

on the MAIN STREET



Lindsay has been comparatively free of major fires — scratch wood — but one of the worst several years ago wiped out a row of houses on the south side of Peel Street east of the Mackey Funeral Home. The fire took place in the afternoon and attracted hundreds of spectators. It is recalled that a call went to Peterborough for help and that after arriving it took almost an hour to get steam up in the pumper.

Another spectacular fire in the same block destroyed the building immediately east and behind the present building occupied by McCombe's billiard parlor, the home at one time of the Dominion Wheel Company owned by former Mayor D. J. McLean and later by Arnberg's candy stick factory.

A third serious fire took place in the same block when a three terrace structure on Cambridge street, now a parking lot, was levelled to the ground.

One of the larger fires took place in what was then known as the Temple Building at the corner of Kent and Cambridge streets, a fire which gutted the Watchman-Warder plant and spread to the second floor occupied by Frost and Frost, lawyers and other occupants with the Odd Fellows Hall on the third floor.

Another conflagration in more recent years took place in the stores on Kent street immediately east of the Claxton store. At the time the fire brigade received praise when the fire did not spread easterly.

One of the largest blazes took place many years ago in the old Sylvester building, at

Kent and Victoria Ave. in the factory of Lindsay Woodworkers and Peel Lumber Co.

Going back into history the most spectacular fire took place on King street with the burning of the then Flavelle cold storage plant, a fire which was saved from spreading to near by homes by citizens and nearby residents forming bucket brigades. When the blaze was leaping skyward a most unusual sight unfolded when spectators saw hundreds of white rats scampering down the embankment and plunging into the river. Onlookers also observed that melting cakes of cheese flowed on the Scugog river like molten lava after descending the bank of the river at the edge of the plant.

Sawmill fires were not unusual and one of the largest was at the John Carew mill at the foot of Colborne street and another at the Horn Woollen Mill on William at Bond street. For a time one hundred employees were out of work.

Unsightly fire eye sores on Kent street are two in number, both caused by fire, one east of the Claxton store and the other east of the Pulver store..