

Remember "Pa and Ma Tilly"? Hundreds of citizens in Lindsay plus other readers abroad, well remember this fine couple. T. J. Tilly was Manager of the Bell Telephone in the pioneer days of the Edison-Bell invention and when the company, local manager and staff of "hello" girls and line-men, worked zealously and hard in order to render a service entailing long hours and answering a myriad of stupid questions, as well as legitimate questions of impatient and many times rude patrons.

The early days of Tom Tilly were involved with many perplexing and trying problems but looking backward many years the wonder is how well the Bell operated. In the old days voluminous vexation problems received constant attention by a hard working, courteous and conscientious staff of "Hello" girls. The wonder is how they could be so calm, collected, cool and nice under so many difficult and trying situations.

In days of long ago T. J. Tilly was in the driver's seat in Lindsay and he managed well. The Bell set up was at one time on William Street South, in the building now occupied by Tom Jones Insurance and J. L. Staples, Barrister. The next move was to a building on William Street North, next to Russell's Barber Shop and the third major move was to a new Bell building on the west side of William Street where Frank Jewell was for many years the manager. The next big move was to the new Bell Building at the corner of William and Bond Street, the present head office.

Tom Tilly is reported to have been the first pioneer summer cottager at Snug Harbor when he also had one of the first motor boats on the Scugog River. Every morning his was the first small boat on the Scugog as he travelled to his job with the Bell Company, and these were also the days when he took his lunch to town and everyday at noon walked to his boat house to eat alone. Pioneer days!

Many senior citizens will remember the Twelve O'Clock Dance Club, which had regular dances in the Town Hall, and when the Tilly's were dance instructors, especially

Mrs. Tilly who taught many persons to waltz, two-step and execute the popular rye waltz. A large moon at the west end of the hall lighted up when twelve arrived and this signified the end of the dance, then lights out and the girl friend was walked back home.

Remember how the girls looked bright, charming and lovely in the muslin and tulle dresses, a sparkler in the latest coiffure, dainty dancing slippers and how many of the young blades also invested in dancing slippers called "pumps". Many a slipper was damaged when the floor was sprinkled with a dust powder which livened up the floor for the dancers, when even the clumsy male was enabled to manoeuvre without continually tramping on the delicate toes of his best girl.

To many readers these were the good old days, gone, but not forgotten.