



June 30/71
**On The
Main Street**

with Ford Moynes

A complete evolution has taken place through several decades in connection with the operation of the Bell Telephone Company in Lindsay. It was "away back" in the early nineteen hundreds when the Bell strung a few wires at the top of long cedar poles on the streets of Lindsay and the operation has been very successful and very sufficient.

It seems like a long time ago when the friendly, courteous and efficient "Hello Girls" lined up sitting on stools and later on chairs at the switchboards and expertly plunged the connecting plug into the right socket, and they seldom made mistakes. The switchboard girls made few wrong connections and on the whole, they did an excellent job for an exacting public. Occasionally the operators broke the rules by talking to customers but it was fun and some times exciting.

The obliging operators were generally discreet though sometimes rightly provoked at cranky patrons, but usually obliging and painstaking in the daily grind of trying to give good service, many times to impatient and discourteous callers.

The Lindsay Managers of the Bell Company included excellent citizens and the memory of many readers goes back to the days when T. J. Tilly was "in the driver's seat," so to speak. He had a gruff manner of speaking, a natural manner, but he was not only a

good manager but one who had pride in the town. He became president of the Curling Club, was interested in horticulture and became a member of the town council. He was one of the first summer cottage owners at Snug Harbor and used to travel to Lindsay to work in his 5 h.p. motor boat. At lunch time he returned to his boat to enjoy the best of sandwiches. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Tilly was so popular at dances in the Town Hall by young people that she was greeted with the friendly words "Ma" and she taught many the art of dancing when the two-step, three-step and waltz were in vogue.

Managers of the Bell, Armstrong, Jewell and others were followed by one of the most capable and courteous managers, Bruce Symonds, who today enjoys a life of retirement a few miles from town, where he retains an interest in birds of the air and for further enjoyment, attends Rotary Club luncheons.

Truly the Bell Company has rendered excellent service to local subscribers.