

Two of the oldest hardware stores in Lindsay and district still operating under the same name, are widely known as Boxall and Matthie and the J. G. Edwards store.

Jim Boxall was a colorful individual, interested in several phases of community life. He is still remembered by many senior citizens as having served as the Supreme President of the Sons of England Society, a fraternal group which was located in the former Britton block, now the Polito Grocery, at the corner of Kent and Ridout Streets.

This man originated from the village of Port Perry and on coming to Lindsay became quite active in civic matters including his chairmanship of the board of water commissioners. He also was a staunch backer of the Lindsay Citizen's Band and his memory still lingers as a stalwart official in the old Methodist Church, now the Cambridge Street United Church. In this capacity he rendered outstanding service as chairman of the finance committee and church treasurer, in the days when financial campaigns were launched to maintain various branches of the church. He was also, superintendent of the Sunday school.

In politics he worked under the Conservative banner and in sports he was keenly interested in baseball; for several years was one of a number of enthusiasts who attended the opening game of the season when Toronto was in the big league. Others will remember Mr. Boxall as a curler, not overly expert but a keen competitor.

At political gatherings he was a champion of the Conservative cause and a story is told about how Mr. Boxall silenced a heckler at Oakwood. One farmer was continually interrupting Mr. Boxall in his speech when the latter stated that he would tell a story for the benefit of the farmer in question.

"Not so very long ago," stated the speaker, "when fodder was scarce and expensive, a farmer conceived the idea of feeding his hens by mixing sawdust in the bran. Soon he put a little more sawdust in and a little less bran and by-and-by all sawdust and no bran, the hens thriving wonderfully on the new food. By-and-by he wished to hatch a batch of chickens and he put mother hen on the eggs. The result was that a fine brood was hatched, thirteen in all, and on examination it was found that 12 of the chicks had wooden legs, while one was a woodpecker."

At this point Mr. Boxall stopped and the farmer again "butted in" with the sarcastic remark, "Well, where does the woodpecker fit into your story?"

"Well," continued Mr. Boxall, "I did not wish to draw the application here tonight, but I am sure that anyone in

this intelligent audience will readily understand my story, and also readily understand where the woodpecker is in this audience."

Needless to say, the story had its effect, turning the laugh on the farmer, and silencing him for the rest of the evening.

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## **KIWANIS ARENA AND RECREATION CENTRE**

Prominently displayed on the top front of Lindsay's Recreation Centre on Russell Street are the words Kiwanis Club, 1934 and in the erection of this important structure literally went the life blood of some 50 members of the Kiwanis Club when the exemplification of the Kiwanis motto "We Build" was truly justified.

The Club President was Chic Baker, the youngest presiding officer the Club ever had. The swaying pendulum of history records that the very old ice rink on Lindsay Street South had been razed to the ground by a disastrous fire and that for five long years the people of Lindsay, young and old, suffered the loss of a hockey and skating rink for that length of time. Then the Kiwanis Club answered the challenge and tackled the problem, which proved to be gigantic, and proceeded to raise the money for a new rink. Members of the Club literally sweat blood as they first dug the post holes for the structure and then campaigned to raise the dollars and cents.

First estimates for the rink were set down on paper as \$8,000 — a big sum of money in those days, and Kiwanian Jack McMillan was given the contract. Building operation had barely commenced when Club members realized that the rink would cost double the figure if it was to be a real rink with needed facilities. A gallery was placed at the south end capable of seating 100 in reserved seats. It never paid. The capacity of the rink was

placed at 1,700 and Bill Cummins, of Toronto, hired as Recreation Director and Manager, at times packed 2,000 in like sardines. Cummins was a fully qualified Director of recreation recommended by the Department in Toronto and he was tremendous in his efforts.

The Club ran the Arena and tossed out the gallery reserves as a lost cause and to ensure more money in the Bank the seats were replaced by three ten pin bowling alleys and all went well until the night the entire front end of the building was wrecked by fire. Nothing daunted the Club rebuilt and added another storey to the front. The struggle to pay off the mortgage continued but a second fire raced through the front of the Arena. Again the Kiwanis Club raised a lot of money by hard work

and the support of a loyal citizenry. The rink was modernized and once again opened its doors to the public. The debt was whittled down to \$3,000 and the Club decided to hand the entire operation over to the Town of Lindsay. It was estimated at the time that the Arena and all contents totalled \$75,000. The only stipulation asked for by the Kiwanis Club, which was granted, was that the rink continue to be called and advertised as the Kiwanis Club Arena.

One of the "king pins" in the building of the Arena was Col. R. I. Moore who was Chairman of the Building Committee. He became President of the Club in 1936 and advanced to become Governor of Clubs in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. Past Lt. Governor Ford Moynes was

also active in the Arena program. Other members of the Club who were closely involved were Don Osborne and Charlie Smith as Arena Managers. For several years past H. V. Johnson, Past President of the Club has been the capable trained Director of Recreation at the Arena.

The Centre has long filled a want in the community life of Lindsay and stands today as a monument to the Club, solidly backed by Town Councils and the citizens of Lindsay and district.

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