

Fifty years ago, there were hitching posts on Kent Street and farmers shopping in town securely tied their horses while the women attended to their shopping. Many a farmer toddled off to "chew the fat". There seemed to be a lot to talk about, especially the weather, h a r v e s t i n g and threshing — plus politics.

According to Roy Armstrong, a local boy, who has transferred his residence from Gravenhurst to Lindsay, the town he was raised in and where he first became interested as a salesman for Medland Bros., who operated a wholesale grocery business in the building now occupied by McCombe, billiard parlor.

For years the wholesale was operated by J. E. Adams, who along with George, Delbert, J. E. and Theron, and Frank Adams, operated a large grocery and butcher shop at the corner of Kent and Cambridge Streets, now the Royal Bank.

Livery stables were operated by George and Charlie

Lindsay, then located in the present bus terminal; Jim Isaac's livery, Workman's livery and Armstrong's on York Street South, Workman's on Kent Street East and Ossie Dagenais at the rear of the present Woolworth store. For several years, Wes Fanning had horses in a barn on William Street South, now Midtown Furniture.

According to Mr. Armstrong, citizens appeared to be more keenly interested in sports, and many merchants locked store doors around five o'clock and the staff walked to the fair grounds to cheer for the local Greybirds.

"Curling was a major sport "and the winters seemed to be longer and colder". Citizens crowded on to special coaches when the Lindsay curlers played in Toronto and Lindsay had many real experts at the game. Today, the games are only eight ends, but years ago, they were always 10 ends and 12 ends in the finals.

Spectators were welcome to watch the game by standing on the wooden walks which ran the full length of the ices.

"One thing was very noticeable among curlers — they applauded a good shot when made by the opponents, and at the end of games, everybody shook hands."

Commenting on the days when his father was mayor, our friend remarked:

"Citizens used to consider it an honor to be a member of the town council, but today

everyone seems to welcome remuneration for every meeting they attend. There was a time when the mayor received \$100 for the year, but today I am told the hand-out is well over the \$1,000 mark. I guess there is more time involved."

"There was one time the board of trade and town council were really hoodwinked. Thomas, an American, was a smooth salesman. The town built a brick building for a shoe factory at the corner of

Glenelg and Sussex Streets, and a dozen girls were hired in the factory. Everything looked rosy and the town fathers handed over a second substantial cheque — then Mr. Thomas disappeared and was seen no more, plus the town treasurer's cheque."

The gentlemen who really put Lindsay on the map industriously was the late Dan McQuarrie, when he brought five new plants to the town, including Visking and the Abex factory.