

Main Street

with Ford Moynes



Turning back the pages of memory, how many readers remember a once prominent citizen, merchant and town councillor, E. W. McGaffey? This popular citizen was the owner and chief salesman in his store, a drygoods store which was located in the store now known as Stedmans. The shelves were loaded with bolts of cloth, yards and yards of all kinds of materials.

This gentleman was a very eligible bachelor. He was successful in business and when he ran for a place on the town council his name was always near the top of the successful aspirants. His talents included that of reading hand writing, which was especially helpful when as a member of the Council, all applications for positions were handed over to Councillor McGaffey to be analyzed.

The gentleman who knew and was employed by Mr. McGaffey also remembered another Lindsay citizen of yester years, a William Street resident by the name of "Professor" Dean. He was known as "Prenologist, skilled in determining a young man's future by reading the bumps on the heads of his clients, or rather his friends as he did not collect fees for his endeavours. At the time this gentleman had in his home a number of large placards showing the heads of individuals.

Reading bumps on the skull was a hobby and one which brought joy to many people.

In bygone days Lindsay also had a Mrs. Goheen, an east ward resident, who told fortunes of many women by reading tea cups and at times by reading characters and telling the future by reading a deck of playing cards. It was against the law to tell fortunes and Lindsay members of the law

frequently dropped in and "closed her down" but not for long, as curious customers, especially women, loved to have their future told. This old woman was often prosecuted but never persecuted.

Police quite frequently "raided" places in search of "bootleggers" dispensing home brew from a tub, keg or barrel hidden in the back shed or under a bed in the parlour. Many a can or boiler full of bottles of the potent stuff was hidden in the cellar, behind the organ, in a bed or in the patch of rhubarb and even in a bed of garden pansies. When it was hard to buy liquor at store prices, it appeared to be easy to keep "watered down" hard liquor. Many a bootlegger's bottle contained a bit of well water. The old saying "be sure your sins will find you out" was believed in but in the old days as today the people loved to gamble and take a chance.

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Considerable radio and TV publicity has been heard and

seen in recent years regarding the campaign against the use of cigarettes and marijuana. How many readers remember the one man campaign of an Oakwood resident against cigarettes? Joe Tinney was his name and he is also remembered by friends because he only had one good eye, plus a glass eye. He was a farmer living a mile-and-a-half west of Oakwood and he lived in a large white brick house with a large second storey balcony.

Many times this crusader talked to groups in church basements and other places. Many took the leadership against alcoholism, but Tinney was strictly against hard "spirits".

Remember the days when members of the Salvation Army gathered on Kent Street corners, sang the old hymns, prayed loud and some times long, placed the big bass drum on the dirt road which was an invitation for the on-lookers to toss in a few coins. Sweet voiced songsters were aided by the sound of timbrels and banjos and always could be heard was the big bass horn and perhaps an alto horn.

The Captain of the red-shirted songsters was invariably good on the cornet. The women were dressed in blue and several wore army bonnets. They were a happy lot of dedicated people and there were many converts at the services held in the Citadel.

The Salvationists labored hard all day and were found in the Army Citadel on Peel Street in the evenings. It has been written before, but bears repeating, that in the very beginning days of the army in Lindsay these men and women were labelled as heretics and even spent time in the local jail on Victoria Avenue rather than refrain from street meetings.

The Lindsay Corps has been blessed with many fine leaders. Old timers can recall the tremendous service rendered by these patriotic people in the days of two world wars, on the home field and on the fields of Flanders. Orchids to the Salvation Army!