



# On The Main Street

With FORD MOYNES

*Dec. 28/72*

In 100 years the Lindsay Curling Club has flourished in three locations . . . The first location was on the north-east corner of Victoria Park when the building was also used as a skating rink. The second site was on the south-east corner of William and Russell streets.

Outgrowing this rink the Club purchased the present site on Peel Street and the arched frame work of the rink was moved "holus bolus" to the Peel street site. It was a leaky old building but this fact in no way lessened the enthusiasm.

Curlers at that time put up with crooked ice, the wind whistled through the wooden sides and at times snow drifts impeded the fast delivery of the curling stones.

With the early arrival of spring often came early thaws and the rink was frequently closed because of water on the low spots. There was no telephones in the rink and many a skip walked around the rink to ascertain if the "No Curling" sign was at the front door. Curlers were so enthusiastic that they showed their disappointment on their long faces.

Spectators were numerous and they were encouraged to be present and actually there were times when the "fans" were at the rink, bunched at the door waited for the caretaker to arrive. For the men the scramble was to get a seat behind the window looking out on No. 5 ice.

The waiting room was called the "Den of Horrors." This room was heated by a small box stove which seemed to throw a lot of heat. At times the wind whistled

through the beams of the old frame rink and at times the on-lookers continued to wear their overcoats.

The room was lighted by one small incandescent light. The window panes of 5 x 7 glass was sufficient for that era. At times the "chamber" was filled with smoke and male garments reeked with the smell of tobacco.

Billy Mills, the lovable and good humored caretaker could be seen quite frequently carrying armfuls of hardware and the fire never went out as long as curlers were in the room.

Years ago many bonspiels were held in Lindsay, Bobcaygeon, Peterborough, Oshawa, Orillia, Beaverton, and Toronto and the calibre of the game was good and the enthusiasm of the players and spectators ran high.

Cup events took place for the McFadden-McDermid cup between Lindsay and Fenelon Falls. The Baker and McMillan cup at Beaverton, the Carew-Drew cup with Oshawa, the Pogue and Thurston cup between Lindsay and Dunsford, the Needler trophy and several others. The season included the annual match between Toronto Granites and Lindsay.

In years gone by curling was THE game. It is the one game where there is never a profane word heard. This gentlemanly flavor of conduct has continued down through the years.

