

Recalling days of yesteryears, how many readers can remember the shrill screaming, screeching factory whistles which called men to work? The air literally vibrated when a rather tuneful whistle "blasted the air" at the top of the boiler house at the Carew Lumber Company saw mill on William Street North. The whirl of the big log carrier could be heard street blocks distant from the mill, a mill that gave employment to many families as well as to many men in the winter log camps.

Horn Bros. Woollen Mills at the corner of William and Bond Streets had a shrieking whistle, sounding the starting and closing time for a hundred men and women. "H. B." blankets were the best manufactured in Canada, in every way equal to the renowned Hudson Bay blankets and for many years Horn blankets were used by Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railway Companies in pullman sleeping cars.

Other shrieking steam whistles included one at the Sylvester Manufacturing plant at the corner of Kent Street and Victoria Avenue, the Parkin saw mill on Wellington Street, east side of the Scugog River, the Davey mill in the same area, as well as the Dovey mill; also the whistle on the Rider and Kitchener mill in the south east section of town.

There was a big whistle on the Flavelle cold storage plant on King Street which became the home of Allenbury's baby food products. For a period of time there was a whistle at the Flavelle and Silverwood dairy products plant at the corner of Kent and Victoria Avenue, and at the Arsenal.

In the days when Lindsay was known as a railway town and as a terminal, a whistle at the round house could be heard at various times of the day.

Whistles topped the top decks of a number of large passenger steamers including the Crandell, the Esturion, the Alice Ethel, the Grey Hound Maple Leaf, the Cayuga, and the tug boat Marie Louise and the Carew Lumber boat. Probably the busiest whistle was located at the Grand Trunk round house.

Residents of the south ward listened to railway locomotive whistles day and night as passenger and freight trains changed their way through town. These whistles were music to the ears of hundreds of people. The days when steam hissing from the old iron monsters have vanquished but the memories still linger on in the minds of old timers.