



E. NEILL GREGORY and **Ford Moynes** show plaques presented to the **Gregory Pharmacy of Lindsay** by the **Ontario College of Pharmacy**. The **Gregory Drug Store** is the **oldest continuously operated family drug store in North America.** —(Alan Capon Photo)

IT'S NOW A FAMILY TRADITION

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Gregory Drug Firm Carries On

By ALAN CAPON

Examiner Staff Reporter

LINDSAY (ENS) — One of the Fathers of Canadian pharmacies was Edmund Gregory, founder of Gregory's Drug Store at Kent Street and William North in Lindsay.

Gregory's is the oldest pharmacy in North America to be operated by the same family from the same location.

Gregory's Drug Store was presented with two plaques by the Ontario College of Pharmacy at a recent convention in Wind-

sor. The plaques marked the involvement of the Gregory family in the Ontario College of Pharmacy over the 100 years of the college's existence and the fact that Gregory's were even older than the college.

Founder Edmund Gregory was in Newcastle working for a doctor in the 1856-58 period. He had come to Canada from Lyme Regis in England, and in 1857, in partnership with John Knowlson, who owned considerable real estate in town, opened a drug store. In 1866 the firm of Knowlson and Gregory was dissolved and the store continued under the name of Edmund Gregory.

In those early days pharmacy was a self-taught profession, indeed it was people like Edmund Gregory who, seeing the need for improvement in the profession, were instrumental in founding the College of Pharmacy in 1871.

Medicines were not then prepared by pharmaceutical houses. Druggists had to make them themselves and relics still owned by the company include such items as stills, percolators, presses and herb extractors used in the preparation of medicines.

HAD VARIETY

Advertisements in early Lindsay newspapers reveal that the Edmund Gregory store on the corner of Kent and William Streets sold a variety of goods as well as drugs. Advertisements for "dye stuffs" and coal oil lamps appear, as well as seeds and veterinary supplies which are still sold to this day.

Edmund Gregory had five sons and one daughter. Alfred Edmund carried on in the Lindsay store; Herbert became a druggist in Oshawa and later in Owen Sound, Collingwood and Stratford; Glyde became an engineer; Keele a druggist in Toronto (and married a Lindsay girl Addie Sylvester, who also became a druggist); Frank went into hardware; and daughter Ethelwyn stayed at home.

A. E. Gregory is the father of E. Neill Gregory who provided most of the material for this review of the Gregory business. E. Neill Gregory, now retired, has a vast quantity of historical material relating to the pharmaceutical business as well as other fields of interest.

E. Neill Gregory will mark the 50th anniversary of his becoming a druggist. He was educated at the Lindsay Collegiate Institute, did not graduate, but walked out in his final year and with three other Lindsay men sailed for Britain where all joined the Royal Naval Air Service in World War One.

BECAME PILOTS

Of the four, E. Neill Gregory, the late Art Alleley and Dr. W. R. Glenney, now of Pottsville, Penn. stayed in the RNAS, and later the RAF and the late Art Beal transferred to the engineers.

Neill Alleley and Dr. Glenney all became pilots, flying Sopwith Pups, Camels and other aircraft of the day.

E. Neill Gregory returned to Lindsay in 1919 after service in France, Germany and Italy with No. 10 and No. 12 Fighter Squadrons and went to the Ontario

College of Pharmacy, graduating in 1922.

He worked first in Toronto with the Tamblyn company where he won a \$50 sales prize for selling the most gold-plated Gillette razor units and with the proceeds went out and married the postmaster's daughter Aileen Palen. She died in 1957 and Mr. Gregory remarried in 1960, taking as his wife Ada F. Greaves, who is a former warden of the County of Victoria.

The two children from the first marriage were Wellington Neill known to all as Sonny, who now runs the family business and Mary Elizabeth (Mrs Richard Lees) of Thunder Bay.

E. Neill took over the business from his father in 1939, noting that he bought the business. It has always been sold from father to son, never just handed down. Sonny took over in 1953 having previously run a branch of the Gregory store in Fenelon Falls (now the McArthur Drug Store).

COLORFUL CAREER

E. Neill recalled that the first job he had to do in his father's store was to make horse balls in a large iron mortar. He said most items were made in the basement at that time and he said such things as fluid extract of cascara and tincture of iodine were all carefully mixed locally.

He was chairman of the Ross Memorial Hospital board during the previous hospital expansion program, and the late R. Ivan Moore was campaign chairman.

He is a past master of Masonic Lodge AF and AM No. 77, and was grand senior warden of Grand Lodge of Canada and founder of the Warden's Association of Victoria District and the Scottish Rite Club.

He has been prominent in curling and is past president of the Lindsay Curling Club, past patron and past president of the His father was a charter member of the club and his grandfather a charter member of the golf club.

Charles Arthur Gregory, Neill's brother, was very interested in radio and both the Gregory's carried out early radio work in Lindsay. Neill had the first receiving set in town and Charles is a ham operator to this day.

E. Neill and his brother Charles (known to most citizens as Bill) obtained the broadcasting licence for the town of Lindsay and with announcer Herb May, formed Greg-May Broadcasting and launched radio station CKLY. This was sold to a group of 10 local businessmen later.

The involved, long and interesting story of the Gregory family is part of the vary warp and woof of Lindsay and in Centennial year Mayor John Eakins on behalf of council presented a special plaque to the family, honoring them for their long and continued service to the town in pharmacy and other fields.