

on the MAIN STREET



Two business men of former years who are well remembered by many of today's citizens are those of ~~John Reynolds~~ of Lindsay and Morris Lansfield of Fencilon Falls. They were ice dealers in large foot-square blocks of ice before the introduction of refrigerators and they were accommodating business men. Some "plutocrats" had the first ice boxes and they were actually glorified refrigerators.

Reynolds first had horse drawn wagons, and later on, a truck. He harvested ice from the Scugog River east of his brick home on Lindsay Street South, and stacked the blocks away in piles of sawdust in an old ice house, and at one time when the ice was too thin he hauled his ice cutting saws to the Pleasant Point wharf and sawed big blocks out of Sturgeon Lake.

When the large barn on Lindsay Street South was crammed, this iceman erected a flimsy ice shed at Pleasant Point to take care of the crop, which grew larger every winter.

For the convenience of Lindsay customers large chunks of ice were stored in a lean-to shed at the rear of the fire hall on Cambridge Street North, and customers included cottagers at Pleasant and Sturgeon Points, some of whom had ice box refrigerators.

Often times small boys and girls ran after the Reynolds' ice truck and picked up slivers of ice. Indeed many times, John Reynolds and his son Bruce would chip off bits from the ice blocks and let the kids at the rear of the truck "wet their whistles" and on hot scorching days many a boy quenched a parched throat with a piece of fast melting ice. That was a delightful experience in the "good old days".

The ice man had a special saw for cutting ice on the river and a tool which marked the ice for the guidance of the man who operated the cutter. In days gone by the ice in Sturgeon Lake was often over a foot thick.

The iceman was forced out of business by the man and the firm introducing the refrigerator and the sawdust storage shed has long ago fell to the ground. The ice tongs are today a collector's item and perhaps can be found in a museum like the one at Upper Canada village. An odd pair of ice "forks" may be found in some farm sheds.

With the disappearance of the home freezer also vanished the freezers used years ago by owners of confectionery

and ice cream parlors. These were the sizzling hot days when ten gallon cans were filled with milk and cream which was never pasteurized.

These long cans were placed in long wooden buckets and packed solid in ice, heavily sprinkled with coarse salt. In those days a youngster or oldster turned the crank and turned and turned the contents until it became a delicious frozen mass. Two kinds of ice cream were served to ice cream parlor customers, vanilla or strawberry, and it was cold and good. Only five cents for a dish, but if a fellow had his best girl along for a treat, then the large ten cent dishes were favorites.

Another epoch came into being with making of the ice cream soda. Ten cents for a tall glass of this delectable beverage and the tall, flimsy straw was added for the convenience of the customer. This beverage was good until the last drop.

Many a young "Blade" met his future mother-in-law sucking cider through a straw, for oftentimes the mother of the best gal was taken to the ice cream parlor for a treat . . . Everybody walked up street to the ice cream parlor, and there was no parking meter, but there was the odd post to which a horse could be tethered. The majority of young men did not have money to hire a livery horse, and motor cars were very scarce.

It was fun to walk the girls back home. The sidewalks were made of long boards and were usually only two planks wide, after leaving the main drag. The street lights were hung on tall poles at the main street corners and the lighting was not profuse, but it was proficient for the occasion and the time . . .

How many remember the old picket fence and the old gate? How about the old verandah and the old colorful hammock? A young girl's beau seldom stayed later than ten p.m. unless there was a public dance or a private house party. What games did young people play? This is for a later edition.