

Town Band Organized In 1893

By INEZ McCUAIG

Schreiber had a band as early as 1893, and a uniformed one at that. Later the Mechanics band was followed by many others.

Possibly the first ecumenical gesture in Schreiber began many years ago when July 12 was the only field day. Its original significance dismissed, E. J. O'Brien and others played magnificently as they led the parade to the ball park.

Mrs. J. D. Bryson had several dance orchestras, but one best-remembered was organized by Blanche Drake (Mrs. Russell Mayotte, Fort William) who was the pianist. This was called the White Tux and all wore similar tuxedos.

Others in the orchestra were Jim Hastings, now with Sir George Williams University, Montreal; Roy Lindsay, banker

in Toronto, Bill Clendenning with Toronto Hospital Services, and Hugh Stewart and "Nim" Wallace, still in Schreiber.

Inez McCuaig led one during the days of highway construction, when Bill Buset of Fort William played a sweet saxophone. A memorable moment of this group came the night when after long hours playing for a pittance, they were able to charge a visitor \$25 for another hour.

Two former pianists will not be forgotten. Bill Jones belted out ragtime on the YMCA piano, and Tom Bosler, whose specialty was actually ragtime, became a church organist. He still

raised a storm with his versions of Traumerie and Largo.

The advent of the first saxophone in town is still vividly recalled, for the owner, a shop-worker, a little over-confident in his mastery of the instrument chose to give a solo at one of the largely-attended concerts in the town hall.

For the ten minutes he searched for the right keys the kids in front rows, rolled on the floor in an agony of delight while elders wiped flowing tears in an effort to contain their enjoyment.

And not the least perturbed was the artist who finally retired, bowing to salvos of applause.

Dam at Schreiber Built About 1904

By INEZ McCUAIG

The first dam at Cook's Lake was built it is supposed in 1904, with a wooden pipe line leading down to Schreiber and the CPR water tank. Frank Dorion was in charge of construction.

Prior to this the CPR supplied water necessary for their operations from a pumphouse in

the gulley south of the subway. The water was drawn from two springs in the area.

This was a haven for small boys, eager to oblige the pump operator by climbing to high vantage point from which the ball on the water tank, some distance away at the shop, could be seen.

Another dam was built in 1913 and the wooden pipes replaced. In 1-930 the town had running water in all homes.

During the days when water in town was supplied from hydrants and by delivery from the water man, council was continually pressing the CPR for better service from these hydrants and at last the company agreed to have them cleaned and some rebuilt.

In return the council agreed to have lanterns kept burning day and night in the hydrants to prevent freezing during cold weather. Const. R. L. Goldie was authorized to purchase four lanterns and a five-gallon oil can, and oil as required.

For those still buying their barrel of water each week they could in an emergency see the water man in mid-week by hanging a red scarf, sweater, or the like, on a veranda pole, which he could see from across town.

Township Named After Engineer

By INEZ McCUAIG

Schreiber was incorporated as township in 1901. The first election of officials held on July 18 of that year.

The township extends from just east of the overhead bridge on Highway 17, west to Lily Bay (in Walker Lake) north through Spectacle Lake, and south to the shore of Lake Superior.

It was first known as Isbest-er's Landing, when the CPR brought steel for the railway from the beach on Lake Superior to the present townsite.

It was picked early as a divisional point on the CPR and has a reputation for being a school for railroaders, since, because of terrain and weather conditions, it is most difficult to maintain.

Schreiber was named for Sir Collingwood Schreiber, who came from England in 1852 to engage in railway engineering.

In 1875 he became chief engineer of government railways; in 1860 he succeeded Sir Sandford Fleming as chief engineer for Canadian Pacific Railway; in 1892 he was appointed chief

engineer of railways and canals; in 1905 he became general consulting engineer to the Dominion of Canada. He died in 1918 in Ottawa.

A comparison of train movement in 1888 shows how far railroading has progressed in this one department alone. Some of these early orders are the proud possession of despatcher Alex Krystia.

The first diesel, a road switcher, came to Schreiber in April, 1951 and was used on west way freight. Now these behemoths haul an average of 90 cars.

The CPR is presently engaged in installing centralized traffic control in Schreiber division, stretching from Cartier on the east to Current River on the west, a distance of 511 miles.

The system will permit control of all traffic from Schreiber and when completed will involve one of the longest stretches of track controlled from a central point on the CPR system. It is in partial operation now and is to be completed in 1968.

Train despatchers in control of all main track movements, will be located at a panel show-

ing a miniature diagram of the entire division.

First records of organized sport in Schreiber date back to 1892 when the lacrosse team began playing, followed by curling 1894 when the Riley cup was put up for competition.

The first rink across from the subway was managed by Ed Riley. Skaters circled the inner sheet of ice, used by the curlers.

Many a grandparent today in Schreiber remembers casting a wary look to see where Mr. Riley was, and with great daring hopping over the boards to skate down the forbidden, smooth ice.

The layout of this rink naturally provided no space for hockey but somewhere in the early nineteen hundreds a scrub team played in Chapleau and in 1910 organized hockey began in Schreiber.

One of these hockey teams became district champions and among the players recalled are Archie Herriott, Jack Rattray, Wally Simon, Ellard White, Jameson, Sandy McKenzie, Mc-

—Photo by Inez McCuaig

Carthy, Bill Kerr, Hunt, Ellard Coons and Bill Scott.

In 1917 Rattray, Simon, White and Bill Hogg played with the 141st Battalion.

There was also the Sons of England Soccer team which had a good following.

Schreiber Colts, another hockey team, in a town of frenzied hockey fans, became idols and a special trainload of fans accompanied them each time they played in the Lakehead.



UCW OFFICERS—Recently-elected officers of Schreiber St. Andrew's United Church Women, from left, seated, Mrs. T. P. Whent, Mrs. Oscar Laine, Mrs. Russell Macadam, Mrs. Wesley Clemens, Mrs. Wallace Cringle; standing, Rev. R. A. Crook, Mrs. Alex Gordon, Mrs. George McBride, Mrs. Vernon Weaver. Missing, Mrs. Herbert Gellert, Mrs. Gary Drake. —PHOTO BY INEZ McCUAIG.