

RCI's football team in 1909

by Harry Hinchley

Back Row: A W Baird, coach and centre half; J Burns, spare; M Mick, 2nd wing right; H Foster, second wing left; D A MacFarlane, spare; J Phillips, centre, W Millar, spare; W J Stewart, 3rd wing right; Second Row: P S Kennedy, outside wing right; E H Smith, left half back, Captain; Dr H W Bryan, principal and president; A Anderson, right half back; Front Row: K McKinnon, scrimmage; H Box, quarter

back, S Box, outside wing left, J Mackay, full back; C Smart 3rd wing left.

In 1909 Renfrew Collegiate Institute had only around 200 pupils and to make up the football team they had to use one of the teachers. A W Baird. He also was coach.

Football was not his only skill because he was also an M A and a highly qualified specialist in moderns and history. After the death of Dr Bryan he was appointed principal. Besides A W

Baird there were six other teachers on the staff. Dr H W Bryan, who was rated as one of the best teachers in the province, was principal and specialist in classics and ancient history.

Many pupils from the country used to board and room in town and the school had a list of

approved boarding houses. Others who lived near the railway lines came by train, down in the morning and back home in the evening. More from around Renfrew drove back and forth by horse and buggy. Others rode in and out on bicycles unless the roads were bad. Then they walked.

School work took precedence over football and the games were usually played on Saturdays. But in 1909 it was on Thanksgiving Day that Renfrew played Ottawa College. They lost the game 12-5 and they were up against a heavier and faster team. The next Saturday Renfrew took on Ottawa Collegiate.



1924 Buick