

Mason and Risch was almost a household name years ago when it was the aim of many mothers to have their daughters, and at times their sons, to be able to play the piano. Piano dealers were better known as agents, one of whom was Wesley Mason, who represented the Greene Music Company. Upright pianos were in style and many instruments were sold after they were on trial for a month or more.

Gramaphones appeared in stores and homes and another popular dealer was Rev. Thos. Brown and his son Harry Brown. The Brown retail store on Kent Street was a busy place and if pianos were deemed to be too costly, then the attention of customers was centered on an organ, a used piano or possibly a violin or a cello. Mouth organs were also in stock and Victor records were first in demand. The Brown Store also carried mandolins, guitars, ukuleles, and at one time, harps. When the Victor advertised, the trade mark was a lovely spotted dog sitting on its hind quarters with head close to the horn, listening for his Master's voice.

One of the pioneer organ dealers in Lindsay was a gentleman named Wetherup whose residence was at one time at the southwest corner of Sussex and Peel Streets.

Capt. William Warren before World War One was a busy piano agent with a store on William Street, north of the Daily Post building.

In the same era there was a big business in the sale of sheet music, as many boys and girls were taking piano lessons and teachers of voice had many pupils, all requiring sheet music. Storekeepers were busy selling all kinds of sheet music up till the advent of the radio, following which sales in sheet music went down fast. It was a common thing for vocalists and pianists to have as many as 100 or more pieces of music.

Times have changed. Many house pianos have been push-

ed into a corner, seldom to be used, while in some homes there are as many as three and four radios.

Music wise, church choirs which were once concert organizations and numbered from 25 to 45 voices have dwindled to 25 and less. Annual choir concerts have faded away and gone, male, female and mixed quartets are seldom heard today.