

"Historically speaking" how does your memory function when there were a large number of "honest to goodness" bona fide grocery stores in Lindsay, before the introduction of supermarkets?

On the outskirts of the town there was J. R. O'Neill's store on the corner of King St. and St. David, and a store owned by Jos. Staples at King and St. Peter, with a verandah at the front. The owner was at times called "Smiling Joe" because he wore a continuous smile and this same individual was superintendent and choir leader at the Methodist Church at Queen and Caroline, a church in which there were more religious converts than in any other Church at that time. There were many revival meetings. almost a forgotten idea today.

George Mills had a small store at the corner of King and Caroline and one of the pioneer stores was run by Mrs. Hopkins at Queen and St. Paul streets, now Barney's emporium.

The name Crandell was prominent in the East Ward a century ago. He was a builder of river streamers and tug boats, including a large side wheel passenger boat called the Crandella, and this boat carried 200 passengers as it plied the Scugog River to Sturgeon and other lakes, and carried hundreds of excursionists as far as Peterborough.

Crandell built the large brick house on Colborne street, east of Caroline. A gentleman by the same name now living in Windsor built the grocery store at the corner of Queen and Caroline streets, which is still operating.

The first soft drink factory in Lindsay was located off Caroline street and is a going concern today. It was established by Wilbert Nicholls. The G. and B. store on Queen Street was founded by W. E. Baker, and Mrs. St. Thomas had a store on Colborne street east.

It is reported that the first bakery in Lindsay was operated by a man named Bates, and was located on Caroline street, and it was in this shop that Jimmie Allen learned to be a baker and later "spread his wings" when he built a bakery on Victoria Avenue, a bakery which is still doing business with the public.

Many will remember Wm. McWatters, a progressive baker with a plant on Queen street. McWatters opened a store on Kent street, near York street. The McWatters confectionery store and ice cream parlor was very popular. It was carried on by Walter McWatters. Wilber McWatters, a brother, had no liking for the ice cream parlor, but after leaving Lindsay, he made a name for himself again as an actor on many stages in the U.S.

The grocery store at Queen and Caroline streets was at one time operated by Hugh McCullough and Lawrence McArthur who afterwards for a time operated a summer resort in Haliburton known as Valhalla Lodge.

Another bakery business was located on St. Peter street, south, and Bobby Wells was the baker.

Pioneer business men in the east ward also included Joseph Killaby, owner of a lumber yard at the corner of King and St. Paul streets, and Robt. Bryans and G. H. M. Baker had a coal, wood and lumber business at King and Lindsay streets.

A man named Martin was owner of a pop works on King street and later on Jack Crimmons operated a soft drink bottling plant at the corner of John and St. Peter streets.

Industries in the east ward included the Dovey mill making rough lumber; Robt. Kennedy's mill making barrel staves, Fitzsimmons Bros. turning out Red Cross ambulances

for World War One; the Cole manufacturing plant designing and producing various types of electric light brass shades and at one time Sir Henry Pellet, Toronto, operated a brewery bottling plant in the building now occupied by the Northern Casket Co.

One of the largest business concerns was the Flavelle firm with a large cold storage plant on King street, which later became the Allenbury factory, manufacturing widely advertised Allenbury products.

The east ward industrial firms included the R. M. Beal tannery and leather goods plant with a big layout at the south-west end of the Wellington street bridge and following a spectacular fire the firm built a large factory on St. David street south.

This story would not be complete without mentioning the shoe repair shop on King street with Moses Grozelle as the amiable proprietor who hung out a sign reading "Hospital for Sick Shoes".

In pioneer days "East City" was the industrial mecca of Lindsay.

Other business firms in-

cluded the Robt. Parkin lumber yards and later the G. H. Baker and the Todd and Waddell lumber and coal firm. The Boving Hydraulic Company built the factory on Lindsay Street north, which became the factory of Madison Williams and later the home of the Dominion Crayon Company.

The Tom Hodgson chemical plant was located on St. Paul Street north, and for a long period of time J. G. Baldwin has catered to the citizens using coal, wood and oil. . . . So much for "the noble East Ward".