

On The Main Street

with Ford Moynes Oct 27/71

Lindsay was once known as a railway town, when hundreds of people depended on the old Grand Trunk railroad business for a very good pay cheque. Lindsay merchants also depended on the surrounding communities for "trade and commerce". Much of the business came from the village of Janetville and the farmers living in the valleys and rolling hills to the south.

Janetville was at one time a "sporty" hamlet and many readers can recall the names: McGill, Armstrong, Porter, Burns, Hawkins, Stinson, McDowell and others—the Burns general store which is today one of the finest in the country, where three generations of storekeepers helped to build and maintain a very fine place of business.

Of all the McGills, a husky farmer named Norman was one of the most widely known, not so much because he was a good farmer but because he was a baseball player of the champion class in the days when he dropped the hoe and scythe and drove to Lindsay two and three times a week to play ball with the then famous "Lindsay Red Birds". He covered first base better than any other player in the district and he could be depended on to clout the ball for singles, doubles, triples and homers. McGill was the first to use a large glove or mitt at the initial sack. At the same time Janetville had a lively baseball team and hundreds of fans rooted the team to many a victory.

Janetville was also well known for the smallest store doing the largest business with women than any other store for many miles around, The Tommy Hawkins store. Hawkins made regular trips to factories in Toronto to buy silks and his small store was so crowded with silks that customers had to walk on yard goods on the floor. The Hawkins emporium was a

mecca for the women of Lindsay and Peterborough.

Two churches in the village had many worshippers and annual strawberry and fowl suppers attracted people from all ranks of life and from long distances, especially Lindsay. The writer recalls being a member of a singing quartette to take part in outdoor and indoor concerts and one of the popular quartets included Mrs. Howard Nesbitt, Miss Elsie Jean Flavelle, Harry Brown and Ford Moynes.

It is interesting to note that two Lindsay Doctors, J. A. McAlpine and J. McCulloch started their first practice in Janetville and then moved to Lindsay. The old Methodist Church in the village was the "first stepping stone" for many student ministers.

In fraternal circles, Janetville had a dedicated number of orangemen and for years the lodge was one of the best dressed in the annual twelfth of July parades held alternate years in Oshawa, Port Hope, Peterborough and Lindsay. Orchids to the people of Janetville and those who resided in the rolling hills of Manvers and Cartwright townships.