



On the Main Street

with FORD MOYNES

The years 1864, 1887, 1914 and 1965 have been memorable and historic dates in the life of Moses Marsden (Mejquis), a peircing dark eyed, grey-haired, keenly alert man, well known in his home town of Lakefield as a chief of the Ojibway Indian band.

1864 is the date of his birth, according to his kith and kin. 1887 is the day he and seven fellow workmen of the Rathburn Company lumber camp attended a night service in a little old log church situated about five miles north of Minden. 1914 is the date he was refused the privilege of donning a uniform to fight with fellow Canadians in the first World War, because he was over 45 years of age, and June 14, 1965 was the date he returned to Minden and again walked into the log church in the wildwood, sat down in the same pew and recalled his previous visit there in the pioneer lumbering days.

Moses Marsden was dined at the Indian-named summer lodge of Ogopogo by the officials and members of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce and the loquacious and pleasing old Chieftan figured in a neat and pleasing presentation when Chamber President Verne Graham accepted an interesting well-carved replica of the old log church as well as a walking stick of lovely craftsmanship.

Mentally alert, keenly humourous and in an eloquent manner, this friendly gentleman listened to an old newspaper article from the Minden Echo which told of the days in Minden the now county town of Haliburton, when it was not uncommon to witness the arrival of a huge barrel of whiskey, when Minden and nearby farmers and woodsmen spent four days and as many nights celebrating.

Norman Maidens of Minden told a story about an Indian

Chief named Wetung whom Moses Marsden remembered and equalled the Maiden's story with another about Wetung.

It was, however, while sitting in the lovely old church in the wildwood, where Moses Marsden worshipped almost four score years ago, that the Indian chief became reminiscent.

There was the time when Rathburn's floated logs from the Lake of Bays, over a long tramway to Raven Lake, where they were skidded down fast moving waters to the Gull River and onward through various rivers into Balsam, Cameron, Sturgeon and onward to their final destination at the Campbellford and Hardwood Ratherburn mills.

"I was strong and could wield an axe with the biggest and strongest lumberjacks then", said Moses, "and at times I ran the logs as they piled up in the rapids and when they were again tied in booms and huge rafts".

Camp cooks provided the best of meals, according to Moses Marsden, "plenty of fat pork, vegetables, prunes, dried apples and vegetables. There was plenty of good chaw tobacco and strong smelling pipes but no cigarettes", he recalled.

"It had been a long time since I had been in church but that night seven of us strolled into this log church", he said, "I will never forget. The minister was good but I particularly liked the choir. We sang the hymns and they took up a collection. I am told the organ the church has today came from the old Buck Hotel and that it was given to the church by the Ranson sisters", he said. "I always liked church and I guess my father did too, for he gave me the name Moses".

Later on Chief Marsden said he was well acquainted with Chief Johnston Paudash of

Lindsay who won the Victoria Cross in World War 1. He was one of the Mississauga tribes who were part of the Ojibway's, and Rice Lake was one of the bigger lakes where the tribes lived.

Moses Marsden has followed the trade of carpenter and has been responsible for the erection of many cottages, his own stone residence at Lakefield and he had the distinction of building a summer home for the Hon. J. Foster Dulles at the north of the St. Lawrence river.

The Indian chieftan was interested in chatting with such former lumbermen from Minden as James Hie, who was also a woodsman with the Rath-





