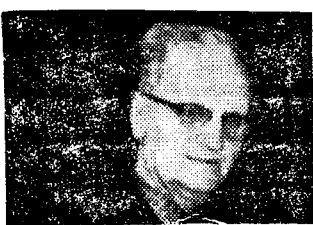


ON THE MAIN STREET



Many people have many hobbies. Mrs. Rena Sanderson of Janetville has a hobby which keeps her busy. She is a collector of buttons and has several thousand different kinds to prove the statement. Mrs. Sanderson is also interested in old or antique furniture and a few days ago came into possession of an old book case which bore the neat label: "Lindsay Library and Office Fittings Company".

To many local citizens this item of now historical interest recalls the days in 1914 when twenty-one first class foremen, all artizans, left their benches and desks in the Office Specialty Company at Newmarket and set up a factory in the North West corner of the Sylvester building on Kent Street under the name of Lindsay Office Specialty Company. Competition was so keen that the firm was forced to close the factory.

A number of patriotic business and professional men in Lindsay ventured and volunteered to keep the factory alive. They had faith in the men and in the products manufactured, namely all types of office fittings and furniture for banks and other lines of business. To the rescue went Tom Stinson, R. J. McLaughlin, William Flavelle, Arthur Ford and others and the name was changed to Lindsay Woodworkers.

An interjection here may prove interesting. When the Lindsay Kiwanis Club was organized in Lindsay T. H. Stinson became the first President. Only one classification of occupation was permitted. Two lawyers were not permissible and President Stinson was classified as a Woodworker.

As time went on the Lindsay Woodworkers was taken over by the Gull River Lumber Company with mills at Co-boconk and Lindsay with the Peel family in charge and the last mill and factory in the Kent Street building was known as the Kawartha Lumber Company which in turn folded and the Loblaw firm purchased the property.

Many fine tradesmen sprung to the fore from the old Lindsay Library and Office Fit-

tings Company, including Redge Vickery, Queen Street, now a recognized expert craftsman with the Lincraft Company on Durham Street.

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Victoria County sent many settlers to Western Canada and Leonard Nesbitt, a former Lindsay boy, now retired and living in Calgary was one of them. He writes a few recollections in the following article:

Ford Moynes asked me to tell of persons from Lindsay and district who have come to the Calgary area and made good. Strange to relate in the 57 years I have lived in this part of Alberta, I have encountered very few people from Lindsay or Victoria County.

Of course there was Patrick Burns, the rancher and packing house owner, who was made a senator by R. B. Bennett. He came from Kirkfield and homesteaded in Manitoba when he was 22 years old. Then he moved to Alberta where he made his fortune in ranching and meat packing.

As a newspaper reporter, I talked with Mr. Burns on several occasions. I also visited his Circle ranch on the Red Deer River close to the town of Brooks. In the autumn of 1919 he sold 3,000 head of cattle from that ranch to Rod McLeay of the Rocking P. ranch, the price being \$100 a head. Then came a depression and cattle prices skidded and it took years for McLeay to pay off. I asked the banker who loaned McLeay the money if the bank got it all back. "No", was the reply. "We lost the interest".

I remember that affair for my brother-in-law and I bought 50 head of long yearling heifers from Burns at the same time, paying \$55 a head. We kept them for four years and sold them for \$35 a head. The calf crops helped out some but not much.

I asked Mr. Burns how he came to sell out at the time and he said, "when beef cattle price is 12 cents a pound its a sale".

Twelve cents then would be like 25 cents today.

Burns sold his packing

plant in Calgary at the right time, also. In 1928 he disposed of the business for \$12,000,000. Then came the depression and \$100 bonds issued by the buyers of Burns company went down to \$25.00.

Ralph McNeilly, son of the man who used to be county clerk for Victoria County, was district passenger agent for the C.P.R. here. He later went to Montreal. Nivin Jackson, son of the lawyer Alex Jackson, of Lindsay, also lived in Calgary, but he has been dead for a number of years. So has Dr. Harold MacAulay, dentist, whose father was a telegrapher in Lindsay and whose brother was a minister in the Ontario provincial government. Harold was in the same class with me in the L.C.I. and we had great times talking over the past days in Lindsay before he died while on a hunting expedition.

There was a men's clothing merchant in Calgary named Gardiner who came from Bobcaygeon and whose sons went to school with my boys. But that was long ago.

Then there is Albert Marshall, one of several brothers who lived in Lindsay. He operated a men's wear store in Calgary for years and is still around. I meet him at Shrine affairs and he delights to tell those around: "Len Nesbitt came from Lindsay and the Nesbitt family lived in the North Ward and were Liberals. Being a Liberal in Lindsay at that time is like being a Red in Calgary today!" Loud laughter.

A Williamson family who lived in Lindsay, the father of which was a butcher moved to Edmonton. I went to school with Russell, a son, and he came to see me once or twice. He said there were more ex-Lindsay people in Edmonton than in Calgary.

Many years ago Dr. Johnston, a Presbyterian minister who once occupied the pulpit of the church in Lindsay, was minister at Grace Church in Calgary. When I first accosted him and explained who I was, he said "Oh your family came from Ireland in olden times". Perfectly true.