

Remember when the ball park on George Street was known as the Circus field, when Ringland Brothers presented a 3 ring circus, when there was a spectacular parade of caravans, bands, clowns and highly painted females?

Remember when Guy Brothers minstrels packed people into the Academy Theatre? The place was then known as the Opera House. Incidentally the first Opera House in Lindsay was located in the Town Hall. There was a stage in the west end of the building and a steep gallery of seats at the extreme east end with a small balcony on the south end with a small platform in the outside of the hall. Many years ago Sir John A. MacDonald, Prime Minister, delivered a speech to a large gathering, from this elevation.

One of Lindsay's pioneer citizens, the late Sam Howe, was wont to recall the memorable visit. The first manager in the old Opera House was a man named Fred Burke. The late Bob Menzies, was also a manager. This gentleman was a clerk in the then mercantile firm of Dundas and Flavelle who operated a large drygoods and men's wear store at Kent and York Streets, afterwards Eaton's and now Walker's. The same Mr. Menzies was once the secretary of the Lindsay Baseball team.

It is past history, long ago, that a man met his death walking a tight rope in front of a throng of people gathered for a night performance. The wire was suspended from the Royal Hotel to the Theatre.

A Lindsay boy,, Jack Hooper, now living in Ottawa, remembers when there was once a large chandelier of lights hanging from the Academy ceiling. The ceiling was much higher than it is today and the large and beautiful fixture was a "beauty to behold."

Remember the annual appearance of the Marks Brothers the tricals? The four brothers, Alex, Tom, Joe and Ernie appeared annually during the days of the Lindsay Fall Fair and packed the house at every show. Of local interest is the fact that a Lindsay boy, Jim Perrin, St. Peter Street, who was a singer and dancer, joined the show and later married Arlie Marks, who in turn had her own show. Albert Perrin, a brother, also in show business, has for several years been a well known resident of Haliburton and was the builder of the Golden Slipper dance hall, which is still popular in the Highlands of Haliburton.

History chronicles the information that the Academy, a beautiful theatre, was built by the late Alex Ross, father of Dr. John Ross, Kent Street West, and the well known local theatrical expert reports that the Academy is one of the finest and best in Canada. He should know as he has supervised productions in many cities and towns in this country.

In closing it should be mentioned that the late Wm. Roenigk and the late Seldon Meehan successfully owned and operated the Academy for many years.