

The Post

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On The Main Street

With FORD MOYNES

Names and dates were "batted around the infield", to use a baseball saying, when Stanley Myers of Oshawa and his cousin, Newton Staples of Hamilton, called on "Main Street" this week.

The two cousins recalled the "good old days" when the kids walked a mile or two to attend the little red school, the Haygarth family, Parringtons, Raes, Cunninghams and Myers boys were taught the three R's every day to the tune of the hickory stick. In the days when school inspector Stevens succeeded Knight and Broderick; the days when the thermometer registered many degrees below zero and the old wooden stove was

jammed with four foot hardwood, the days when sleigh bells jingled and the frost disappeared from the frozen pumpkins.

Victoria Road was a throbbing village with several mercantile stores, two hotels, a grain house, a busy Methodist church and a busy railway station.

The lovely village of Kirkfield was a few miles away and was kept on the map by Lady McKenzie, wife of Sir William McKenzie of railway fame. One of the busiest men in the village was Clarke Staples, hardware merchant, who attended the school at Long Point, pursued his quest for knowledge at the LCI and lat-

er at McGill University.

Business was great in Kirkfield, thanks to the presence of Lady McKenzie who built a magnificent summer home near the Laidlaw Fort on Balsam Lake. Business received a big boost with the building of the Trent Canal and at one time the lift lock at Kirkfield, the second largest in the world, attracted thousands of visitors, and still does.

In the active days of Lady McKenzie, the village boomed. Four or five stores, a public library, three churches, baseball and hockey teams, Masonic and Orange Lodges. The boom faded fast following the disastrous fire and the levelling of the ground of the Inn.