

Over a million eyes and ears were literally glued to TV sets Tuesday night when the best hockey players in the West faced and fought the cream of the Eastern stars. Canada's national game brought together the super-stars of the game.

Hundreds of hockey fans of today, after watching the super-stars in action Tuesday, could not help turning back the pages of hockey when one of the tail-end season games was the mighty clash for the Ontario amateur championship when the best in western Ontario faced the best in eastern Ontario.

About 60 years ago, the Lindsay Midgets battled against the Stratford Midgets for the championship of Ontario.

In the first clash it was for the championship in the Junior section and Stratford won. The identical two teams met the following year in the Intermediate series and Lindsay won. Both teams wore blue and white sweaters with a large horseshoe on the chest. Lindsay had to defeat all teams in the east and then winners from the north. It was a great series. Lindsay fans crowded special trains to Peterborough, Belleville, Midland and Stratford and instead of the home town fans listening to radio and television for play by play, they gathered at the office of the telegraph company and watched for bulletins sent over the wires.

Lindsay had many great hockey players and particularly the players on the championship team of 1908 and 1909 and they lined up as follows: Goal, Basil Newton; point, Cliff Sullivan; cover point, Leon Koyle, who could be compared to Bobby Orr of today. Bill Stoddart at centre was another Davy Keon, "Pacer" McDougal of Fenelon Falls, "Goosie" Fred Taylor, Frank Cote, Ian Randall, and Reg Bloomfield played on the wings. Arthur Simpson, manager of the Simpson Hotel was the manager, Artie Parkin was one of the coaches and "Cob" Abercrombie was the "rubber-downer".

Hockey fans were in the hundreds and they packed the old rink on Lindsay Street south on the coldest of nights when the winds from the north swept through the hundreds of cracks in the frame structure. The old rink accommodated spectators on seats along the hockey boards on the north side and in a small gallery at the east end of the rink. Spectators had to stand up to watch the game from the south side.

The weather was colder

years ago and coon skin coats weer worn by the moneyed men and mufflers, muffs, scarfs, heavy mitts and long stockings helped to keep out the cold.

Remember the lights ?? A small glare was emitted from incandescent bulbs and they were at times covered with dust and even frost.

Between periods the fans rushed to the dressing rooms, one for the women and the other for the men and boys. Nevertheless hockey nights were actually great nights — a lot of fun, jostling crowds, vociferous fans and lots of small bets. Teams received the loyal backing of fans, win or lose — and all for a dime and a shilling.

After the game many fans lined up along the counter or bar for sausage of the big and fat kind, a plateful of big white beans and lima beans, soused with catsup and all washed down the throat by steaming cups of black coffee. A hand out “fit for a King” in “Them good old golden days.” Remember?