

In the good old days, many town boasted of having poets, especially if they wrote verses about the old home town. Lindsay had one of these specialized gentleman and his name was A. M. Paton, and everybody called him Alex.

He was a versatile citizen and he operated a school of telegraphy on the top flat of the Academy Theatre, where students were surrounded with small telegraph poles topped with insulators carrying numbers of wires. Students sat alongside and each one tapped away on a telegraph key, a duplicate of the instruments found in the despatcher's office at the Grand Trunk railway station on William Street South.

Qualified students from this school held down jobs in many stations located along the railway from coast to coast.

Alex Paton was the Town Bard and his "home spun philosophy" became treat to read.

Alex Paton was a good sport. He was adept at skating when spring gates were popular and, as a skater, he was always interested in the game of hockey, to such an extent that he founded the Sam Hughes hockey tournament, which was held for hockey teams not affiliated with the OHA in Haliburton and Victoria Counties, — no teams from Toronto, Peterborough, or other districts.

Many fans still remember such players as Claude Austin the big one-armed player from Kinmount, an exceptionally good defenceman; also Ron Curry and Clayt Hodgson from the Haliburton Huskies, the days when fans came from the north crowded on special trains.

The same Alex Paton was a smart cricket player and generally was called on as a bowler. This gentlemen, when handling the Hugnes' Cup tournament, was generally noticed chewing on a short and stubby lead pencil and in his hand he always seemed to have a bundle of players' certificates, as all players had to be bonafide. At times some managers were caught playing "ringers" from other towns.

Another popular hockey tournament was known as the Felt Cup event, which was open to all comers. This event attracted teams from Toronto, Oshawa, Peterborough, and other towns and was organized and operated by Ford Moynes, at the time, Sports Editor of The Warder. The Felt Cup was a very large trophy and the donor was Arthur O. Felt who owned a jewelry store on Kent Street.

Hockey games packed the rink and special trains landed in Lindsay from the east, west and north. Hockey fans were of the rabid kind, quite excited and voiciferous. The local best teams received recruits from the town hockey league, a going concern.

Sponsors of good hockey teams included among others such enthusiasts as Ken Richman, Milt Dedman, Art Simpson, Harold Wood, Tony Bakogeorge and others.

Lindsay had great hockey teams in the early nineteen hundreds and an Intermediate OHA championship in 1909, a team that swept away opponents from north, west, south and east, a team which comprised of such players as: Basil Newton in goal, Cliff Sullivan and Leon Koyle on defence, and Bill Stoddart, Pacer McDougal, Ken Randell, Artie Parkin, Amos McWilliams and the Cote brothers, a player called Reg Bloomfield from Lakefield and the coach and centre player Fred Taylor. Fans packed the old rink on Lindsay Street South and followed the team on special trains to Toronto, Midland, Stratford and Peterborough.

These were the "Good Old Days".