



On the Main Street

With FORD MOYNES

How many readers remember the days when John Reynolds' ice wagon rattled it's way along Kent and Lindsay streets, the days when John Reynolds and his son Bruce measured out large blocks of ice near the ice house which was filled with saw dust.

Reynolds used a special saw and the apparatus cut huge blocks of ice which were expertly handled by the use of a pair of strong iron tongs.

Reynolds owned a large ice shed near the town pump house east of his home on Lindsay street. Customers picked up the ice cakes at the ice house while many other customers picked them up at a place behind the present fire hall.

It was not unusual to see three or four youngsters following the ice wagon down the street picking up slivers of ice, when the wagon halted to deliver ice to a customer.

Before the introduction of the modern refrigerator a number of citizens had old fashioned ice boxes in the back kitchen. The ice man made a good living peddling blocks of ice but the ice vendor was swept out of business by the refrigerator.

The soft drink business, prosperous today on a mammoth scale, brings to mind the days when Wilbert Nichols had one of the largest plants to be found east of Toronto. Nichols who served as a town councillor, operated a small grocery store at the corner of Queen and Caroline streets and operated the soft drinks at the rear of the store with a drive way off Caroline street. His big yellow painted truck delivered the product to many villages in a wide area His soft drink factory was the first of its kind in Lindsay.

It is of interest however to note that James Begg at the same time was a big cog in the soft drink business with a plant on Peel street, west of Cambridge street. This man became Mayor of Lindsay and was also one of the many liberals in politics to seek election to the Ottawa house, but was unsuccessful. He became a director and a president of Victoria Trust company. Another phase of his busy life was his membership as a director of the Lindsay Fall Fair.

In fraternal circles Mr. Begg served as a Master of Faithful Brethren Masonic Lodge and, for this honor, he was the proud wearer of a founder's jewel, a scarce article in Masonry. He served successfully as a member and president of the Lindsay Central Fair board. Ex-Mayor James Begg was a "big wheel" in Lindsay to use a vernacular term.

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Recently the writer of this column was interrogated regarding the history of the Academy Theatre. It is interesting to note that the first local theatre performances were held in the old town hall. The theatre there extended from east to west with a big stage at the west end. Steps led from the floor to the stage on the north ends with a small dressing room at the north side and a narrow passage way behind a curtain.

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The first manager was a gentleman named Fred Burke who was followed years later by Robert Menzies, the latter a clerk in the Dundas and Flavelle dry goods store.

History regarding the early days of the present Academy theatre is some what meagre, but this fine building was erected and owned by Mr. Alex Ross, father of Dr. John Ross, Kent Street west.

For many years the theatre was operated and owned by William H. Roenick, a band leader who was brought to Lindsay to lead the Sylvester band.

This old, historic and beautiful theatre is at present rendering service under the control of the Academy Theatre Foundation.

For many years the theatre accommodated travelling road shows. The Academy was also one of the original silent movie houses east of Toronto.

A few years ago the theatre underwent a number of important changes including a face lifting job with additions of a beautiful foyer and carpeted floor.

Food for Thought
Hors d'oeuvres — a ham sandwich cut into forty pieces.
—Jack Benny