

on the

may 6/70

MAIN STREET



Organized hockey has always been fun and always has depended on a number of dedicated individuals for leadership. There was possibly more real fun in by-gone days when youngsters had to learn to skate in a pair of "spring" skates, fastened to the boots by tightening clamps and when the skates had a couple of steel projections which gripped the sole of the boot so tight that many a boot was ruined. Besides the skate straps had an uncanny way of breaking, and eyelet holes seemed to expand. If the girls had a beau, and most of them had, he really enjoyed tightening the skate straps around a dainty ankle. The girls may have blushed a bit at the boldness of a good looking boy, but that was all part of the thrill of being a skater.

Skating on the treacherous river was taboo so that the small rink was generally crowded, especially on band nights when the beautiful skater's waltz was a favorite. Never to be forgotten was the rink on Lindsay Street South, on the west side and close to the main drag. There were two waiting rooms, one for the males and one for the females, and when the lassie wanted her laddie to strap on the skates, this was generally done on benches outside the waiting rooms.

Then came the blades attached to the boots and this new skate was good for skaters for it meant that young fellows had to be gallant when escorting the girls home.

Band nights packed the rink and for ten cents extra you could skate to the ever popular Skater's Waltz. The band was small in numbers but the music was blatant and sweet.

This article was intended to deal with hockey, for be it known Lindsay could always muster up some rough, tough, speedy puck chasers with always a team in the Ontario Hockey Association.

Many decades ago Lindsay fans talked about the ability of Fred Walters, a dentist and Billy Gross, also the son of a dentist. There was a rugged Lindsay boy, a sailor, named McGrath who spent his winters in Lindsay, and a player named Tom Buck who finished his dental career in Rochester. There was Artie Parkin, an office man in Flavelle's cold storage plant on King Street and George "Slats" Reilly, a printer.

Later on the local hockey horizon appeared Fred "Goosie" Taylor, who became the coach of the famous Lindsay Midgets, a team that won the Intermediate championship by defeating another famous team, the Stratford Midgets, in the 1908-1909 season. This championship team comprised such outstanding players as: Basil Newton, Cliff Sullivan, Leon Coyle, Reg Bloomfield, Bill Stoddart, Russell McDougall, Ken Randell and Frank Cote.

Other outstanding Lindsay players included Peter and Jack Spratt, Jack, Bill and Joe Killen, the Mills brothers, the Gersters, McClory, Oliver, Coombs, McElroy, Williams, and many others.

True, the old Lindsay Street skating rink produced many expert hockeyists to grace the local "Hockey Hall of Fame".

In more recent years Lindsay players are still winning recognition far afield. This year NHL rosters included Bill Speer and Ken Schinkle, both former Lindsay players, Dave Lucas had many years

in the Eastern League along with Bobby Taylor and Paul Grills. Joe Junkin made the grade as a goalie in the big time. Bill Horton, Cam Newton, George Babcock, Wayne McLeish, and George Graham graduated from the Lindsay Juniors to Junior "A" ranks, to name a few.