

Neil McDonald's 'reunion song'

KINCARDINE REUNION SONG

By Neil McDonald

To the tune of
"The Strawberry Roan"

I've writ funny songs, some poems and rhymes,
Just helping the town keep up with the times.
So I'm sitting in with some fellows one night
And their conversation filled me with delight.
"Well," I said to myself, "I'll just jog along."
So I pieced up their chatter and here is my song.
Says Harvey Linklater to Doc. Bruce that day,

There'll be a reunion this year if you say."
So Ernie said, "O.K., I'll sure do my part,
We'll call a big meeting and give it a start."
They met in the Town Hall with boosters galore.
Each one felt success as he entered the door.
Mayor Ellenton said, "I'm right with the crowd,
Along with the Reeve, John Duncan McLeod."
Then Editor Davies gave many good views
And Editor Rogers said, "We'll spread the
News."

The first thing to do was a date for to fix.
So all voted it would be nineteen three six.
The opening day will be August the first,
And we'll run it big for five days or burst.
With jazz bands and brass bands we'll do it up
grand.

Pipe Major Bill Young with his kiltie pipe band.
We'll get all the people to give us the name
Of far away friends who will join in the game.

They'll come from the east and come from the west,
We'll dress up the town and show them the best.
They'll come from the north and come from the
south.

We'll open our homes and give them the house.
On Saturday night there'll be lots of noise,
But pulpit next day will be filled by Old Boys.
On that afternoon to the place we'll parade
Where so many friends and loved ones are laid.

For no matter where in this world you have been,
We'll keep all their graves and memories green.
That evening a stroll by the lake in the cool,
With Monday each one will visit at school.
With Ripley and Tiverton strong on the deal,
Community farmers the spokes in the wheel.
Three tourist hotels with good beds and easts,
And Ed Yeager's restaurant where the younger
crowd meets.

Trapeze and dancing with ballyhoo lots,
Teeters and swings and slides for the tots,
You know George McCarty, whom Heaven has
sent.

Will help register you in the library ground tent.
Our beach all lit up so no place is dark.

The bowery, race track and McPherson Park.
Gold and baseball, the best ever seen,
Nice tennis courts next the big bowling green.

Down at the tourist camp big trailer floats,
At Cuyler's refreshments, where you hire the
boats.

The big dance pavilion within water's reach,
With Have-A-Rest huts near by at the beach.
Up at the Post Office, the first George is gone,
The second is there and the third coming on.
Oh! All you old timers will get some surprise
When you see new Kincardine you'll open your
eyes.

The best of hospitals on lake-view hill,
All pretty, sweet nurses if you should be ill.
The Bluewater Theatre, air conditioned and all.
No doors on the jail down at the Town Hall.
There's a big group of men who'll gather here,
They're all ex-soldiers—we'll give them a cheer.
Come one and come all where ever you be,
Eat, drink and come all where ever you be,
Eat, DRINK, and be merry and join in the spree.

PATTER

The Old Town, the Home Town's inviting you here;
So here's a glad hand and a happy New Year.

First reunion in 1907 was innovative

KINCARDINE OLD BOYS BOYS REUNION SOUVENIR NUMBER FRIDAY, APRIL 17 1936

Early in the century plans were laid for Kincardine's first Old Boy's Reunion. In July, 1906, Mayor W.G. Temple called a public meeting and plans were made for the big event.

Arrangements were carried out during the year and old boys and girls, as well as those who stayed at home, awaited with keen interest and anticipation July 22 on which date the reunion opened and continued till July 27, 1907.

Old Home Weeks were innovations then and the one held in Kincardine is thought to be the second held in the province.

Those who participated in the first reunion vow that there will never again be another like it. A week before the opening date the crowd began to arrive. From train and from boat they disembarked so that when July 22 did arrive these were

many old boys and girls home again.

Among the early arrivals was Ronald McLeod of Duluth who made the trip in one of the new fangled horseless carriages and who created a sensation as he speeded down Queen Street at 10 miles per hour, scaring horses and drivers and arousing envy in the hearts of those who saw him.

His glory was short lived, for cars were unloaded from the boats which arrived. Other early motorists were Dan and Norman McDonald, Virginia, Minnesota; Dr. Ed Merritt, Detroit and J.J. Carrick of Port Arthur.

One of the events of the reunion was the arrival of the Detroit and Chicago old boys who came by special train. Led by Mayor Temple and former Mayors W. G. McKendrick and James A. MacPherson they paraded to the town hall and were extended a hearty welcome.

The reunion then got underway and such a success it was that it is still remembered by old boys and girls who came home to Kincardine in 1907.

BRIAN DOUGLAS
Kincardine,
Store Manager

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