



Sept 27/11

On The Main Street

with Ford Moynes

Local theatrical talent has always been "tops" and another worthwhile example appeared on the Academy Theatre stage last week. This fine old theatre was crowded and the audience included many people from the district, from Peterborough and Newcastle as well as summer residents from Toronto and other parts. Travelling shows draw a crowd but local talent generally 'packs the house'. Last week's production was a credit to the producer Dennis Sweeting, whose wife has been contributing a great deal as manager of the Academy. Always there are new faces in these productions but special tribute is due to such talented and hard working people as Harriet Bate., Marg Mitchell, Al Kirk, Ed Waterhouse and Paul Skipworth.

In the days gone by Lindsay produced many fine stage stars and these included the Pepper twins who toured Europe as dancers and singers. They attracted extra attention as they were small of stature. James Meehan of Lindsay, gained fame in New

York for his romantic presentation as "The Man on the Box" show. Wilber McWatters and Missie Newton whom he married, were Lindsay born. Jim Perrin, acrobatic dancer and dramatist with the Marks Brothers troupe, was a Lindsay product. Mae Edwards who had her own theatrical show, was a Lindsay girl and the show man she married, Charles Smith was a local boy.

In the category of singers and soloists, Will Robson, who lived on Fair Avenue gained distinction in New York.

Away back when Allie Brown was a Bandmaster in Lindsay, his six sons gained world fame as the Brown Brothers Saxophone Sixtette.

When Lindsay boasted of several talented amateur dancers and singers years ago, one of the best beloved vocals was Percy Chase, a farmer in Ops Township. In fact he still carries on as a tiller of the soil on the old Costello farm on the Oakwood highway. This gentleman, born in England, came to Canada many years ago as a Barnado home boy and at the age of seven years

worked a bit on a farm near Millbrook.

There was a time when he was greatly in demand as an entertainer, as a singer and story teller and he made his best impressions when he appeared in Kilts. This man made his debut in Lindsay when he entertained the Kiwanis Club in the days when Bert McLean and Bob Groves headed the club. In the same era Percy Chase appeared in almost every Church and Hall in Victoria county, never collecting a cent for his talented contributions. Many friends and acquaintances will be pleased to learn that he is enjoying hard work and good health.