

FORD MOYNES

ON THE MAIN STREET



As the famous Ripley once said: "Believe it or not" and

the words spell out the fact that Lindsay once had a French Village. In fact it was a vital part of the early days in Lindsay. It was located in the East Ward in the neighbourhood of Kent Street East and thence spread towards the east and south. Many of the old homes were built of logs. The colony of native born citizens of France included such well known names as Michaud, Bisette, Massaw, Grozelle, Gereau, Frechette, Labertie, Lavelle, Jereaux, Gassien and others.

The French Village extended from the east side of the Scugog River to Verulam Road. Of these fine pioneer residents of Lindsay the names of Bisette and Grozelle are the most familiar to citizens of today.

The Gassien family is represented by Guy Gassien, Mana-

ger of the Ontario Liquor Store.

In those days of a century ago and for years later, the nearest mercantile store was that run by J. R. O'Neill at the corner of King and St. David Streets, and to attend St. Mary's Church these French-Canadians had to either use a row boat or walk across on a long board. The sidewalks, consisted of two twelve foot

planks running side by side, and there were no street lights for a number of years. Practically all the original homes have disappeared, including log cabins, and today the area is filled with beautiful homes and fine streets.