

Remember when the northern part of Lindsay was practically bounded by the south side of Regent Street? Ernie Corley does. He resides in the family homestead on Adelaide Street and at one time helped his father, a farmer, till, mow, and reap hay and grain on the property, then a 49 acre farm.

"We had to work hard and taxes were high, but if we had foresight at that time and retained the farm land, I might have retired to Florida for the winter. On the other hand, our family has fared well in Lindsay and I would not dream of living anywhere else," he said.

Mr. Corley recalled the days of the Lindsay Minstrels. Citizens looked for this show

every year and the old theatre was packed.

The stage is the same today but larger. There used to be a circle below the gallery and seats behind the railing were sold as the best in the house. As three or four rows had seats with a plush back, the people we called the 'Dudes' paid a higher price for these seats. Prices were lower in the pit and in the gallery."

The writer can recall the annual minstrel show generally sponsored by the Citizen's Band with Bill Roenig as the bandmaster and later on he became owner of the theatre.

There was a time when some seventy members in the show parades up Kent Street, advertising the show, when the four end-men dressed in long "custer" coats, wore hard hats and carried swagger sticks.

A large circle was formed at Kent and William Streets and a short concert advertised the show at night.

One of the popular interlocutors for the show was Wes Greir, a handsome gentleman and another was Herb Middleton, a big individual with a fine personality.

The first half of the show was purely minstrel with gags and jokes by the black faced end-men, songs and dance acts, acrobatics, tumbling and tight and slack wire walking, choruses and also numbers by a group of lady and gentlemen singers and dancers.

It was a lot of fun and plenty of wholesome entertainment, and as a result financially, the Citizens' Band was able to use the gate receipts to help maintain the organization.

Old time end-men were followed by Hi Meehan, Harold Mercer, Fred Roberts and others, and soloists included Jack Grey, Percy Nesbitt, the Moynes brothers, Tom Murtagh, George Finley, Jim Mackey, Ted Hick, Charlie Perkins, Ed. Nesbitt, Mel Robson, Guy Mills and others.

There are several local citizens who would like to see the presentation of a show depicting old minstrel days.

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Fifty years ago an item in the Daily Post informed hundreds of readers that one of Lindsay's bright and talented young men was ordained into the Priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church a a special ceremony held in London, Ont. This young clergyman was Rev. Fr. John Spratt, a son of Richard Spratt, who for a long period of years was engaged in the grocery and feed business with his partner Jas. Killen. The store was located on Kent Street, east of the present Walker Jewellery store. Rev. Spratt for several years past has been a member of the St. Basil's seminary in Rochester, N.Y.

It is interesting to recall that as a boy attending St. Dominic's Separate School at the corner of Lindsay and Russell streets young "Mr. Spratt" was adept at the game of baseball but more particularly in the game of hockey — first as on an outdoor rink at the school, as a player of "shinny on your own side" in the Scugog river and then as a puck chaser and play-maker in the old band box rink on Lindsay street, south. He played with the old St. Mary's team, with Lindsay Juniors but gained his finest publicity when he played for St. Michael's College Toronto on a junior and intermediate team. He was the fast little centre man on two or three College teams

when St. Mikes proved to be fast and formidable.

The then young Jack Spratt coached a team in Owen Sound to the championship and a few years later hung up his skates and entered the Priesthood.

Peter Spratt, an older brother also a strong defence player for St. Mike's and other teams, also learned the game in Lindsay and later settled down as a business man and owner of a garage at Whitby. The two Spratt's contributed a great deal to the game of hockey in Lindsay and Toronto. Fifty years ago Father Spratt's name appeared in the Daily Post and no doubt his friends and friends of the family will read with interest the above historical story.