

"Hockey Night in Canada". Millions of optics have been following the National Hockey League finals and excitement has reached the fever point. A Lindsay hockey fan of today and of years gone by, has turned the clock back and recalls vivid recollections of the days of the Lindsay Midgets and the titanic battles which took place between the local Midgets and the Stratford Midgets in 1908 and 1909.

"Lindsay was a great hockey town and fans, old and young, used to pack the old rink on Lindsay Street to the rafters. In fact when Lindsay and Stratford met in classic but very strenuous battles on the ice, fans actually crossed their legs on the rafters high above the ice.

"In 1908 the Stratford Midgets defeated the Lindsay Midgets in home and home games but the very next season, both teams reached the finals in the intermediate series and Lindsay had sweet revenge and won the Ontario championship after having eliminated teams from the East, the North and Toronto.

"The Lindsay and Stratford Midgets both wore blue and white uniforms and both teams had jerseys bearing a large initial "M" on the bosom. Both clubs ran special trains and passenger coaches were crowded and as was the custom, the fans wore long streamers of blue and white ribbons. Fans were rabid enthusiasts and scuffles were not uncommon and it was also the custom to place bets on the outcome of games.

The old frame rink accommodated fans with seats along the north side and standing room behind, and a substantial balcony on the north side accommodated many scores of fans and there was also a small gallery over the ice at the east entrance. Standing room only was supplied on the south side of the rink and on real cold nights spectators crowded two small waiting rooms at the east end, one for the ladies and one for the men. Two stoves of the pot belly type failed to throw enough heat, but they were always surrounded by shin warmers and fans attired in lumber

jack underwear and wearing heavy mitts and lined gloves. for the winters were considerably colder than the winters of the past few decades.

Quite frequently, a brass band, small in numbers, played the Skater's Waltz, and the band played for nothing, as the members were happy to gain free admissions.

The lighting was poor as compared to the modern lights of today and when some adept defence player wished to de-

lay a game, the puck was very often shot up in the rafters out of sight.

Heroes on the line-up of the champion Midgets of 1908 and 1909 lined up as follows: Goal, Basil Newton; point, Cliff Sullivan; cover point, Leon Koyle; rover, Bill Stoddard; centre, "Pacer" McDougal; wings, Frank Cote and Reg. Bloomfield and spare and coach "Goosie" Taylor. Trainers, manager and rub-down artist, Fred Taylor, Arthur Simpson and "Cob" Abercrombie.

Many will remember the rink manager, George Coombs — a gruff individual, but honest and likeable.