

On The Main Street

with Ford Moynes

Guy Fawkes night, the night for ghosts and pranksters will be observed in Lindsay in the usual quiet way on the night of Nov. 5 if the celebrations of recent years can be taken as an indication of what to expect.

Away back in British and English history a man named Guy Fawkes headed a group of one hundred so called patriots in London and not liking the members of the House of Lords and of the Commons they decided to blow up Parliament and all therein.

The plotters gathered in the dungeons under the Parliament building and all was going like clock work until a leak took place and Fawkes and his followers were discovered in the dungeon along with many barrels and kegs of dynamite.

It was a close call but Mr. Fawkes and his plotters were caught and hanged in the public square. Parliament and Parliamentarians were saved and ever since that day in 1605 the day has been celebrated by Englishmen in England and the colonies.

Guy Fawkes Day has been observed, through the years in Lindsay. There was a time years ago when local pranksters celebrated by upsetting the small one and two holer "parliaments" at the rear of the houses. It is reported that some parents could not stop the onslaught on closets but the next day they had the culprits return and put the out-houses back in place. The memory lingers on — so did the odor.

In Lindsay wood plank sidewalks were lifted and at times picket fence and gates were lifted.

Storekeepers who had iron gates across the doorway and

locked these nightly often found the gates off their hinges.

The smaller fry resorted to tick-tack-to's when a small notched spool was placed against a house window and operated by pulling a long string.

It was fun to drop a purse or wallet on the sidewalk attached to a string and haul the article away when the pedestrian stooped down to pick it up. This was a common trick also on hallowe'en nights.

On one hallowe'en night a gang of young men hauled away a tombstone from the Robt. Chambers monumental shop on Cambridge street

north and hauled the wagon and stone to the Town Wharf, allowing the front wheels to hang over the edge of the wharf.

It was not unusual to turn over wooden walks and rain barrels were upset.

Hallowe'en was a night for fun and it all started when a man named Guy Fawkes had in mind blowing up the British Parliament and did not succeed — hence the cause for celebrations.