pork.

\* \* \*

Many readers can remember when practically every burg, hamlet and town had a blacksmith shop and a "Smithy" with a broad and hairy chest, biceps as large as apples and large hands with very strong fingers — a mighty man was he.

The blacksmith shop of old was, in a sense, the neighborhood "parliament" as the vexatious problems of the day were threshed out, sometimes quietly and many times vehemently. It was the place held in awe by school children as they stopped to look in and watch with wonder the expert and deft manner the 'Smithy' kept thrusting horseshoes into the forge and how the anvil rang and the hammer clanged and the red hot sparks flew in all directions and seconds later sizzled and smoked when the shoe was thrust into a tub of water — a picture artists could paint well. "Them were the days".

How many readers ever heard that 117 years ago Lindsay, Downeyville and Bobcaygeon had expert gunsmiths in business? History records that at one time the making of guns was a recognized trade.

Mrs. W. Aldred, St. Patrick Street in Lindsay has informed the writer that her son, working in Whitby, came across a book in which Lindsay is mentioned and that a blacksmith named Green had a gunsmith shop in Lindsay; that a George Green had a gunsmith shop in Bobcaygeon and that Downeyville had a man making guns by the name of Herland.

What next? Give the writer a call.