

FORD MOYNES

on the MAIN STREET



Today Lindsay is modern and among other matters the Town operates three ambulances. They are housed at the fire hall on Cambridge and are serviced day and night and when summoned they are manned by two experienced firemen who are learned in ambulance emergency matters. Quite different to years gone by.

Lindsay's first ambulance was horse drawn and was operated by a locustious and affable gentleman known as Charlie Lamb, one of the Town's most popular officials as attested by the long term as Mayor of Lindsay followed by a term as the local Member of Parliament at Ottawa.

The first ambulance was horse drawn. It was a vehicle on which there rested a long black polished box, often called the "Black Maria". Why? That is a good question.

At the time Charles Lamb owned and operated a horse livery off Kent Street in the barn at the rear of the present Woolworth emporium. The alert for the ambulance was received at the Lamb home on Queen Street and the calls seemed to ring in, more in the night than in the daytime. The call was answered quickly and Mr. Lamb dashed to the livery barn, hitched his black ponies and was on his way.

The driver sat up high on the front seat and did his best to give ailing occupants of the vehicle a "smooth" ride over rough roads.

The first modern motorized ambulance was donated to the Board of Governors of the Ross Memorial Hospital by the Lindsay Kiwanis Club and it was a beautiful vehicle on air cushioned wheels — a big vehicle long and sleek, well carved woodwork and equipped with two large front lamps, plus the regular fender lamps. This was presented to the Hospital Governors at a special ceremony. Incidentally, the Kiwanis Club also played a large part in the building of the Victoria wing. This motorized ambulance was kept in the Arnold garage on Kent Street.

Ex-Mayor Charles Lamb was a "first" in other fields. He had the first franchise for a passenger bus between Lindsay and Beaverton which was later extended to Orillia and he also had the first franchise for a passenger bus between Lindsay and Bobcaygeon. The same gentleman drove a high wheel bus from the Benson, Simpson and Pym Hotels to the Grand Trunk station on Durham Street.

* * *

Switching from the subject of ambulances and buses to hearses, few residents will re-

member the days when beautiful hearses were made in Lindsay by the Fitzsimmons Brothers who also turned out ambulances. The factory was located on Wellington Street west of the present Queen Street United Church. The Fitzsimmons brothers were expert craftsmen. They employed many hands in the days of World War One when they had contracts to build ambulances for the Red Cross — vehicles which were recognized by a large red cross on the sides as well as on the top.

Contracts for the vehicles came Lindsay way because of the interest and military connections of the late Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia for Canada.

The same Major General established the Dominion Arsenal in Lindsay and turned contracts for shells and munitions to the Lindsay Shell Works, located in the Sylvester plant and operated by Fred R. Wilford.