

Sam McLaughlin, the multimillionaire, who departed this world a few days ago, at his palatial home in Oshawa, actually started life in a business way as a blacksmith in the then rural burg of Enniskillen, not in Ireland, but in a truly rural spot adjacent to the present super Highway No. 401.

In many ways he was similar to a one time Lindsay business man, the former D. J. McLean. Mr. McLean, before

coming to Lindsay, was the popular "smithy" in the Port Perry district. About the same time McLaughlin started business rolling in the motor city of Oshawa, McLean launched the Dominion Wheel Works in Lindsay in what was once a meat packing abattoir on Cambridge Street North, now the business home of George McCombe. The wheels for automobiles were made of the best wood and were known to motorists as "artillery wheels" and a few of the later models were of the wire wheel construction, followed by the disc wheels of today.

McLaughlin was a visionary and his foresight was good, matched by natural business acumen. He made millions and he was good to the auto city which he created. Many in Lindsay remember well the Lindsay woman who became his receptionist, organized and supervised his social engagements and house receptions. Her name, Mrs. Elizabeth Spratt Power. Mrs. Power was a daughter of Robt. Spratt, a Lindsay grocer and her husband, T. J. Power was Manager of the Home Bank in Lindsay. As the receptionist in the McLaughlin mansion, her guests at times included a number of Lindsay friends.

The McLaughlin business in Oshawa became General Motors of Canada and in days gone by and even today a large number of men in Lindsay and district enjoy cashing G. M. cheques.

Coincidental, the first General Motors agency for the Chevrolet was handled by the late Jos. Carroll and later by the late Frank King and his son, the late Graydon King.

The first King show room was on Kent Street where the Lloyd Flack Optometrist office is at present situated.

The first District General Motors representative and salesman in Lindsay was the late W. J. Mullen who resided at the north-east corner of Cambridge and Bond Streets.

Through the years motor-

ists in Lindsay and district poured millions of dollars into the McLaughlin bank account and G. M. responded handsomely in dumping much of the money back to the Company. It has and is a "wheel within a wheel".