

Bruce Cooper, of Fenelon Falls, might well be named "Music Master" because of his long and continued record as a teacher of voice, piano and organ. He was one of the founders of the Kiwanis Music Festival which later became known as the Victoria County Festival.

Twenty-five years ago the Festival was launched with Lloyd Hale, teacher at the Collegiate Institute, as the first president. The Festival was launched after Lloyd Hale heard a Bruce Cooper school chorus perform on the high stage in the old Assembly Hall. Incidentally, the Fenelon Falls school choir travelled to Toronto a quarter of a century ago and appeared on a program sponsored by the CBC. Bruce Cooper pupils won many contests in the Victoria Festival and his loyalty helped greatly in the long success of the Festival.

For many years he was organist and choirmaster at the Fenelon Falls United Church. It is worthy of mention that a few days ago he interested himself in securing a syllabus of the annual Peterborough Kiwanis Music Festival and that he plans to enter two school groups from Victoria County.

History records that the Kiwanis Festival was first held in St. Paul's Anglican Church Parish Hall with J. Campbell McInnis as the adjudicator from Toronto. Two years later the adjudicator was Dr. Peaker of Toronto and as the Festival expanded in the day schools Dr. Fenwick became a yearly adjudicator.

Among the many officers of the Festival might be mentioned are Miss Katherine McKay of Woodville who was secretary for several years and Miss McKay was also a successful piano teacher; Ford Moynes, second President of the Association; Miss Nell Brown, ATCM, and Mrs. W. E. Reesor and Mrs. Albert Barton. School principals Hall, Wood, Dettman, McLeod, Battersby, Patterson, Breese, Cutt, Fletcher, Sisters of the Convent and others.

St. Paul's Hall was taxed to over-capacity and the Festival moved to St. Andrew's Church and to Cambridge Street United Church. For a couple of years overflow entries and classes were adjudicated in the United Church at Oakwood and at Fenelon Falls.

The Town Council comprised of W. G. Graham, Mayor, who was head of the Locomotive Engineers organization in Ontario; Thos. Wilkinson, a councillor who became mayor, was also a railway engineer; John O'Reilly also served as mayor and in private life was owner of the Ontario Liquor Board store in Lindsay; W. Eric Stewart was a lawyer who became mayor; Norman Kennedy ran a parcel delivery and later an implement shop; R. I. Moore was a barrister who served as mayor on two occasions; Thos. J. Tilly was manager of the Bell Telephone Co.; W. Les. Richmond was office manager for the R. M. Beal Leather Co.; Thomas Davies was sanitary inspector; George Coombs was a stone mason.