

Gordon Sinclair, journalist and author, has been acclaimed by newspaper associates and prominent City politicians because of his tremendous and at times ponderous contributions and his journalistic stories.

Readers of the Toronto Star well remember the days when he was a foremost reporter for the Star and how he was fired and rehired a dozen times. He was a friend of Editor Hindmarsh and at the same time a "thorn in the flesh" to that somewhat demanding newspaper tyrant.

Sinclair's continued story "Foot Loose In India" was gobbled up by readers from coast to coast. He was fearless and feared no one. He was a reporter who dug in to a story, sought the story behind the story and did not pull his punches. He gained a good reputation when he was "On the Air" as "foot loose at the Toronto Canadian National Exhibition."

As a reporter, Gordon Sinclair visited Lindsay at different times. The story is recalled when the Provincial Police, with headquarters at Barrie for the local district, arrested a wanted man who was known by the nickname of "Skunk's Misery" in his haunts around Galt and Guelph. This man was followed to Victoria County and picked up in the vicinity of Bolsover and brought to the Lindsay jail.

Gordon Sinclair covered the preliminary investigation held in Lindsay. He represented the Star. Barrister J. E. Anderson of Lindsay was Crown Attorney and he was fair, determined and also hot headed. The hearing attracted a packed court room and Gordon Sinclair was one of half a dozen reporters in attendance. The audience cast all eyes on the press table when Crown Attorney Anderson, red in the face, startled the Cadi when he demanded in a loud voice:

"Your Honour, if you don't stop these cub Toronto reporters mumbling and chattering I will demand that they be removed by the police."

Undaunted and audaciously Gordon Sinclair rose to his feet and spoke thusly: "Your Honour, We are not cub reporters, we are not getting out, but we will be quiet and furthermore, Mr. Crown Attorney, I will report you to your boss, the Attorney General." That was Mr. Gordon Sinclair in person. As a fellow scribe, Gordon, keep up your interest in the Fourth Estate."

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A bright and breezy bit of local history unfolded a few

days ago when a young couple from Montreal renewed acquaintance in Lindsay and district after several years absence. Allan Gillies and his wife, the former Miss Todd, motored to the old home town and made a circle around Sturgeon Lake.

Allan Gillies in many ways is the image of his father, the late Allan Gillies, one time owner and publisher of the Watchman-Warder newspaper — not as tall, but having many of the manners of his father.

Allan Gillies was a natural in the newspaper business. Following his early association with the London daily he moved to Stratford as business manager of the Herald, under the editorial eye of the late W. S. Dingman. Later he returned to his "first love", the Watchman-Warder and launched the Daily Warder. He had considerable business accumen, plus newspaper "horse sense" and is credited as having published a good paper. He was a booster for the town, especially as a member of the Advancement Club, an organization which later on became the Board of Trade.

Everything was going well for this young business man. He loved sports, particularly boating and aquatic contests, and he piloted his motor boat up and down the winding Scugog hundreds of times, and like many others "practically knew every stump and even the sunken logs", yet the Scugog proved to be a "watery grave" for this young business man. Actually he gave his life in an unsuccessful attempt to save a friend and companion from drowning.

Allan Gillies, and his friend, a man named Hall, were paddling in towards Snug Harbor when they were turned over after striking a submerged log. Gillies almost reached land when he looked back for his friend, and seeing that he was in difficulty and having trouble, Gillies managed to take off his coat, place it on a stump, and then start back back to help his friend. The laborious effort was too much and both men lost their lives.

That was a sad day and night for the people of Lindsay, and their passing was mourned for many a day. The entire town and countryside never recovered from the double tragedy for many moons.

Allan Gillies of Montreal recalled his grandfather, William Galbraith, who will be remembered by many readers as the caretaker of the Lindsay Post Office for several years.