

Building of Cobblestone Houses Flourished After Erie Canal Era

ALBION—"Few people realized the beauty of the cobblestone architecture when it started in the early 1800s, and probably few realize 80 per cent of these buildings still standing in America are concentrated within 75 miles of Rochester," Cary H. Lattin, Orleans County historian, told the Albion Rotary Club.

"Soon after the Erie Canal was built," he related, "the farmers, reaping bountiful har-

vests in what was then known as the breadbasket of the world, started building houses with the large cobblestones that came to the surface after their land was cleared.

"Some houses cost only a few hundred dollars to complete. Soon they used smaller stones and from 1825 to 1865 the practice flourished. Along toward the end of the era, they were using bright, lake-washed stones.

"There are now 100 cobblestone buildings in Orleans Coun-

ty, 120 in Monroe and 151 in Wayne."

Considered the finest example of this art in Orleans is the Hosea Bacon house at Gaines, built in 1859. The 1849 schoolhouse in Childs, owned by the Cobblestone Society, is open to the public Saturday afternoons in the Summer.

"The 1934 church in Childs will be opened later this year and a cobblestone museum will be established in the basement," Mr. Lattin said.