

George Wilkinson, of Burnt River, who passed away this last summer when well up in the nineties, was a CPR telegrapher years ago and he fiddled a bit and turned out to be the manufacturer of violins.

When "old Dobbin" was in his prime there were hundreds of barn dances, Lodge Hall hoe downs and many a square dance was held in the home, but the coming of the first snorting and springy tin "Liz-zie" which gradually wormed its way into society then the old time dances and talkative 'callers' seemed to fade away — but never completely died. Today and for several moons back, square dancers have returned and in some towns and cities this type of dancing is actually the rage. Waltz, two steps and faster trots are good and seemingly popular, but nothing is more popular than the big or small "hoe down".

Square dancers from Lindsay have patronized the special train excursions to the coast of British Columbia and danced up and down the aisles or in box cars and some have been on board large passenger boats on the Great Lakes and have docked at lake city ports.

Remember when the caller sang out "Swing your girl with the hole in her sock", or "Throw back your chin and bust the buttons off your vest"? Remember how at times, the floor sagged and creaked under the strain and the time the framed motto "God Bless Our Home" fell off the wall? Remember how the three inch wide suspenders were wet with perspiration and the girls excused themselves as they slipped away to fix a slipping slip? Remember sauntering out with your best girl to the cool side of the verandah or porch? Remember the eats and the cold water drinks and perhaps a bit of cider or some other brew?

"Them were the days!" — and how those fiddlers, with their knarled knuckles could play! Then there was the fiddler from town who was a kind of a specialist. Good or not so good, these old timers could make the feet and legs itch a whirl on the floor. Jack Hutchinson was one of the best. Like many others he worked long hours and then played at the dances at night. Many of the best fiddlers seemed to live in Manvers Township and around Janetville, Lotus, Yelverton, Cadmus and Bethany. There was Herman Carson, Jas. Kerr, Geo. Fowler, Gill, Tom Teatro, Crude, Clayton, Page and a good woman fiddler was a Mrs. Mairs.

Another generation of good violin players included Claude Wade, a teacher of violin; Pat Jakins who could play a number of instruments; Howard "Barney" O'Neill; Ragnar Stein, also a teacher; A. T. Claxton, Miss Helen Flavelle, and in later years Graydon Sheldon; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Perry; William Perry; Ross Morrow and Norman Skitch.

Sister Estel was a highly thought of teacher of the violin at the Convent and a teach-

er in Bobcaygeon was Mrs. Inrig.

One of the most expert violinists today is the well known Lindsay Barber, Mr. Gervais.

Ross Morrow, of the Victoria and Grey Trust, is one of Lindsay's best players who has, through the years, rendered fine service "playing in the pit" for many events in the Academy Theatre and he recalled that several years ago a Prof. Rodney Rydent, of Toronto, taught the violin to classes of forty or more in the old hall over Arnold's garage. In recent years horn instruments have superseded the string instruments, but the violin and the bass cello still excel in the largest and smallest and best orchestras.

In tacking on a finis to the above article, it is right that credit for many fine square dances be given to that most versatile gentleman, the "Call-

er Off" and we are thinking of such experts as Eric Capstick and George McCombe, well known and very popular in this field. Many a successful dance was made so because of the contribution of the "Callers".