

To whom do the people of Linday owe much of its cultural development? This was the question presented to "Main Street" a few days ago. The questioner referred particularly to piano, organ and vocal culture.

In the same breath, the name of A. A. Knight, a former public school inspector, was mentioned. He was the father of Barrister Leigh R. Knight and he was graciously referred to as — "Grandpa Knight". He was more than an inspector, he was for some time organist at St. Paul's Anglican Church.

A short, bulky man, he had

a natural flare for music. Other well-known popular organists and choir leaders at St. Paul's included Miss Leary who was followed by Mrs. A. F. Palen, who resides today with her daughter Mrs. Grace Wilford on Russell Street east.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church is one of the oldest, largest and finest in the district and within its sacred walls is housed one of the oldest pipe organs. The keyboard accommodates only two decks of keys but the instrument possesses splendid range and a fine variety of beautiful tubes.

The musical ritual of the

church underwent a change when an electric organ was installed. The new melodious instrument was along the east walk of the edifice where the pulpit was for years situated. The pulpit now occupies a place in the sanctuary at the south end of the building.

The organ came into being when the congregation adopted the new innovation of singing hymns and other forms of music in unison, instead of being entirely dependent on the choir and when it was decided to sing the order of service and hymns in English instead of in Latin.

The pipe organ has been a friend — if that is the right word — to many of the present congregation, including a man well-known to many citizens as Norm Bissette. He was an altar-boy when the organ gave forth its wonderful music and as time went by, Mr. Bissette became a member of the choir. His fine vibrant musical voice which was heard for several years was one of the mainstays of the choir.

St. Mary' has had four organists and choir leaders in the time of the pipe organ and each in turn was talented and capable. Miss Mary Brady, a daughter of a Lindsay grocer was the first organist. Miss Brady's sister whose married name was Mrs. L. V. (Ella) O'Connor was not only a lovely soloist but one who took part in

many local concerts and stage presentations.

Miss Mary Flurey, also the daughter of a local grocer, John Flurey, was the next organist. She also had a grand singing voice.

The organist, however, who served the longest term and rendered outstanding service was the late Miss Ruth Shannon. The present organist is Donald Lozon.

The venerable pipe organ has been rebuilt at different times and according to many worshippers, can never be fully replaced by an electric organ.

Cambridge Street United Church has always had good organists and choirmasters.

J. Parnell Morris was one of the earliest, later moving to London, Ontario. He was a good vocalist as well as a musician.

Cecil Carl Forsythe had a long term and was quite successful as a teacher.

A man named Jackson was followed by a leader named Isaac Newton. Charles W. Taylor had one of the largest choirs in the history of the church. Following his departure for Oshawa he was succeeded by Professor W. E. Fletcher, who also had a long and successful term as organist and choirmaster.

During Professor Fletcher's term, while he was absent in the war service, the duty of organist was in the capable hands of Mrs. J. W. Deyell, with S. C. Lonnie and Mrs. Norman Lindsay in the role of conductors.

George Liddle had a term as organist and choirmaster with Mrs. Liddle as contralto soloist.

Other leaders included Percy Mulhern, a former Lindsay boy, as well as Mr. Beeton. The present leader is Allan Bennett.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, one of the pioneer churches in Lindsay has had a number of fine choirmasters and organists.

WROTE ORGAN NUMBERS

One man who was a brilliant organist and who wrote several numbers for the organ and choir as well as a number of piano accompaniments for vocalists was Henry Cooke Hamilton. His concerts included an annual event with a choir aug-

mented by singers from other churches.

Sydney F. Chamberlain was a member of the staff of the Bank of Montreal. He was organist at St. Andrew's Church for a number of years.

A gifted organist and soloist was Mrs. Lloyd Wood who was also the head of the Madrigal singers, a group which at the time was one of the best singing choirs in the district. The concerts held by this group generally included Toronto soloists or harpists. Mrs. Wood was instrumental in developing several fine soloists.

Perhaps the organist and choirmaster who brought the most glory to the Presbyterian Church, was Robert Cutt. He was an artist at the console and because he was a tenor soloist of no mean ability, he was able to bring to the musical life in Lindsay and district a large number of young soloists, many of them carrying off top awards at Lindsay and other music festivals. He was a key figure in detecting talent and bringing out the best in vocalists.

The Maple Leaf male quartette, one of the finest in Ontario, came under his personal direction and tuition.

William E. Perry, the present organist and choirmaster at St. Andrew's, a protege of Mr. Cutt, has followed Mr. Cutt and has had remarkable success.

Queen Street United Church, especially prior to union, had predominance of accomplished organists and choir leaders. It was not until the former church at the corner of Queen and Caroline was sold to the CPR and demolished and when the congregation entered the new

edifice at Lindsay, Queen and Wellington Streets that a pipe organ was installed.

An organist named Marjorie ~~Stevens~~ filled the position for several years, as did the former Margaret Mitchell and her sister Mabel Mitchell who were quite capable and very loyal organists.

Margaret Mitchell is now Mrs. Harry Stoddard of Montreal and her sister Mabel, married the late Percy M. Moynes. Mrs. Moynes has also passed on.

Mrs. Jean Frederick, the former Miss Fee, served as organist for some years. Mrs. Frederick is today a faithful member of Cambridge Street United Church.

One of the outstanding organists of the old church and the present church was Mrs. W. E. Ferguson, the former Valera Vickery, who with her husband now resides on Albert Street North.

Among the male organists of the church have been Professor W. E. Fletcher, Harry D. Moss, Morley Coombs and Barry Lloyd.

Cambridge Street Baptist Church is one of the oldest in Lindsay and its long history has had only a limited number of organists and choirmasters. D. Keith Morden of Lindsay, however, has served as an organist during several different and broken periods.

Musicians who have been faithful to the Baptist congregation include: Miss Whiteside, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. R. A. Magahey, Ted Fisher, Miss Catherine MacKay, Mrs. Ken Garbig, W. E. Fletcher, William E. Perry, Reg. Hargraves, and Bruce Cooper.