

Dec 21, 1971



## On The Main Street

Nineteen Hundred and Three was a memorable year in Lindsay's history and it was in that year that the beautiful and then commodious Ross Memorial Hospital was built. The date was brought to the attention of the writer by Roy Walker, for many years a courteous and obliging milk vendor in Lindsay. He was a boy of five years at the time but remembers the horse drawn milk wagon hauling the vehicle up a steep cinder path to the RMH.

Dr. Pasteur and pastuerization of milk was not known at the time, "But I do not think anyone passed on into eternity from drinking unpasteurized milk."

Back in the early days referred to, milk sold for five cents a quart and slowly ascended the price ladder as vendors and dairymen had to keep abreast of the times in buying new equipment, establishing spic and span government inspected premises and equipment, including a bottling plant, and rubber tired wagons replacing the light wagon, van style, and the disappearance of the big milk cans from which the milkman dipped the white lacteal by using a long handle dipper and at times a china pitcher. These were the days when the housewife appeared at the door

with a long white apron protecting her long dress a garment which extended almost to the ankles.

"Customers were always pleasant and considerate," said Mr. Walker. "It was a tough job in the winter months and I think the winters were colder than in many recent years and there was more snow in the old days. Sometimes we wondered if we would be able to make the rounds, for we had the milk sleigh out long before the roads were plowed and walking in snow up to the knees was the common thing to do."

It is interesting to note that the late Mrs. Walker had a large collection of wonderful and in many cases, dolls of historical interest and value, a collection worth hundreds of dollars, a collection for which she received many offers.

It is also interesting to note that Roy Walker's grandfather was Samuel Walker, who at one time owned a small grocery store at the north-east corner of Sussex and Glenelg Streets.