

Continuing the story relating to Kent Street businessmen, past and present. The two blocks on the north side of the street from William Street eastward, what is believed to be one of the pioneer drug stores in Ontario and still bearing the same name, is that of Gregory. The first Edmund Gregory was a small store pharmacist in the Village of Millbrook and the family traces its genealogy back to the British Isles and the days when settlers from the "old sod" packed their meagre belongings in little old trunks and carpetbags and crossed the broad and perilous Atlantic Ocean in sail boats with long masts and sails buffing with strong winds, a voyage only a few brave and adventurous people try to complete in this jet age. The name Purdy's Mills was succeeded by the tuneful name Lindsay.

The pioneer Gregory was succeeded by his son Ed. Gregory and through the succeeding years E. Neill Gregory operated the store successfully and in recent years the latter's son, with the tuneful name of Sunny, has been deciphering prescriptions and selling drugs, plus many articles never dreamed as being part of a drug store. Ever since the first conflagration which laid low a large section of Kent Street, the store has continued to be a landmark at Kent and William Streets.

For many decades the Porter Stationery Store was immediately east of Gregory's and R. S. Porter was a dapper, friendly business man and was distinguished from his neighbors as he always wore a small nosegay on the lapel of his tailored suit. For years Miss Bertha Porter operated the store, assisted at times by her sister Stella, who was also the housekeeper.

T. C. Matchett was the Canadian Pacific Railway ticket agent when this railway company operated daily trains to Peterborough and also the line from Lindsay to Port McNichol. This gentleman's father was thoroughly entrenched as the clerk and treasurer for Victoria County.

Beall's Jewelry store was founded by the late Thos. Beall, an astute business man from England who lived for a time in Manilla and in Oakwood before hanging out the Beall sign on Kent Street. In turn the business was owned and operated by George Beall and for many years by the present George Beall, a resident on Albert Street. By close application to business and being excellent business men the business prospered and a new and larger store was erected.

"The House of Diamonds" carried on for many years and the store was also the "home base" for hundreds of railway men as they had their railway time pieces checked for accuracy of time at regular periods. The store is now occupied by the Agnew Surpass Shoe Store.

Incidentally, the Beall estate on Albert Street, with a beautiful old home in the centre of spacious lawns, decked with beautiful shrubbery, trees and plants, is one of Lindsay's show places.

Occupants of stores to the east included: W. E. Baker, grocer; Ed. C. Armstrong, Men's wear; Felix Forbert, boots and shoes; Joe Carroll, tobacconist, and Bill Kelcher

and Leo Rogers, men's wear.

McIntyre and O'Loughlin carried yard goods, household furnishings and in later years Phil O'Loughlin carried on a fur coat business.

One of Lindsay's best known business men, still in the clothing business in the block, is Ernie Ferguson and for several years another clothier in the block was Joe Fee, the store now being the home of Brownie's Men's Wear.

A few readers may recall when a man named Hocken had a store in the same area and sold boots and shoes.

Spratt and Killen carried on a large grocery business and also bought grain and dealt in seeds.

Mat. Carter had a fine men's wear store. Carter's Men's Wear, with Bill Miller and Chic O'Leary as clerk, was always a popular store and Carter was followed by Archie McBride, Harold Wood and Rhys Williams.

The Dundas and Flavelle store, later Eaton's and now Walker's is one of the oldest establishments in Eastern Ontario and years ago employed a large number of tailors making suits and overcoats and another staff of women making ladies' garments — all such articles were made by hand. The owners were progressive and used modern methods of the day, even to having small cash buckets running on wires from all parts of the store to the office.

F. C. Taylor ran an insurance office and Russell Lamb had a barber shop as did Herb Brick.

A gentleman named Wilder occupied the same premises for a time as a railway ticket agent.

The Hotel Benson is a landmark and it has withstood the ups and downs of hotel business, with at all times a dining room. This establishment is still recognized as a "home on the road" by many visitors.

Tom Brady and son George, ran a grocery business and for many years Mike Georgas ran the Arcadian Grill restaurant and W. E. Baker and son Jack had a large grocery business in the same location.

The first cinema was operate by a man named Lamb and later on by Hi Meehan in the same area, and Jim Applebee was a barber and Billy Tresidder ran a grocery store. Louis Yeotes was a pool room owner and was followed by

Tom Karrys, who also had a shoe shine stand and as a pastime ran the baseball and hockey team. Jim Delisi started a fruit store and Reub. Morgan was a druggist who developed a variety store.

Jim Primeau started a butcher shop in the area and his son Joe became the star hockey player. It is stated that young Primeau had a black dog, three times as big as the lad, and that the canine followed Joey wherever he went, on the river to play shinny or to the old rink on Lindsay Street..

Hettger's Variety store followed to the east and then the Royal Hotel, which is still at at the corner of Lindsay Street. This hostelry which had a reputation for good meals was operated by Tom McConnel and for years by his son Joe. It has been reported that Thos. McConnel was the first citizen to establish a modern running water toilet in Lindsay.