



On The Main Street

With FORD MOYNES

One day recently many pedestrians on Kent Street gazed with interest at a man and woman pedalling a tandem bicycle. Years ago this was a common everyday sight on the main stem.

One of the popular song hits at the time was entitled "On A Bicycle Built For Two", a song that entertained many in the old Academy Theatre. At the same time, other song hits included "Take Me Out To The Ball Game", "In The Shade Of The Old Apple Tree", "I Don't Want To Play In Your Yard" and the bass soloist sang "The Bell In The Light House Rings Ding Dong" and the baritone and alto sang "Oh That We Two Were Mat-ing" and the barber shop quartet bellowed out "Sweet Adeline".

In bygone days there was more time for quartets, more

time for choir concerts, more time for square dancing, two steps and three steps. Regular dances were held in the town hall and moonlight dances were popular on the decks of passenger boats running between Lindsay, Thurstonia, Sturgeon Point and Fenelon Falls. The steamers carried excursion parties as far as the Peterborough Lift Locks and returned to Lindsay via the Grand Trunk Railway. They were good days and people had fun. This popular pastime vanished with the coming of the motor car.

The days of the first automobile are remembered, when Reub Sadler, St. David Street, had a small open car with the motor sitting in front of the driver's knees, a balloon like rubber bulb for a horn, and two large lamps at the front. The top was raised by hand and in case of rain, curtains

were hoisted and pulled across the car by hand. There was always a mad rush to pull the blinds when a sudden storm swept across the land. The old engine was temperamental and was treated like a baby, but it seldom failed although at times it depended on three spark plugs instead of four.

In many a storm the car was steered to the side of a narrow road until the storm abated. The tail light flickered and flickered and finally all was darkness and the driver who carried a small lamp in the trunk was a fortunate fellow.

Remember how the rubber inner tubes used to develop pin point leaks and the box of patches and glue carried in the tool box. There were so many repair tools that a box was needed to carry them all. Remember the spare spark plugs and how the plugs used to crack? Looking backward, the wonder is how so many drivers were able to hold their tempers under so many circumstances. "They were the good old days."

