



On The Main Street

Sept 21/71

Among the most colourful artists in Lindsay in bygone days were the tonsorial artists, better known as barbers. Barbering in the old days was one of the most exacting professions. The barber shop used to be the gathering place not only for patrons wanting a hair cut and a shave, but for semi retired males who gathered to shoot the breeze, and to meet real cronies and characters where the gamut of conversation included tips on horse races, and the stars of the local hockey team. Local politics and politicians received a real going over. The regulars could always find a foursome to play euchre or Pedro, Hearts or Cribbage.

Rumours were uttered and squelched and usually the barbershop habitues knew more about matters pertaining to the town council as well as the business of the hydro, waterworks and health boards. But on the whole arguments were settled with the barber flourishing a brush topped with lather in one hand, and

a razor or a pair of shears in the other hand.

Those practicing barbering in the good old days were: Bert Naylor, Andy O'Leary, Artie Robson, Herb Williamson, Ben Sanderson, Sandy Flack, Ancil King, Tom Murtagh, Walter Richards, Herb Brick, Russell Lamb, Pat Jakins, Sherwood Stone and others.

Barbers called on to visit hospitals carried their working tools in a small leather satchel similar to the little bags carried by the medical doctors of today.

The day of the ten cent shave vanished with the discovery of the electric razor, the use of which put many barbers out of business, and forced others to put up the price of hair cuts.

With the disappearance of the old red and white sign post, the days of the old fashioned, loquacious "man of knowledge, the tonsorial artist" also vanished.

It is a case of au revoir but not forgotten.