Orleans County Historical Association

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NAMES

Ephriam Marshall Loke, father
Cora Estelle Swett Loke, mother
Louis, Minerva, Estelle:siblings
Mary Ann, William, Emma Jane Loke
Frances Beswick Loke, wife
Ruth L. Rutty & Charles Rutty (Dau
Jacqueline Rutty, grand-daughter
Albert Swett and families / intere
Dr. Emily Swett & other doctors
Carroll Poler, cousin / & others

occupations: electrician, railway mail clerk, Kodak Company

Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

Mr. Marshall Swett Loke
275 Yarkerdale Drive
Rochester, New York
(Mr. Loke formerly resided in Medina,N.Y.)

Marshall S. Loke was born in 1893.

Interviewed by Mrs. Marjorie C. Radzinski of Medina,N.Y.

L Loke

R Radzinski

Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to collect information about the historical development of Orleans County by means of tape-recorded conversations with people whose experiences reflect the county's growth.

These tapes and transcriptions will be preserved as educational resources and possible publication (all or in part).

I hereby release this tape and transcription to the Orleans County Historical Association.

Marshall S. Lake
Signed

Dec. 11, 1980
Date

Understood and agreed to: Marjorie C. Radzinski
INTERVIEWER

Dec. 11, 1980
Date

L I recall when I was a kid in Medina, starting as far back as possible, which is when I was born in 1893. I was born on a farm outside the village. From East Center Street (now highway 31) followed along the railroad track half a mile or so to the next road, and then there was a 40 acre farm that my father lived on. That was where I was born. The record of my birth is in the Orleans County, Town Clerk's office, Town of Ridgeway. ... My name is Marshall Loke. When I looked up my record in Albany, they had it Clifford Loke. I found out that they were going to name me "Clifford", but they never did. They named me Marshall after the middle name of my father Ephriam Marshall Loke. His mother was Mary Marshall. ... He was born in England, near Boston, Lincolnshire. He was a farmer originally and later on he was a machinist in the Iron Works. He got a speck of brass in his eye and lost that eye and most of the sight of the other, so for the rest of his life he was pretty blind. He went around with a cane, and when it was dark he would carry a lantern. My mother's name was Cora Estelle Swett Loke.

R She was a homemaker?

L Yes.

R How about your education?

L Well, after I was born, we moved just inside the village to the house at the end of East Center Street. From there I started in school at the Elizabeth Street School, a little two room brick building. The 1st and 2nd grades were in one room, and the 3rd and 4th grades in the other room. The first teacher was Stella Letts, and the teacher in the other room was Ella Donaher, both old maids.

From the Elizabeth Street School, I went over to the Oak Orchard Street School for the 5th and 6th grades; then up to Catherine Street to the Academy School for the 7th and 8th grades. The building behind that, that little brownstone building, was the High School. I went four years there and graduated from that school. It was right across the street from Aunt Lena's house.

R Your occupation?

L Retired now. I started out being an electrician, wiring houses and so forth and so on. Then I was an electrician for an optical company; and then I went in the World War I. Was a railway-mail-clerk after that for four years, and then was at Kodak for the rest, and I am now retired.

R How about your wife? What is her name?

L Her name was Frances Beswick. She was born in Philadelphia and then moved to DuBois, Pennsylvania. In 1909 they moved to Rochester. They lived on Charlotte Street, and then moved to Chili Terrace.

R What year were you married?

L I was married in 1929.

R Did you have any children?

L Yes, we just had one. Her name was Ruth (Loke),now Rutty. ... She has a daughter, Jacqueline Rutty, born in 1966. ...

R You have told us something about yourself, Uncle Marshall. Now could we go back to your childhood memories, of Medina?

L Yes, I believe that would be the best place to start. Well, all I can remember whe I was a kid, things were so different then because there were no such things as automobiles. Everything was horses. People travelled by train, or by horse. There was no cars, no radios, no movies. We had very little electricity then. When we lived out on the end of East Center Street, I remember we got electric street light. They set up a pole right near our house with an arc light on the top. A man used to come out every day to change the carbon filaments in it. He had to climb the pole and change the carbon in the arc light. We had no electricity. We had kerosene lamps, which was an improvement over candles. It was a daily job cleaning the lamp chimneys, and filling the lamps with oil, and trimming the wicks.

There were no movies, no radios; so that all the entertainment at that time was homemade. Get folks together, and they made their own fun, played games. Your mother and her sister Minerva used to play together. Estelle played the guitar, and Minerva had a mandolin.

R Who played the piano?

L Oh, anybody played the piano. We had an organ at first, but Minerva eventually bought a piano. She used to play that and everybody would sing, you know. A whole bunch would get together and all sing at once. Someone would play the piano, real often; evenings and Sundays - anytime. For other amusement they would make fudge, taffy and all that sort of things.

They didn't have any movies at the time, but the old Bent's Opera House was an important place in those days. It was up on the top floor of Main and Center Streets, over the drug store - with the great big wide stairways going up. You had to go up two flights. Since then I have often thought how much a fire-trap that could have been with just one way in or out. There were no fire escapes, or anything!. This was way up on the third floor. At the front of the stage it had a curtain that said "asbestos" on it. They thought that made everything safe because the curtain was asbestos.

R Was anyone allowed to smoke when you were in the Opera House?

L Not supposed to.

There were road shows that came through, very often. And once a year there was a Lyman Howe moving picture show. That was the first moving pictures I ever heard of. They used to come around once a year with moving pictures, and showed them at the Opera House. I used to enjoy them, and saved up for a long time to get a quarter for the admission.

The piano player there, I thought he was the greatest, as he used to rattle off peppy music. One time, us kids got in for free!

They had no sound music in those days. They were just silent, black and white pictures. The sound effects man had a few of us kids go up on the stage, behind the screen. We could see the picture on the screen on the wrong side, so everything was backwards. And the sound effects man there, he would have a pile of boxes, and then at the proper time he would knock over the boxes and make a lot of racket! And make appropriate noises, and say funny things! Quiet pictures.

R Did you ever take part in the minstrel shows?

L No, I never did. They were travelling road shows.

L Harry Krompart had a music store. He was a musician and he had a son, Percy. You probably remember him, and his sister Florence? Percy and his father played trombone in the band all during the summer. Maybe once a month the band would give a concert on Main Street. They would set up a platform and do a public band concert. The band was connected with the National Guard, the 29th Company of Militia. They had a band in connection with it. That was one of the entertainments.

The circus was another important thing. We would usually have a circus every summer. The kids would get up early in the morning and go down and watch them unload; everybody working. They travelled by train. The train pulled in all loaded with circus cars, and they would have to unload all their animals and wagons; it was a big job. And the kids would go down and work for the circus.

R Did you?

L Yes. Early they'd unload these boards and seats that was set up for seats, and bleachers to sit on. We'd work for an hour or two helping carry things; then they'd give us a pass to go to the afternoon show. When they got the circus all set up, then they would put on their uniforms and form a parade. They'd form a circus parade - going through the streetsn advertising the show. Made a lot of noise with the calliope which would come along last. It was run by steam. It would make an awful loud racket.

Minstrel shows used to come through to the Opera House, and always at noon they would have a parade. They always had a little music, a little parade, and the drum major throwing the baton up in the air and catching it. Those parades were just at noon when people come out of work, and usually were coming home from school at the same time. We'd get into Main Street just as the parade was starting.

R Did you know Andrew Downey? He used to live in Medina

L Yes, he had a circus. He used to come once a year to town and have a circus on a vacant lot. After he retired from the circus, he built a house up on the southwest corner of Gwinn and Oak Orchard Streets.

Opposite that intersection was an old cemetery. They moved the graves from that cemetery to Boxwood Cemetery and used

that property for a city park.

Another thing in those days was the health conditions. Everything was different then. People used to have Scarlet Fever, Diptheria, and those things. The Health Officer would post a sign on the front door. A little tacked up red rag would go on the front door: "quarantine" and the doctors could go in, but nobody else was allowed in or out. (Medina) had no hospital then.

R Who were some of the doctors?

L Dr. Emily Swett, Dr. Munson, Dr. Maynard. There was a veteranerian or two: Dr. Stocking and Dr. Whiting. You could smell him coming! He smelled like medicine. So, when you got sick, the doctors made house calls, and made their rounds.

R How did Dr. Swett get around? Did she have a horse?

L Yes, she had a horse and buggy and made calls; and she used to walk around a lot. She had her horse and buggy if she had to do any travelling. She tells about the gypsies that came.

Gypsies used to come through the town, you know. They played games and were fortune tellers. There was some camped out west of Medina a couple of miles. They came to her door in the middle of the night to get her to deliver a baby out there.

R They took her out there?

L I think so. They came after her and I suppose they took her back home.

R It would be interesting to know about Dr. Emily Swett.

L Something I could mention about her: she was very active in her profession while she had her office on the 2nd floor, up over Stratton's Dry Goods store. Mary Stratton, they called her "Molly", and Aunt Emily (Swett) were close pals. Stratton had a dry-goods store. Louie Loke worked there often, when he was young, after school. When he quit school, he worked in the store before he went to New York.

R Louis (Loke) was your brother?

L Yes. Later on, Estelle and your mother worked as cashier in the store at the cashier's desk at the back of the store. The store had trolley wires from the counters, going back to their counter to carry the money back and forth from the counters.

We were talking about Aunt Emily (Swett). She was pretty

busy in her profession, and she was pretty busy in church work. During "Old Home Week", she was Director of the big community choir. (1906)

We were speaking of Harry Krompart's music: he put on some home talent shows in the Opera House. They was, I suppose, by Gilbert and Sullivan. ... I think your mother, Estelle Loke, was in one of those shows. ... Of course, Krompart was the music director of the show. People had to make their own entertainment in those days.

Transportation was mainly by train. That little railroad of ours was a busy place in those days; several trains going each way every day. All salesmen that arrived in town, arrived by train. They had no cars. There was no other way. Now, people use their own cars, and the railroads are defunct.

R Do you remember the Medina railroad depot?

L Why sure! That was a busy place. If they were going some place, they didn't get in their car. They would go up to the depot and buy a ticket to go either east or west.

R Did you travel quite a bit by that railroad?

L I wasn't much of a traveller. Eventually they got an electric line coming through. Trolley cars from Lockport ot Buffalo went right through the middle of Medina. It came in by Commercial Street, and then to Main Street, and down East Center.

R Could you tell me why the trolley lines didn't go directly down West Center Street and out East Center Street? Why did the line curve around Commercial Street?

L I don't know.

R Did it have anything to do with one of the local people paying money to have it re-routed?

L The people on West Center Street didn't want street cars running down "their" street.

R There was some rumor to that effect. ...

L So, they had to come down Commercial Street, by the Polish Church, and then up Main Street, and out East Center Street. ...

Another thing that was different in those days was the fire situation. We just had a Volunteer Fire Department. When the bell would ring they'd run to the firehouse and get their

hose cart, and then run to the fire. They had a team of horses waiting in the fire headquarters, in a stall. The harness above the horses were all ready. When they had a fire, they dropped the harness on the horses and they'd get in the wagon, and away they'd go!

R Was this strictly volunteer?

L Yes. After a while they got a paid Fire Department. But that's the way things were then.

R Were you ever a fireman?

L On no! When I got back from World War I, Irving Rands, one of the Trustees came up to me and was going to offer me a job on the Fire Department, but I turned him down. I wouldn't like anything like that. I didn't want anything to do with being a fireman.

R What did you do when you first got out of high school?

L I did a little electrical wiring. Wiring was new then. We had no electricity at first. Very few houses were wired for it. Uncle Albert Swett started the electrical business in Medina. When he had the first shop, he bought the first dynamo and run it by electric water power for his residence and the shop.

R His residence was located where?

L I don't know where it was originally until he built that one on Prospect Street. That big brick house on Prospect Avenue. That was a very nice one, with electricity! Other people had kerosene lamps. Gradually we were getting electricity. Just as I was getting out of high school Esther's father, Frank Snaith, wired his house, and the Mead's had their house wired. It wasn't like wiring now. It was knob and tube work; single wire with black insulation on. And if a wire splice you had to splice them, and solder them and tape them up and everything. To make the wires safe, you had porcelain knobs, so they weren't touching anything, and all that nonsense. If you wanted to go in between the joists, you would take up a floor board, and bore a hole through the joist, put a porcelain tube in and run the wire through that.

When radios first came out, they were battery powered. Harry Bickle sold radios, had some to sell in the newsroom. I was busy setting them up. People would buy a radio and then I would have to go out and connect up the batteries, and show

them how to run a little simple radio, and put up an aerial for it. You'd run a wire 50 feet from a tree or from a barn or something, into the house. And then through under the window and connect it to the radio set. This was before they had them running by power.

R What year was that, when the first radio sets came out?

L Well, that was right after World War I. So that would be right around 1920 when radios began to get popular.

(Note by transcriber, Luther Burroughs: I listened to a radio in 1921 for the first time. In 1923, I would listen to daily broadcasts of the Detroit Tigers Baseball games in Ohio.)

I was speaking of quarantining the houses when people got sick. When people died, the family would hang crepe on the front door; a black ribbon. So if you would go by and see a black ribbon hanging there, you would know that someone was dead. If it was black, you would know it was an older person. If it was white or pink, you would know that it was a little kid. They'd have a horse-drawn hearse and they'd put the casket in the hearse. That had glass windows on it.

During the Small-Pox epidemic, they did have a hospital to use. The old Chamberlain mansion "haunted house" in the park here at that time. And they had a little guard house outside where the guard stayed to see that nobody approached.

The richer people in town had horses and carriages. They would have a hitching post out in front: a circular post with a ring on it so you could tie your horse to it,instead of to a parking meter!! And they had a block, a stone block, so the carriage could come up to the curb and you could step on the stepping block and into the carriage. It was a real convenience.

And they wore stove-pipe hats and derbies. The 4th of July used to be the day nobody went away. People were at home. It was a day that was a holiday, so they'd maybe have a speech, but mostly it was picnics. People made homemade icecream and had watermelons, and all that stuff.

Ice wagons did a big business. In winter, they'd gather ice from the ponds, from the canal, or from some pond or other, and store it in an icehouse. They'd pack the ice in sawdust and it would keep frozen all summer. The iceman would put (cut) blocks of ice in wagons and deliver it. People had an icebox in their house instead of a refigerator.

The ice would melt; then you would get more ice and keep going.

When I was 12 years old, I was stricken with appendicitis, in the middle of the night. Aunt Emily (Dr. Emily Swett) had just left on her vacation. There were no hospitals or anything. Mother went next door and called Dr. Munson, and he came down. There were no surgeons in the town, and he had to send to Buffalo to get a surgeon to come down. So, he got me ready. He got his razor out and shaved my belly. Then they set up the dining room table in the front parlor. ... Dr. Munson was there and the surgeon from Buffalo. I think his name was Dr. Wilcox. And they got a nurse; I think she was Mrs. Moore. They give me some chloroform and I remember trying to push it away when I was out. It was toward evening when I came to. They had a big bed out from a bedroom and had set up up in the parlor. My belly was sore! During the operation, on the dining room table, they brought in some scalding hot water for sterilizing, I suppose. Somebody knocked that over and spilt scalding water on my abdomen!! ... Nowadays if you have appendicitis, you are up on your feet the next day or two, and leave the hospital soon after. In those days, that was a major operation. They kept me in bed for two weeks, without moving. I had a nurse there, a Practical Nurse, really. She was just there to wait on me. One time a fly tickled my nose and made me sneeze. Oh, that made her mad ! She didn't like that. They kept like an invalid all summer, waiting for that thing to heal up.

They eventually built a hospital in Medina. (Note: see Myra Colton transcript for history of Medina's early Hospital).

I don't know as I can tell you much about history. Stone quarring was a big business, and apples were another. They had a Sam Bowen, his name was big business there in apples. They shipped them by canal. You know the north end of Main Street, opposite Pearl Street, down by the canal? The canal's kind of wide there, where the boats would tie up. There were thousands of barrels! Apples were packed in barrels and they were sitting there, waiting to be loaded onto the canal boats for shipping away. ... A barrel maker was a cooper.

R Did you know much about that, Uncle Marshall?

L Yes. Robert Gillies had a cooper-shop on East Avenue, near where we lived, just on this side of the railroad. The kids would go in and sit there by the hour and watch them make barrels. They'd set them up by hand. It was quite a trade because the staves were long straight boards, and they'd have to start with a hoop; get them lined up, and they'd set them up with just so many staves around inside of the hoops. Then they'd turn it over and work on the other end. They had a stove. Before they put the heading on, they set these barrels on a little stove. The heat would make the barrels keep their shape; you, barrels are bulgy. Starting with a straight board, they'd heat them up and make the wood bend and set in that shape. We watched them make barrels for a long time so we would know how they were done. Chancellor Mead (we called him "Channy") had a heading mill up in the swamp, which is now the Bird Sanctuary. He lived out there in the "jungle", in the swamp among the rattle snakes, and everything! He had a mill down there. He cut the wood right out of the forest.

(end of side one of taped interview)

L Elm Park was the place for picnics! I know the church always had a picnic every summer. We'd go out there, and it was a great place for the kids. I think it was Mr. Bowen that ran it. He had the grounds there with picnic tables. A few of the women would get the meals ready on the picnic tables. There was lots of rowboats to use. The kids would get in the row-boats and go out on the creek. There was a little dam across the creek so that we had a regular little lake there, and there were pond lilies growing in it. In among the lily pads was little signs that said "DON'T". The boats were free and everybody enjoyed going out in those rowboats. Right at the dam, where the water went through, we had a merry-go-round. Everybody had to have a ride on that merry-go-round! It was run by water-power.

R Did they also used to have a cable car that went across the creek, that you could ride across?

L Not to my knowledge. That must have come later.

L One of the important things in the history of Medina was when the Power House at the Medina Falls, right near the canal there, outgrew itself and Uncle(Albert Swett) Burt had to build a larger dam, just north of the village. Glenwood Lake they call it. The water backed up there aways, so they called it Glenwood Lake. He had three turbines in there. I used to go down and spend a lot of time in the power house because I was interested. I wanted to be an electrician, you know. It was my interest in electricity when I spent a lot of time in the power house. Then they outgrew that and built another big dam at Waterport. He had three power houses then, in a row. He began supplying power beyond Medina, out in all directions.

R Albert Swett had these power projects to help his foundry, didn't he?

L Well, he started from the foundry. It became an independent business by itself, and eventually they hooked up with the Niagara Power and the Niagara Mohawk. All the power plants, all over, are inter-connected so one can draw from others or supply others. They are all inter-connected, all over the state and all over the country. Canada is connected in with them.

Another thing we had in those days, before the Boy Scouts was invented, we had the Boy's Brigade. Each church had a company of boys. We had uniforms and toy guns, and learned to drill. One of the officers from the National Guard would come down every week and have a meeting in the church basement. We'd learn "right face", and to salute, and "march", and "squads right", and all that stuff. So that when World War I came along you would go in as a Private, and they'd teach them all that stuff. I already knew all that stuff, so the first thing I knew, I was a Corporal.

R Did you attend and drill at the Armory?

L No, I didn't have anything to do with the Armory. When the War (WWI) came along, I enlisted. I went to Rochester and enlisted and went to Fort Slocum, on Long Island for two or three days. Then we got sent out to Indianapolis to Fort Benjamin Harrison. We drilled out there for a couple of months, and moved to Ohio;

down near Chiliocthe, Ohio. They built a big Army base there. They were just building it, and it was all corn fields when we moved in. They had just a few buildings up. We got in the new building, and the corn was just ripe then. We had lots of corn to eat. They built more buildings and spent the winter there. I went overseas the following June.

R How do you spell the name of that place in Ohio?

L Chillicothe. It is in Ross County, south of Columbus. While I was there, my father died and I got a pass and came home. I had to get on the other side of the river someway, and there was an electric trolley line that went up into Columbus. Then from Columbus, I took the train home.

When I got out of the war, I joined an American Legion Post. So, I had to be the Adjutant, Secretary, really. I kept that job until I left Medina and came to Rochester. That was the James P. Clark Post # 204.

R You were one of the Charter Members of that Post?

L One of the first members. I don't know whether it was Charter or not. The Post had rooms on East Center Street over the bowling alley. A hardware store used to be there, on the south side of East Center Street.

In the olden days they used to have fireworks on the 4th of July. Everybody had fireworks! They were not forbidden then. The fireworks would wake you up early in the morning, and keep going all day long. One time I put some firecrackers in my shirt pocket, with a piece of punk to light them with. This was at home. My father was out mowing the front yard. Somehow one of those firecrackers that I had in my pocket, got going "pop, pop, pop" and Dad yanked my shirt off. At night, they had paper balloons. They'd put a candle in the balloon. They were made of thin tissue paper, red-white-and-blue. And instead of sky-rockets and things, you made one of those balloons and you could watch it go up, and you could watch it sail away in the distance, I suppose as long as the candle lasted.

R I never heard of those.

L Hot air balloons? That's the way balloons started, from hot air. It started in France. The Montgolfier brothers noticed

smoke going up and made a balloon, and thought that the smoke was what made them go up. They found out later that it was the hot air. The hot air was light and was what made them go. They used to burn straw and stuff so they would have smoke.

When we moved on State Street, we didn't have any sewers. But we did have running water. Every house had a cistern in the cellar, to catch the rain water. So, we always had a supply of soft water in the house, and a hand pump to pump it at the sink....

The building of the sewer was a large project. Down at our end of the street, I think it was something like 18 feet deep, through solid rock. It went down through a lot of clay, red clay. They had to do a lot of blasting. They'd drill in the rock, put in dynamite, throw some heavy timbers over it to kind of hold it down; and they'd blast to break up the rock. Ed Pryor used to do the dynamite work. He'd hollar before he blasted off so everybody could get out of the way. I remember it would go "boom", and windows would get broken around there. And he was up there with the stones coming at him. Up there at your house (180 State Street), the ditch wasn't so deep. It was probably six feet deep, or something like that.

I had a paper route at that time. I used to walk around on my route, and I also used a bicycle. Up there near your house they had two planks to go across the ditch. So, I went up this side and I had to cross over. I thought I'd be smart and ride across on the planks. The two planks were side by side, and the bicycle wheel went down between the two planks! (laughter) I took a spill there!

Milk was not in bottles then. Milk was always delivered in large, open cans. Charlie Ward had a milk route. We bought our milk of Ward. He had two measures: a pint measure and a Quart measure. He would dip out a quart and put it in our container. Milk was cheap then, and we had lots of milk. My mother sometimes had milk in pans. In the summer, the humidity I suppose, turned the milk sour. She claimed that it was the thunder that made the milk sour. We'd pour off the whey, the

liquid part, and eat the other part -- the curd, I guess they called it.

R Cottage cheese?

L She called it cottage cheese. You just put sugar on it. It was good eating. We didn't have screens, or much of anything like screens. We had to open windows and we usually had flies in the house. We did have screen doors, I think.

My mother bought flour to do all her baking. It was usually large bags of flour. We always saved the bags and took them back and got a penny apiece for them. She would take one of those flour sacks - they were heavy paper - and she'd cut it up in strips, and tack this on the end of a stick, and would use it as a "shoo fly", you know. She'd go around, "Shoo! Shoo!" chasing the flies out of the house, and shut the doors so they couldn't get back in. Instead of screens on the windows, she used to get cheese-cloth; tack that over the windows to keep the flies out. Some people used sticky fly-paper. It came all rolled up, in coils. You'd pull this coil out and you'd hang it up from the ceiling, with a string, about that long. It was sticky-paper; flies sticking all over it! We never used those.

Umbrellas used to be an awful popular thing then. People used to have an umbrella whenever it rained, or they would get soaked! In these days, nobody uses umbrellas. The water-proof clothing doesn't hurt to get rained on anymore.

Men used to wear stiff collars. Shirts were made with no collar at all. There was just the button holes, and you'd attach the collar to it with collar buttons.

And shoes: instead of laced shoes, there were button shoes. You'd carry a button-hook to fasten your shoes with.

When they built the new school up on Catherine Street, I think they tore the old Academy building down, and then built the new schoolhouse up there. (Note: see C. Wise transcript).

You know, my poor Dad worked 60 hours a week; he was blind, too! He had to go to work at seven in the morning and worked until six at night. ... He worked at the A.L.Swett Iron Works.

He used to run a drill press. That was something he could do without much eyesight He drilled holes in iron castings; for instance, shelf bracket casting. They'd have to have a hole bored in them so they could be screwed up to the wall. So, that is one thing: he would take it and set it on the press and then down on the handle, and drill the hole through it. I think the holes were countersunk too, so the screwhead would fit in them. I remember that it was a drill press that he used to do mostly. There were other people that could see that could run a lathe, and other things, and grinding wheels.

R Did you say that he came over from England?

L Yes, he was born in England. I think he was four years old when his folks came over . He lived out at Lock Berlin, near Lyons; between Lyons and Clyde. The gravestones of the whole family are in the cemetery out there; double stone. So, my father and his sister, Mary Ann, were born in England. Then the other two, Uncle Will and Emma Jane , were born here in Wayne County. But the parents died and left the kids to be taken in other foster homes; one of those other families.

R What do you know of the Plummer house on State Street, at the bend of the road? Do you know any history of that?

L No, I don't know any history of it at all. I remember the stone house there.

R I believe it was a stopping off place for the canallers.

L It could be. There was a canal bridge right there at that time.

R Do you recall that bridge? (The State Street Park Bridge)

L Yes, Over to Paddy Hill. Later on they changed the bridge down to where it is now, by the park. That was before Unions came around to shorten the (working) hours. Ten hours a day six days a week: that was the working schedule for everybody! He went to work at six; he was there at seven o'clock, worked to twelve; One until six. At the end of the week he got his pay: $12.25. That was a week's pay, for 60 hours! Can you imagine raising a family of six on $12.00 a week. ... In the winter when it was dark, he carried a lantern to work and he had a dinner pail too.It was square, tin square bucket. He had his coffee in a whiskey bottle. Mother would pack his

lunch. Of course the coffee was cold, so at the shop he would put the coffee on the steam radiators (used for heating the shop), and then it would be warm. Often at night, when it was time for him to come home, I'd go down to meet him and I would carry his dinner pail for him. With a cane, and a lantern, and a dinner pail, it was a lot to carry all at once. When he got home, I would look in the dinner pail to see if he had left a cookie or something.

Oh yes, another thing,I was telling Chuck (Rutty, son-in-law) the other day about the vacuum cleaner. The very first vacuum cleaner I ever saw was at old Doc Hardings, a retired Civil War veteran. He bought a machine for cleaning carpets. He cleaned people's carpets instead of sweeping them. This vacuum cleaner was a big invention!; and there was no electricity. The thing worked with a big bellows with a big handle on it. When he had a carpet to clean he hired me for ten cents an hour to work the handle back and forth. That operated the bellows, and he worked the hose that sucked the dust off the carpets. Otherwise people had to get a broom and sweep their carpets. Once a year people would take their carpets up off the floor, take them outdoors and hang them on a rope and beat them; knock the dirt out of them. So, that was the first great vacuum cleaner before the electric ones.

R Was that after World War I? What year?

L Years earlier than that! When I was going to school.

Everyone that smoked cigarettes, rolled their own cigarettes. Tobacco came in little cloth pouches. You would buy a little bag of tobacco and get a pack of cigarette papers. Then you would take out a cigarette paper, pour tobacco on it, roll the cigarette, lick the paper, and light it. There wasn't so many ready-made cigarettes then. There were some, but most smokers used to roll their own.

As I have said, we had no sewers in those days. Everybody had a little privy out in the yard. They were always used, summer and winter. At Halloween time, why the next day, some of the privies would have been turned over, upset.

R I suppose you never did that!?

L Oh no! We never heard of anything like "Trick or Treat" in those days. They would always see how much vandalism they could do. ... We'd always take away the front, wooden steps. That was one thing we would always do.

R A person could break his leg!

L I didn't do any of those things. One little incident that I remember; it had nothing to do with Halloween. My cousin, Carroll Poler came over. He lived on the west side. I lived on the east side. We were down by the creek, you know. Cook's Furniture Factory was on one side of the creek, and there were woods on our side. There was a tall chimney with guy wires going in four directions, one coming across the creek and tied to a tree. Carroll got ahold of one of those wires and was pulling and shaking it. The first thing you know, the big chimney came tumbling!! (laughter) So, we ran!! I went home and climbed up in the cherry tree. There was a cherry tree in our back yard. Nobody ever knew what happened.

In the wintertime there was nothing but horses on the street: sleds, sleighs and bobsleds. Farmers always had a team of horses, and bobsleds, and people with carriages had a sleigh. That was one of the main sports in the winter - catching rides on them. Most people didn't mind. You could grab ahold of the sleighs and stand on their runners and ride along. On a sled, you'd have to run and catch on. Once in a while, there would be a farmer to catch on. He always had a whip! If anyone got on, he would shoo them off with a whip. With horses there were no garages, but there were several blacksmith shops. That was always an entertaining thing - to watch the blacksmith shoeing the horses; the horses waiting their turn to get new shoes.

R Do you recall the names of any of the blacksmiths in Medina?

L Well yes. The only name I can remember now is Beale. Edna Beale was my age in school, and there was another brother. I guess he was a little older: Horace Beale. I guess they moved away, to New Jersey or something.

There were several other blacksmith shops. There was another one on Park Avenue. The firehouse was on the corner. Next to that was a dairy. And before that, I think there was a blacksmith shop in there. I can't remember specifically what they were.

L My Mother had a big washing. Every wash day she had a big copper boiler that went on top of the stove. She'd cut up this strong, yellow soap, into the water.

R Was that home-made soap?

L No, I think they'd buy the soap. I don't remember what they called it. It was kind of strong, with lye in it.

R Fels Naptha?

L I don't remember that. She'd build a wood fire in the stove and heat that big copper kettle full of hot water and soak the clothes in it. She had a piece of broom handle for a stick and would poke the clothes around, squish them around, fish them out with that stick. Then (later) the family had a washing machine. It was a tub and had a rocker in it. You would agitate the clothes. That was hand power. There were various washing machines; and a wringer, you know. They'd turn the crank and run the clothes through the wringer, then take them out doors and hang them on the clothes line. There on State Street, we had a clothes-reel. There was a post in the middle of the yard, and there were four arms sticking out of it, and metal clothes line. So, they was more or less compact. In the wintertime, the clothes would freeze on the clothes line.

Everybody had baby carriages in those days; they were quite numerous. But these days, you seldom see one.

R How about your shoes, Uncle Marshall? Did you get them tapped?

L Yes, we took our shoes to the shoemaker. They always had a little shoemaker's bench that they sat on. You would take your shoes and get new heels and new soles put on. One shoemaker was named Brown. He had two kids about my age in school. Elfreda and Carl (Brown). It would cost you two or three dollars to buy a pair of shoes. I suppose you could pay as much as four dollars!

.....

This interview was conducted by Marjorie Radzinski of Albion.
The tape was transcribed by Luther Burroughs of Albion.
After several additions and deletions by Mr. Loke,
final typing was done (with some editing) by Helen McAllister
of Medina, New York.

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WRITTEN MEMORIES OF MARSHALL SWETT LOKE (not on tape)

To niece Marjorie (Cooke) Radzinski:

In confirmation of the statements made to you and recorded on tape in late November 1979 which were rather mixed up and incoherent, and further complicated by transcribing, I hereby restate some of them in writing, because as poorly as I write, my writing is better than my speaking.

My name is Marshall Swett Loke, youngest of Ephraim (Marshall) Loke and Cora Estelle (Swett) Loke. I was born April 23, 1893 on a 40 acre farm in the town of Ridgeway located approximately half a mile east of Bates Road, Village of Medina, reached by a lane, a continuation of East Center Street, parallel with the railroad track; now route 31. A few Polish families lived on "the Lane".

When pasteurization was invented, Clark Alis built a factory (where our former farm was, next to the railroad) for pasteurizing apple juice. The process was supposed to keep the juice from spoiling. Later, the building was used for an insecticide business.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MY EARLY YEARS IN MEDINA

There was no such thing as having to make an appointment, days or months in advance, to see a doctor. One could go to doctor's office during office hours and get professional service, or if ill, one could stay in bed and the doctor, on being informed, would go to the patient's house.

Contageous diseases were prevalent in those days. People were not much aware of germs or infections. A sign with the word SCARLET FEVER or DIPTHERIA or SMALL-POX, etc., etc., would be tacked up near the front door, and maybe QUARANTINED- keep out. No one but the doctor was supposed to enter or leave. When illness was cured, the house would be fumigated. If patient died, a "crepe" would be hung on or by the front door. Black if old person, small and light if a child, lavender if elderly but not too old, etc. Funerals were always at the home. Undertakers would prepare the body there, and would bring folding chairs for the guests. Coffin was placed in a horse-drawn black hearse with glass sides for trip to cemetery. The widow was dressed in black, and her face covered with long black veil. Mourners would wear a black arm-band for weeks afterwards. Envelopes with a black border were used to send death notices by mail to distant relatives.

Every kid at some time or other would have measles, whooping cough, chicken pox, or any of the diseases common to children. They never had preventive innoculations. During Small Pox epidemic, everybody got vaccinated. The old Chamberlain mansion was used as a "pest house" (hospital for Small Pox patients). Many people died of Small Pox. Doctors seldom wrote prescriptions. They always gave out the medicines. Little viall of sugar pills saturated with a few drops of liquid medicine. They carried all the stuff in their little black bag. Doctors also went to the homes to deliver babies.

Aunt Emily (Dr. E.F.Swett) was our family doctor. One summer she went away for a vacation. In the middle of the night I had a terrible pain, but I endured it until morning when I went downstairs and told Ma. I get into her bed and she went next door to Burns' and called Dr. Munson, who came and said I had acute appendicitis and needed an operation immediately. The doctor called a surgeon, Dr. Wilcox in Buffalo, who came around 1 p.m. In the meantime, Dr. Munson got his straight razor and shaving mug and shaved my belly; while the parlor was prepared as a hospital. They set up a bed and brought in the dining room table for an operating table and hired a local woman, Miss Moore I think her name was, for a nurse. They put me on the table and put something over my face with chloroform. The last I remembered was trying to push it away. When I finally woke up, it was around 6 p.m. and I was in bed in the parlor. The nurse slept on a couch in the room. The next day they explained why my abdomen was so uncomfortable: during the operation the nurse had a pan of scalding water which the doctor knocked over and I was scalded. A layer of skin peeled off later. They would not let me move at all for two weeks. These days, after surgery, one would be getting up in a couple of days. Then, they kept me in bed two weeks. Then gradually sitting up for a while. I did nothing the whole summer. So much different from now. They thought staying inactive was the way to healing.

When Charles Cooke was born, Pa and Ma were in Florida. Estelle and Sam were staying in our house at 108 State Street. I was in high school. Came home at noon to dinner. Sam, who worked at Chase and Breed Hardware, came to dinner. Estelle was in the bedroom with Aunt Emily, or vice versa, and hollering. Sam was so nervous he could hardly eat. When I was coming home from school in the afternoon, I met Aunt Emily halfway on East Center Street, just returning to her office. She told me that it was a boy. I don't remember who got dinner ready. Probably Minerva.

The M.D.'s in Medina were Dr. Agnew, Dr. Maynard, Dr. Munson, Dr. Swett, Dr. Whiting. Dr. Stocking was a veterinarian (horse doctor). Dr. Simons and Dr. Wells were dentists.

- My earliest recollections are of living at 510 East Center Street, the last house on south side of the street. Besides the house, there was a barn, and a privy, and a pump in the yard where we got our water. Pa had a horse in the barn for a while. He would open the barn door and call out "Oats, Billy" and the horse would whinney! A "sitting room" and a bedroom were in front, the dining room was full width of house. The kitchen was in back. I slept in room at top of stairs. People had to go through that room to get to the other two rooms. None over kitchen. Small window panes would be covered with condensation (and frost) in the winter. There were no storm windows or screens. Ma chased the flies out with a heavy paper flour sack tacked onto a stick and cut into strips. There was a carpet in the "front room". It was swept with a broom. The broom stirred up dust. Once a year the tacks were pulled out and the carpet hung over a rope outside and beaten until all the dust was knocked out. Then it was brought in and tacked down again.

The unpaved street was very dusty in the summer. Every horse and buggy that went by raised clouds of dust. There was a stone sidewalk on the north side of the street made of flagstones all the way to

Bates Road where Joe Rich's family lived in corner house. The sidewalk on the south side of street ended at Lysett's. Then vacant lots down to house near ours where Gene Walsh's old folks lived. George Caurtman had the house opposite the above surrounded by orchards. Mr. Florey raised asters in the above mentioned open spaces.

We had twice-a-day daily mail delivery. George Conley was our mail-carrier. When street lights were installed the last light on the street was an arc light on a pole just west of our lot. The carbon rods lasted one night and had to be changed every day. Dyer Herrick climed the pole to change THEM . Later the arc lights were arrange to be lowered with a rope for servicing. And the carbon electrodes were replaced with an improved kind that lasted several days.

Our family of six persons consisted of Pa and Ma, Louie, Minerva, Estelle and me. Pa worked at the A.L.Swett Iron Works; Louis worked in Parish & Stratton Dry Goods; Minerva and Estelle went to school, and I was home with Ma all day. The family was all together at supper in the dining room. Pa worked ten hours a day, six days a week. Saturday was pay-day, and Saturday night was the big shopping night. Stores stayed open late, usually to midnight. On Sunday we all put on our Sunday clothes and went to church at 10:30, and sat in the pew on the south aisle about half way. Saturday night we had our once a week bath in a wooden tub. After Sunday dinner, which was about one p.m., I would go for a walk with Pa, often to the flag-shanty at the Bates Road railroad crossing where Johnnie Caldwell was the flagman. When a train approached, he would stand in the road and wave a white flag as signal to horses and people to STOP and let the train pass. He had only one arm. When Pa would meet one of his friends while we were walking, he would tell him about me. "This is the baby", and I did not like it. Estelle liked her dolls. She liked to play Jacks. I haven't seen any since the olden days. I doubt if anybody these days would know what they (Jacks) were. Made of cast iron, with six arms. Toss them down, bounce a rubber ball, and pick them up while the ball was bouncing; one at a time, next two at a time, etc. Estelle would make a make-believe pair of scissors by placing two common-pins on the railroad track, one crossed over the other. After the train ran over them: the result looked like scissors. She also made chains of dandelion stems. Minerva's idea of an April-Fool-gag was to puncture an egg at both ends and blow out the contents, leaving an empty shell intact to fool the victim of the joke. One day Minerva told me,"Ma is going to dye today", which had me worried! Ma had bought some dye which she used to re-color some garments. Once I placed a small stone on a rail to be crushed. Then I worried whether it would be harmless or if it might cause a terrible wreck. The train went by safely; nothing happened.

I started in school at the two-room brick schoolhouse on Elizabeth Street. The 1st and 2nd grades were in the east half, taught by Miss Stella Letts. Miss Ella Donaher taught 3rd and 4th grades in the west room. J.C.VanEtten was the school Principal or Superintendent, who came to visit occasionally. Miss Winifred R. Clark was the music teacher who came at regular days to conduct the singing. She

taught the kids to sing "Little yellow dandelion, growing in the grass; with your head of shining gold, merry little lass". James Latimer was the janitor. In back of the school were two privies with a high board fence separating them. The girls played in the schoolyard on the east side. The boys played in the west yard. Sometimes a baseball would go through the kitchen window of Mr. and Mrs. Coleman whose house was adjacent to the school yard. Every month the teachers would pass out a small four page publication on nature subjects such as Chickadees, pollywogs and pussywillows, birds and bees, sprouting seeds, etc., etc. and was signed "Uncle John" who, I suppose, was John W. Spencer of the New York State Education Department. One day the teacher told the kids to write a letter to Uncle John. I started mine, "Dear Professor Bug", while the other kids wrote "Dear Uncle John". After she gathered up the papers and examined them, she read mine aloud to the class. From then on they called me Professor Bug, or just plain "Bug".

Some years afterwards a new school was built on Ensign Avenue and the brick school on Elizabeth Street was converted into a private residence.

After the 4th grade, I went to the Oak Orchard Street School for the 5th and 6th grades. Then to the Central School on Catherine Street for the 7th and 8th grades. Teachers: Miss Benedict, Mrs. Peters, Miss Cora Newnham. After that, four years of high school on South Academy Street. Graduated in 1911. Principals: C.C.Edgett, Elizabeth Pierce.

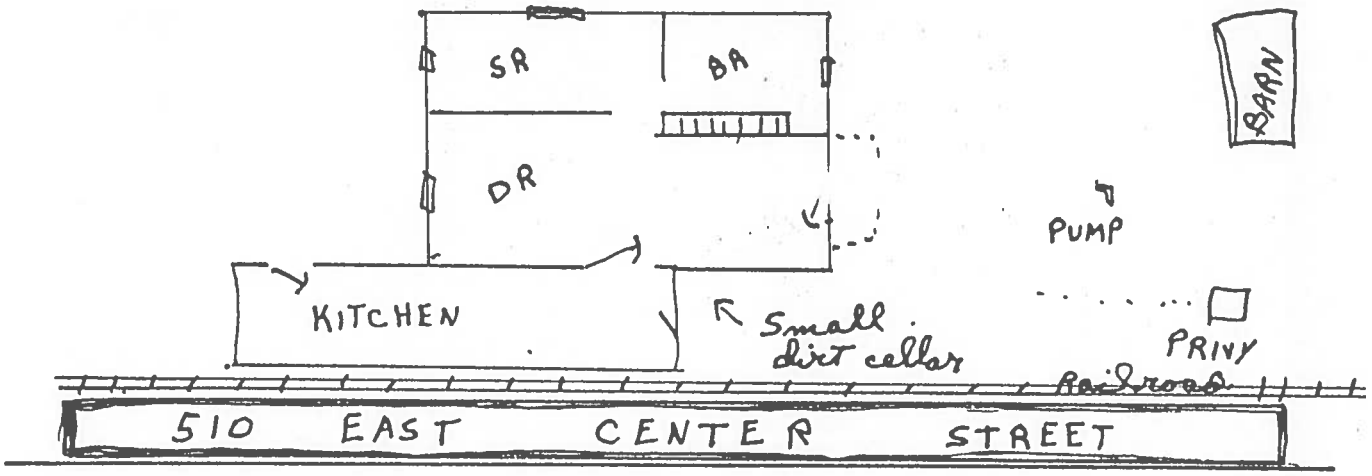
In the year 1900 I was 7, Louis turned 21, left Miss Stratton's Dry Goods Store and went to New York. Election Day he came home to vote for the first time. In New York he worked at a bigger dry goods store of Simpson, Crawford & Simpson. Went to night school, learned shorthand and typewriting and got a job at Ladenburg, Thalman (?) & Co., 25 Broad Street, Bankers and Brokers, opposite the old "Curb Market". Later on he became private secretary to Mr. Rosenthal, the President of the firm, until he retired.

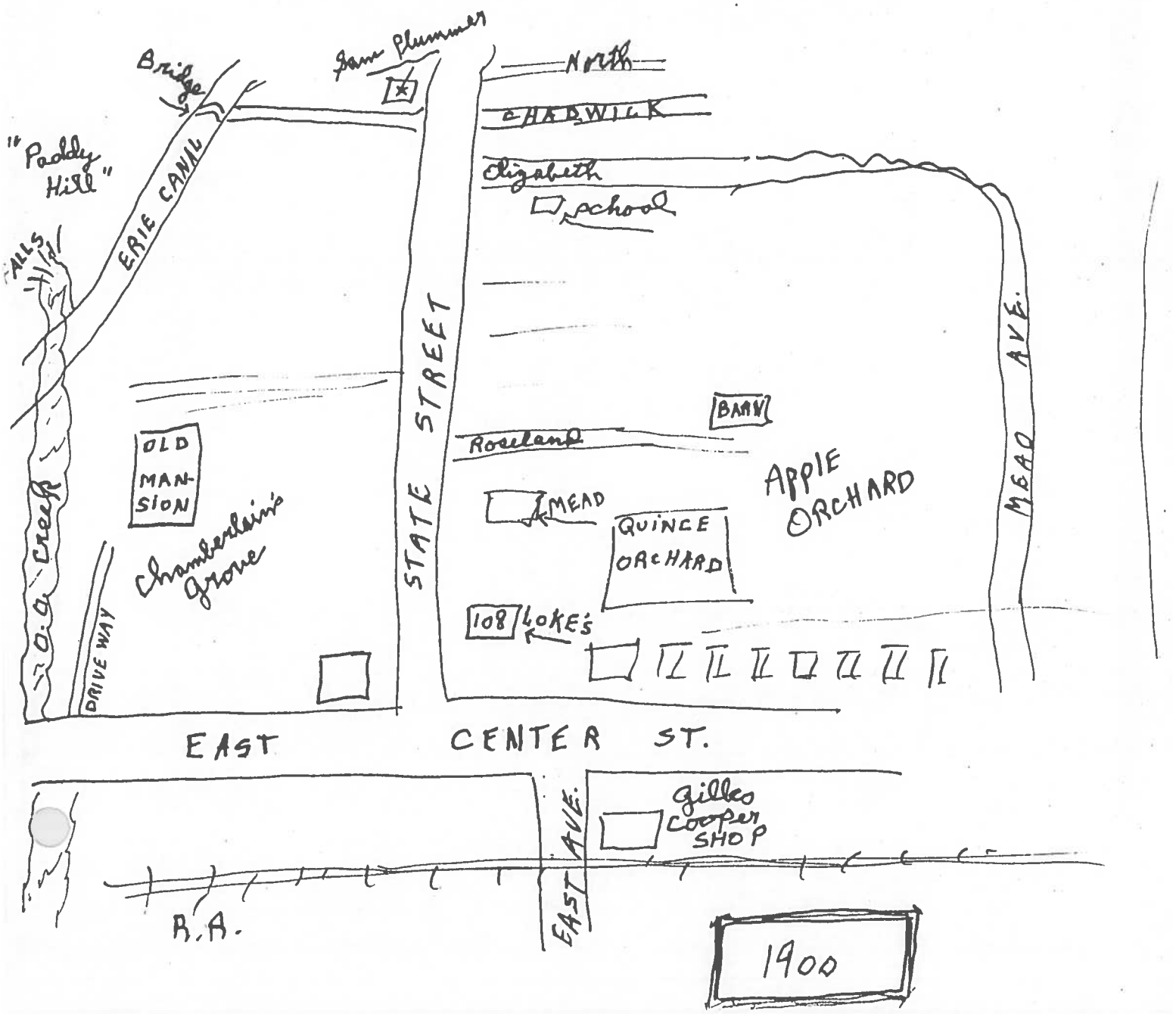
In the year 1901 the Pan American Exhibition was at Buffalo. Everybody had to see that. Louis came home and took me, age 8, to the Pan American. I cannot remember too much about the exhibitions. I was fascinated by a mechinical exhibit of a minature mowing machine cutting down wheat, or hay, or something. There was a big cascade of water, lighted up at night with colored electric lights. There were swans on a lake. One thing I could not forget was some sailors dressed in white in a large row boat with oars, rolled the boat completely over until it was upright again. (A complete roll-over).

It was around 1900 or 1901 when Pa bought a lot on State Street, the first one on the east side next to the corner lot. Chancellor E. Mead (brother-in-law) owned a large piece of land including a large apple orchard.

Pa acquired a house on Park Avenue and had it moved to 108 State Street. It was on a lot on which W.B.Robbins wanted to build a big new house. I was too young to know the details, but I think he got the house free for taking it away. Moving it was a long time job.

LOKE


SR
BR
DR
KITCHEN
Small dirt cellar
BARN
PUMP
PRIVY
Railroad
510 EAST CENTER STREET


Bridge
Jane Plummer
North
CHADWICK
Elizabeth
School
"Paddy Hill"
ERIE CANAL
FALLS
STATE STREET
MEAD AVE.
BARN
Roseland
OLD MANSION
Chamberlain's Grove
MEAD
QUINCE ORCHARD
APPLE ORCHARD
108 LOKE'S
O.A. Creek
DRIVE WAY
EAST CENTER ST.
Gilkes Cooper SHOP
EAST AVE.
R.R.
1900

I think the mover's name was Allen. The house was rolled down Park Avenue to Main Street, to East Center Street, to 108 State Street. They put two beams under the house and laid rollers down for it to roll on. A winch was placed a certain distance ahead with a rope to tow the house. a horse went around and around the winch winding up the rope and moved the house inches at a time. Men placed rollers ahead of the house and picked up those behind after house rolled over them. When rope was all wound up, winch would be moved proper distance ahead again and process repeated. In the meantime the cellar and cistern walls (foundation) were completed to set house on. There was no sewer on the street at that time, so every house had a privy in back yard. Running water was available. Mead's had a well drilled for purer water. Our house was solidly built it was so old. It had been plumbed for gas, so we had gas available for awhile. Some gas lights as well as kerosine lights. When I finished high school I personally wired the house for electric lights. The kitchen range used wood and coal; and a "Round Oak" stove in the "sitting room" heated the rest of the house. Later it was replaced with a "pipeless furnace" in the cellar. After sewer was constructed we had a toilet installed in the cellar. And when Pa was ill, a jon was put in the bedroom. We still used a wooden tub for Saturday night baths in the kitchen. The kitchen range had a reservoir for heating cistern rain-water, hand-pumped at the sink. Ma heated her solid iron flat-iron on the range and did all her ironing in the dining room frequently exchanging a cool iron for a hot one.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE OLDEN DAYS

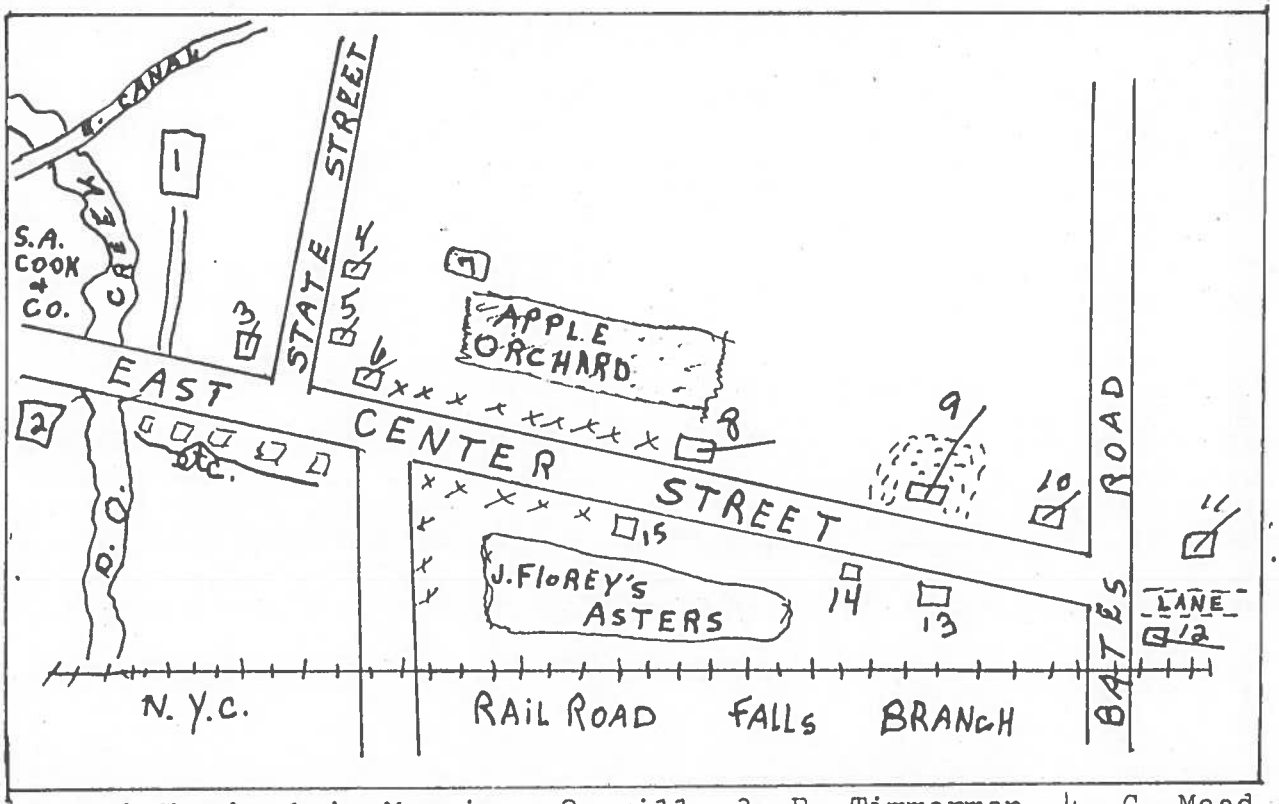
Dusty streets - water wagon in summer sprinkled streets to hold down the dust. Crushed stone put on streets and rolled (packed) down with a steam roller. Flies and mosquitoes were pests. Toads came out at night to eat mosquitoes. Everybody used umbrellas when it rained. Umbrella menders came door to door to repair umbrellas. Also scissors grinders, and tin-ware peddlers, etc. Men wore stiff collars attached to shirts by a back-collar-button and a front collar button. Wore stiff straw hats in summer - Decoration Day to Labor Day. Caps and derbies. Stove pipe hats worn by the aristocrats. Butchers wore straw hats in the meat market the year around. Men wore coats and hats all summer except when working. Most men had beards, goatees, mutton-chops, mustaches. Shaves 10¢, haircut 15¢, later 25¢, 35¢, 50¢, etc. Most went to Barber Shops for shaves until King C. Gillette invented his safety razor. Some had their own shaving mug and brush in the barber shop. Safety razors changed all that. Baby carriages were numerous. They used mosquito netting to keep the flies off. Traffic on the streets was 100% horses and vehicles. Horses and mules pulled the canal boats. Traffic in the canal was plentiful. There was an occasional steamboat. Traffic on the railroad was thriving: passenger and freight. Farmers transportated huge loads of hay. On the farm they used stone boats to move rocks or heavy objects: made of two 4 X 4 skids under a flat bed, used like a sled. Blacksmith shops were busy places. Horses waited their turn for shoes, like automobiles wait for service at garages. Saloons were in abundance as well as drunks. Especially after pay-day, they would be staggering and falling down or sleeping it off almost anywhere. Kelly's Saloon on East Center Street was one of the most prominent ones. Had a front porch. Will Benz had a German saloon on opposite side of street. Several saloons on Main Street. Wm. O'Grady had one of them.

TELEPHONES

At one time Minerva worked at Harry T. Krompart's Music Store. Once I went in while she was there and she left me to watch the store while she went out on some short errand. When she left, the telephon on the wall started ringing. I knew nothing about using telephones. I got in front of it and said,"Mr. Krompart ain't here".

There were two telephone companies: the Bell Telephone and the Home Telephone. Later Minerva was a telephone operator. Sometimes in her sleep she would keep saying,"Hello", "Hello". Then she was doing the office work for Home Telephone Company. Many people did not hav telephones. When out of town calls came in for someone without a telephone, a messenger would be sent to their home to tell them to go to some place where there was one. Minerva frequently called me for messenger service at 10¢ per. Telephones then had magnets to generate power to ring the bells. A crank on the right side of the telephone turned the generator and rang the bell calling the operato or on a party line give the crank as many serarate turns to make so many rings. Each telephone customer on a party line had a different number of rings. Everybody on the line knew when another neighbor got a call, and the nosey ones listened in. Number 6 dry batteries furnished power for the telephone conversations. The telephone men replaced the batteries to keep the telephones in good working condition, and threw out the used batteries. I had plenty of such batteries for my electrical experiments: connect in series for more voltage, in parallel for more load, and in combinations.

MAP OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE I WAS RAISED



1. old Chamberlain Mansion 2. mill 3. B. Timmerman 4. C. Mead (5. Loke) 6. Morse 7. Barn 8. F. Snaith 9. G. Caurtman 10. J.Rich 11. W. Joe 12. flag shanty (13. E. Loke) 14. Walsh 15. Lyster etc: Rogers, Donns, Richards, Hand, Zimmerman.

Continued: "Map of Neighborhood..."

Lived at 510 East Center Street in last house near end of street. Lot ended in a point used as garden space. No kids lived nearby. Seldom had any to play with. Nearest kids were Esther Snaith and Sadie Lysett. Nearest neighbors were two old ladies Eugene Walsh's mother (proprietor of the Walsh Hotel and Mr. and Mrs. George Courtman on the other side of the street, surrounded by a fruit orchard. Joe Rich lived on corner of East Center and Bates Road. Johnnie Caldwell, with one arm, was on duty at R.R. crossing. James Florey on East Avenue, had a greenhouse and cultivated the vacant land between street and R.R., to raise asters. I was too young to know what he did with them. Shipped them wholesale, I suppose. There was also an old warehouse beside the R.R. on East Avenue where fertilizer was stored. Later it was converted into a cooper shop to make barrels. A canning factory was erected on the vacantproperty, south side of the street. Later it was a toy factory of (Charles ?) Howard, who later had a Santa Claus School near Albion. Then W.R. MacCleo had a business... vegetable and fruits for quick freeze. Chancelor E. (Ensign) Mead lived on State Street. Had a large barn and apple orchard. Also had a house and saw mill south in the Alabama Swamp making barrel heads. He later divided the Medina property into building lots and created new streets: named: Roseland Ave., Ensign Ave., and Mead Ave.; and then Rose and Channey moved to California. After WW I, Luther went to California. Then Irene, and eventually Mahala and Ashley Ward. Frank Smith kept chickens for meat and eggs. Also had a bounteous garden. Even raised ginseng, the Chinese medicinal root. Some other families on East Center Street were: Henry Fuller (policeman) Jotham Morse, Bates, Lott, Dr. Harding, Keller, Freeman, Irving Rands, George Williams, Jim Rands, Eugene Lysett., etc., etc.

The Medina Sandstone quarries had been big business, but were declining when I was young. Some were still operating and I remembe seeing stone slabs hauled on low-slung wagons. I remember a derrick by the canal for lifting stones on to boats. Side walks were made of stones. Crushed stones were put on the more important streets and packed down with a steam roller. They were not so muddy or dusty. In summer, streets were sprinkled with water from a water-wagon to try to keep dust down. When State Street was excavated for sewer, traces of logs were found showing it had once been a corduroy road. Some of the wealthy residents had stone hitching-posts and stone horse blocks at the "curb" I remember there was a wooden sidewalk along the Chamberlain property on State Street. When some of the quarries were abandoned, they filled up with spring water. Ward's Quarry north of canal, Horan's Quarry, etc. were excellent for swimming "au natural". (Bates Road)

Wood was plentiful. People used firewood to heat their home. They had wood stoves. Large chunks would last overnight. Wood was sold by the cord. All goods were shipped in wooden boxes. Boxes were so plentiful they were used for firewood to get rid of them. Apples

were packed in wooden barrels. A barrel was equivelent to three bushels. Boys used barrel staves for skies in the winter. Cigars were in wooden cigar boxes. Eventually cartons replaced boxes which are now scarce. Just as empty cartons are plentiful now, wooden boxes were the same way then.

House construction. In those days, houses were hand made. First, a cellar was scooped out with scoop with two handles and pulled by a team of horses. Then the corners and sides were squared and straightened with a shovel. Cellar walls and cisterns were laid by stone masons using stone blocks and cement. All cellars had a cistern to hold a supply of rain water for washing. Pumped with a hand pump at the kitchen sink. Downspouts took rain from the roof and eaves to the cistern. Frame of house made of 2 X 4s (two full inches by four inches; not 3½). All pieces cut to size with hand saw. All scraps of lumber and shavings left lying on ground or floor, gathered up later for burning. No pre-fabs. No wall-board. No plywood. Interior walls and ceilings were constructed of lath and plaster. Bobby Warne and his two sons (*) did a lot of lath work. Rough slats nailed to studs with a space between each one to hold plaster. Rough coat of plaster spread on first. When dry, smooth plaster put on expertly. (*): When not lathing new houses, Bobby Warne had a popcorn stand by the Bent's Opera House building, where George Spears later had a new stand. "Peanut Joe" Garbarino had a similar stand beside Landauer's building on the other corner. He had a little stove on which he roasted chestnuts, as well as peanuts). Shingles were wood cedar shingle, not composition.

Entertainment: There were no cars, no movies, no radio, no t-v. Transportation was limited to trains, horses and bicycles. Entertainment was home-made. People had parties, taffy pulls, phonograph banjo, guitars, piano, organ. Once a man brought a phonograph to our house and played records. It was powered with a spring which had to be cranked up by hand. The records were cylindrical and sounded tinny.

Public entertainment: Bent's Opera House was Medina's Theater. All shows were held there. Wide open stairs from the street to the 2nd floor. The next flight went up part way, then turned to right and to left to enter the 3rd floor theater. There were more stairs up to the "gallery" or "nigger heaven". No fire escapes or alternat exits. A picture of Shakespeare was painted on the ceiling. A curtain at the front of the stage had the word "ASBESTOS" on it. Traveling Road Shows came to town and put on dramas. Sometimes Minstrel Shows. The latter usually put on a small parade at noon time to advertise. A drum major twirled a baton and tossed it up. Sometimes Home Talent Shows were put on by Harry T. Krompart, the music store man: Gilbert & Sullivan's "Mikado" and "Pinafore". Lyman R. Howe's moving pictures, once a year. "Ladies please remove your hats". They wore big hats in those days, held on with two long hat pins. I remember seeing "Uncle Tom's Cabin" show in a tent. Andrew Downie McPhee always brought his circus home to Medina. The show travelled by train. Later when automobile became practical, he was one of the first to motorize his circus, and travelled by trucks. Wild West shows also came to town with their

tents and Indians and riders.

The local National Guard, the "29th Separate Co." had their own military band. About once a month in the summer the band had an evening concert on a platform set up on Main Street. Harrt T. Krompart and son Percy were the trombonists. Ben Hawley was the conduct and Louie Neal was the tenor soloist. His singing was the feature attraction. The National Guard drilled in the Armory every week. Sometimes it was open to the public to watch them drill in their uniforms on the Armory floor. Spectators sat in the gallery. The National Guard officers were: John Sylvester Thompson (worked in a woodworking shop), Sanderson A. Ross (OPTICIAN), Dr. Simons (dentist). The Company was later "Company F" and went to Europe in WW I. Corporal James P. Clark was killed. American Legion Post was named after him. The Spanish American War was in 1898 and the local militia went. When they returned, Medina celebrated with a big parade on Main Street and a big arch over Main Street. I was about five years old then, but I remember it. Circa: 1908-1909-1910 the United Boy's Brigades of America was in existence. Three local churches each had a company. The Baptist church organized one company. George Owens, the tailor, measured and made the uniforms. Mock-up rifles were supplied. Ben Rose from the National Guard was Instructor. He taught us "shoulder arms", "squads right", "salute", "about face", and halt, and all that stuff. Charles Everett Lacey, Chester Broughton and Deane Hinkley were Captains, 1st Lieut., amd 2nd Lieut. Luther E. Mead and Carroll Poler, drummers. I was appointed to carry the flag in one parade. The Boy's Brigade was the forerunner of the Boy Scouts which began in the United States in 1910. Later in 1919 when I enlisted in WW I in the Medical Corp, I was promoted to Corporal quickly because of Boys Brigade experience.

Business, Industry, etc. Besides farming, fruit growing, quarrying etc., Medina had plenty of manufacturing. Bignal Foundry had been in the business a long time. Then Uncle Albert (Swett) established the A.L.Swett Iron Works on Glenwood Avenue (and Central Foundry had a plant on the other side of the street). I remember Albert Broughton was Superintendent of the machine shop. Frank Snaith (brother-in-law) was boss of the molding shop. Dick Pelton was pattern maker. Jim Cromwell was a foreman. Elmer Berlin was a lathe operator. My father, who was blind, operated a drill press. The shop manufactured no end of products. Anything could be made of iron: door stops, dumb bells, hitching posts, shelf brackets, park benches, manhole covers. Anything that was needed could be made of cast iron. Uncle Emmett (E.G.Poler) was traveling salesman He traveled months at a time taking orders for the A.L.Swett Iron Works. When electricity became a utility, Uncle Albert bought a dynamo, operated by water power - Oak Orchard Creek, to furnish lights for his foundry and residence. He acquired the old mill at the falls and installed two turbines and D.C. dynamo and contracted for village street lights and power. D.C.= direct current. Then around 1905 he built a dam across the creek, and a powerhouse with three generators A.C.= alternate current - for power in surrounding territory, and created "Glenwood Lake". After that he built another dam at Waterport, created a bigger lake, and had more power and

more power lines, all of which inter-connected with Niagara Mohawk Power. S.A.Cook and Mahar Brothers had furniture factories, and Hanlon Brothers had a sheet metal business. H.J.Heinz had a big tomatoe processing factory. White Brothers raised roses (similar to Jackson and Perkins). There were several blacksmith shops, and J.D.Harrington had a harness shop. Robert Roberts worked at Platt's Monument Works where grave stones were made. Later he became proprietor after old man Platt left it. Roberts said he came from a place in Wales where he and British statesman David Lloyd George were kids together. After the Hart House Hotel quit (on West Center Street), Robert Newell had a factory there, making custom-made shirts. There were two weekly newspapers: Medina Tribune and Medina Register. Frank Hurd ran the Tribune until he died. Then Brownell Hurd became the publisher. The Medina Daily Journal was established.... I don't remember exactly when (NOTE: see Alonzo Waters transcript). When I was 12 years old I got a newspaper route for the afternoon papers: Buffalo Evening News, Buffalo Evening Times, and Medina Daily Journal. The route covered the whole east side of Medina, beginning at East Center Street and followed State Street, Elizabeth and Chadwick Street, North Street, Bates Road, to East Center Street, Oak Orchard and Mahar Street. The pay was $1.00 per week. I was happy to get a raise to $1.25 a week. The Medina Daily Journal was published in the Bent's Opera House building in the northeast room on the 2nd floor. The four page paper was printed in the afternoon on a big press. An operator fed one sheet of paper at a time into the press, and paper was folded by hand. The type was all set by hand. Dave Benson was the chief printer. Ethel Montgomery was a typesetter. They had a small press with a big flywheel for small job printing. While waiting for the afternoon edition, we kids watched type setting and then wedging it tightly in an iron frame. The loose type had to be 100% tight or it would fall out when carried from composing table to the press. Later the "Journal" moved to larger quarters in Kearney Building on south side of East Center Street on the ground floor, when W. John Hinchey was the owner. There they got a linotype machine, operated like a typewriter and a whole column of news (?) could be molded on one slab of metal. After being used, the metal was re-melted to be used over again. Still later, the Journal moved to North Main Street. Alonzo Waters became associated with W.J.Hinchey in Publishing, and after Hinchey died Alonzo Waters continued as head of the Journal. Percy Krompart was a professional printer as well as trombone player. He operated linotype machine for the Journal. Worked for the Tribune. Also worked in Albion.

I remember going to the Orleans County Fair at Albion. A steamboat on the canal was going to take passengers to Albion in the morning and return to Medina around 5-6 p.m. My pal George Wood and I took the boat ride. On the way we discussed the principle of how a steam engine works. We saved the price of admission by not entering the fair grounds through the main gate. We walked west along the north side of the grounds which was enclosed with a high board fence. We climbed over the fence at a spot where farmers were parking their horses and rigs. We spent the day seeing the midway and the exhibits in buildings, etc. and watching the entertainment on an open-air stage. The act I remember best was a monkey riding a

loop-the-loop in a little car. I think there were also some Chinese magicians.

Grocery stores did a rushing business. There were NO self-serve supermarkets. You would take your list and read the items wanted to a clerk who would go and get the items and put them on the counter to be added up. Pay cash or charge to your account. Delivery was free. You did not have to carry your groceries. Gallagher had a fleet of light one-horse wagons in front of each grocery store. Groceries for each customer were put in large baskets. The young men who delivered would rush the basket into your kitchen, unload it, and dash out and horse would start going automatically to next stop. Gallagher also had a "dime delivery". You could have anything delivered for ten cents. It developed into a big trucking business.

Shoes cost $2., $3., $4. a pair. Ma had to have special custom-made shoes that cost $10.00 Pa worked six ten hour days (60 hours a week) for $7.25. He also got a Veteran's Pension for $15.00 a month. After he died Ma got a Widow's Pension at $40.00 per month. Pa chewed "Jolly Tar" ply tobacco. Old men smoked pipes, and sometimes cigars. Young men smoked cigarettes. Most were roll-your-own variety. "Bull Durham" tobacco came in cloth bags 10¢, and packet of cigarette papers was free. Bags of Bull Durham was carried in shirt pocket. Skilled smokers could roll a cigarette with one hand. Ready made cigarettes were available but cost more. "Sweet Coporals" were the commonest brand.

Bert Timmerman and family lived in a corner house East Center and State Street on the old Chamberlain property bounded on the other two sides by Oak Orchard Creek and Erie Canal and 135 State Street. There was a driveway from East Center Street to the big mansion in the grove. The creek valley was full of trees. The old house was empty. Hoboes would sleep there. It had many rooms. Bert's (Timmerman) wife Sarah was a Chamberlain. They had three daughters: Marie, Josephine and Helen, and later a boy Edwin. They had a garden. The grounds were used occasionally for picnics, carnivals, dances, etc. Passenger boats sometimes brought out of town people to the grove for Sunday School picnics, unloading them at the dock. Once a small boy fell off the dock into the canal and Willie Sly, son of LaVerne Sly the barber, jumped in and saved him (as I watched). Sometimes organizations held affairs at the grove to raise money. Had merry-go-round and other rides, refreshments, etc. Sometimes they built a platform for dancing and brought a piano. I lived across the street and the next morning after such events I would go over where they sold tickets and find coins on the ground. Eventually the property became a village owned park. The old house was vacant most of the time. For a while, it was used by Italian immigrants from Sicily. Another time it was used as a hospital (called "pest house" during a Small-Pox epidemic when people were dying. Vandals sometimes started fires. Finally, it was burned to the ground.

There were many fires in Medina when the structure burned to the ground. The old wooden fire-house, on the cite of the City Hall, burned down one night. It was replaced with the present stone building. To the north there was a row of businesses in a one stor wooden building from Park Avenue to Presbyterian church on Main Street. That burned down and was replaced with present brick two-story building. The old horse-drawn fire wagons, not very efficient. Before Fire Department was modernized with paid firemen, the volunteers were quicker running with their hose carts pulled by hand. Fire alarm boxes were located on strategic street corners. The bell was the smaller onein the Baptist steeple. You counted the number of strokes to know the location of the fire. Red alarm box near our house was on corner of State and East Cente Streets. A key to the box was on Timmerman's front porch. To turn in alarm, one had to get the key, unlock the alarm box and pull down lever. Then wait for church bell to tap out box number. Volunteers hearing the bell would run to fire house, get hose cart and run to scene of fire which bytthe time they got there would be quite visible. They might be able to save the cellar.

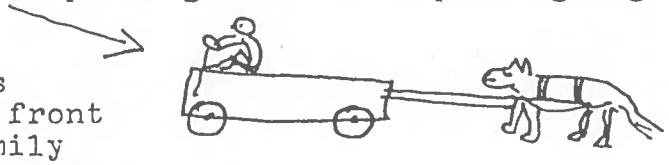
Clothing: When I lived in the old horse-and-buggy days before everybody had indoor plumbing and telephones, things were very different; even the clothes people wore.

Women wore voluminous dresses, excessive underwear and even corset Boys wore short knee length pants and long black stockings; men wore long trousers and socks. Shoes were made of leather and had to be blackened and polished to look nice. One had to keep a bottl of shoe blacking with a dauber attached to the cork, a can of wax polish the same color, and a shoe brush for a do-it-yourself shoe shine. Shoe-shine stands did a good business because they ha chairs on a platform for customers to sit on; while boys sometimes started their own business careers with a shoe-shine kit in a wooden box, shining shoes for five cents on the streets.
Socks and stockings made of cotton wore out quickly at the toes, and sometimes heels, and had to be mended or thrown away. Housewives kept a supply of darning cotton in the same colors as the socks. They slipped a hard round object inside the sock to hold the hole in position for darning. My mother had a dried gourd the size of a lemon that she used for darning socks.
Garters were sold to keep men's socks from falling down.
The self-supporting elastic tops had not been invented.
One of the most popular brands was Paris garters.

Trousers came with buttons on the waist band for attaching suspenders, long after suspenders went out of style. Trousers also had a watch pocket, in the front on the right side below the belt, for carrying a watch. Watch fobs were accessories attached to the watch and hung outside, making it easier to pull watch out of pocket. Trousers also had button closures because zippers had not been invented. Three-piece suits were standard: coat, vest and pants. Four piece suits were desirable with two-pairs pants. One could still wear suit while the extra pants were being cleaned and pressed. They got baggy at the knees quickly; did not stay creased Socks came in all sizes to fit all kinds of feet. Your size socks would not fit another person with different sized feet.
Work shirts were colored, but dress-up shirts were white. Stiff collars were separate and had to be attached to shirt with special collar buttons. Shirts could be washed and starched and ironed at

home, but collars were sent to a laundry, (Chinese or American). Fancy or gold cuff links were used to fasten the shirt cuffs. Men never went out without a hat and coat even in the hot summer. Women wore big elaborate hats fastened on with two long hat-pins through their hair and decorated with flowers, fruit, feathers, etc. Millinery shops made a specialty of women's hats and did a big business. Everybody had to have an umbrella when there was rain to protect clothing from becoming a soggy mess. Rubber raincoats were too clumsy and did not save hats. Rubbers had to be worn on shoes or shoes would get soaked through.

"Old Home Week" was a big event in Medina history. It lasted a whole week. They had merry-go-round, etc. set up on Main Street. Also a Ferris-wheel. They had parades. There was a shoe factory in town at the time and one of the floats in parade was a huge shoe and the "old woman who lived in a shoe" and all the kids. Another was a cabin and a man who went to the door and said, "It's ME, DINAH". Horse pushing instead of pulling wagon, etc. This was in parade.



One event of the week was a very large chorus singing one evening in front of the Academy. Aunt Emily was the conductor with baton. I don't remember the famous song. "Messiah" ??

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.....

The WRITTEN MEMORIES of Mr. M. S. Loke have been copied, typed to the best of my ability. The spelling, punctuation, etc. have been copied exactly as written.

These WRITTEN MEMORIES contain a wealth of information of a Medina that many of us never knew, or have long forgotten. We are most appreciative to Mr. Loke for his contribution to present and future historians.

Helen M. McAllister
(Chairman of Oral History Project, OCHA)

Loke 32

December 12, 1980

Dear Marjorie,

As requested, I am returning the release document signed in ink. Sorry your load of appointments prevented a visit, as I am always glad to see you. Edith and Maurice were in for a visit two or three weeks ago.

If my miserable tape recording contributed anything at all useful to the Historical Association's collection of data, I am very pleased. It will probably require further correcting.

Steen age

The other two persons you mentioned no doubt had more interesting stories about the olden days, and I am sure none were alike. Chester Broughton was appointed captain of the Boys Brigade back around 1909-10 and C(harles) Everett Lacey were lieutenants. Deane Hinckley Those three officers carried swords. The privates carried mock-up rifles; Luther Mead and Carroll Poler carried drums: and I carried the flag in the parades.

Chester's father, Albert Broughton, was superintendent at A.L.Swett Iron Works and also superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School and on extra special occasions he would play a cornet solo.

Deane Hinckley had a watch repair and jewelry shop. years later after W.W.I, on W. Center St. between the wide stairs to the opera house and the postoffice in Downs-Kearney building.

One of the town "characters" was Tom Turner who was always trying to swap watches with anybody. He often hung around Deane's store.

Everything here is going along as usual. Everybody keeps busy. Suppose you are the same way. And Albion carrying on OK without Liptons. That's all for now.

Uncle Marshall

MARSHALL S. LOKE
[illegible]
Rochester, N.Y. 14615

MARSHALL S. LOKE
275 Yarkerdale Dr.
Rochester, NY 14615

33

December 26, 1980

Marjorie L. Radzinski,
Albion, N. Y.

Dear Marjorie,

Mrs. McAllister sent me a 32-page book containing the story of my early life in Medina, and including the note I sent you on December 12. I can appreciate the great amount of work and devotion that your people put into transcribing, editing and typing, etc in order to preserve just a small bit of Orleans County history. Multiply that by eighty!

My contribution is as much biographical as historical. Much of the personal remarks were for your own information, not the public's, and should have been deleted, for instance, Minerva's jokes, my appendectomy, Charles' birth, the bicycle incident, etc, etc. Some recollections were repeated too many times. Others could have been elaborated on a little more.

On pages 21-22 I mentioned Miss Clark, the singing teacher, when I started in school way back in the "gay nineties". She made the rounds of all the Medina schools on certain days of the week all through my school days, and she was still at it when I graduated. The singing was a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment) until high school where there was a piano in the assembly room. All the students doubled up into the east half of the room and one of the girls played the piano while Miss Clark directed singing "What is so rare as a day in June", the "Pilgrims Chorus" and more. She lived opposite the "Academy" on the n.e. corner of Pearl & Catherine Sts.

In the taped interview, you asked if I remembered the Medina Railroad Depot (page 6 on the transcription). Of course I remember it. At that time it was one of the very important buildings in Medina. Now it is only a nostalgic landmark. You may want to keep, or use, the enclosed newspaper sketch of it.

The telegraph operator's place was by the bay window with a view of approaching trains, and he could operate the semiphore signal arms from that location. He also sold tickets. I almost forgot his name, I think it was _____? Vaughn. _____? Christy, an Irishman, had full charge of the baggage room on the east end. He loaded outgoing baggage on heavy-duty hand-drawn trucks which he pulled to the baggage car where it was exchanged for an incoming load. Back inside, he doled it out to passengers as they presented their claim checks. In the meanwhile the engine crew was taking on a load of water while passengers were getting off and on the train.

Page 4. I think Andrew Downie's house was on the corner of Gwinn St. & South Av.

Page 5. Dr. Whiting was one of the M.D.s, not a veterinary.

On page 7, Frank Smith's name is spelled correctly; also on page 24, location #8; but on page 25 it becomes Frank "Smith".

Page 8. Not certain about spelling of "Chamberlain", maybe it's is Chamberlin.

Page 15. I remember the old stone house where Sam Plumer lived, but more of its history. I only remember that he drove a team of horses.

Loke 34

Page 17. Wheeled vehicles made noise, but sleighs were light and glided smoothly and silently in the snow. Therefore the horses wore rows of sleigh-bells, and when trotting, the bells jingled. Kids in this age sing "Jingle Bells", without knowing why.

It was around 1907 before I saw the first horseless carriage in Medina. The first autos were noisyy and terrified the horses. Chickens, basking in the road, would get excited and scatter with much squawking, flapping and feathers flying.

Somewhere I mentioned kerosene oil lamps. In that connection I recall making what your grandmother called "paper matches". We cut newspaper into strips about an inch wide and rolled them up into tapers to use for lighting other lamps, when needed, from the flame of the first lit lamp. It conserved on using store-bought matches.

We also used newspapers in the outhouses. Torn into squares. Crinkle rubbed until semi soft. Farmers were said to have used Sears-Roebuck catalog pages.

How did you like Christmas with the record breaking temperature and the Wednesday snowstorm? We had a nice Christmas here. Hope you did, too. Now, have a very nice New Year.

Affectionately,

Uncle Marshall

Loke 35

WHAT MEDINA WAS LIKE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20th CENTURY

It was still the horse-and-buggy age. "Peanut Joe" Garbarino had a little peanut stand beside Landauer's 3-story building at the ~~northeast~~ northeast corner of E. Center St. and Main St. Sometimes he roasted chestnuts.

Sam and Jesse Landauer owned the Landauer Bros. Dry Goods store. They had several employees. Sam Landauer wore thick glasses. To see anything he had to hold it close to his nose. His brother Jesse died. I suspect that the Landauer in Albion is related to the Medina Landauers. They lived on W. Center St. next door to A. L. Swett.

Murdock's mens clothing store was next. When Harold Murdock finished school, he was full time at Murdock & Son. He married Mabel Simmons who was in my H.S. Graduating Class and whose Father had a horse and wagon and did light carting jobs for people.

The next building was Parish & Stratton's Dry Goods store. FIRST CLASS MAIL
A stairway went up to the second floor where Dr. Emily F. Swett had her medical office, and to the third floor where Adelbert J. Richards had a professional photograph Studio. A. J. was very hard of hearing but his two women relatives conversed with the customers.

I dont know what became of Parish, but Mary E. Stratton better known as "Molly" ran the store. She had a few employees. Louis E. Loke worked there from age 14 to 21 when he left for New York city and then worked for Simpson, Crawford & Simpson dry goods until he learned stenography and thereafter was secretary in a Banking firm. C(ora) Estelle Loke worked in the store as cashier after she graduated until she married Sam Cooke. The store was equipped with trolleys that ran on a tight wire from the clerk stations at the counters to the cashiers elevated desk at the back of the store carrying money and change back and forth.

N. S. LOKE, V.P.
275 OAKENDALE DR.,
ROCHESTER, NY 14615

Cooper's Grocery was next. A busy place. Eventually son Ray Cooper married Estelle Burns who lived next door to us on State St. and both of them worked the store.

Then there was Chase & Breed's Hardware store where Samuel T. Cook worked. Also Irving Smith. Carl Breed was an officer in the National Guard company at the Armory. He lived on Pearl St. next th Charley Swett. One day he went in the attic and shot himself. After that John Chase was the sole proprietor of the store. He lived in the next block on West Ave. but ~~never~~ walked, would not always took the car for nearby errands.

There was another grocery, later ~~t~~. by young man named Francbell.
Then there was Hanlon Bros. Hardware store. and numerous other stores including George M. Frary Shoe Store. One of the clerks was ___ O'Brien who lived on State St. Then there was J. Derr Lott's mens clothing store, and Francis Reynolds Second Hand store. At the end of the block there was an outside stairway going up to LaVerne Sly's barber shop on the second floor.

Back near Frary's Shoe Store was the Holdridge Block where Dan D. Holdridge had a furniture store and Funeral Business. For a while it was run by the Firm of Holdridge, Hartt and Hill. After Holdridge and Ernest Hill, H. LeBaron Hartt ran the furniture and Undertaking business. Once in the past, Holdridge's young son was on the roof of the building flying his kite when he fell off and was killed.

Lake 36

MORE ABOUT DOWN TOWN MEDINA:

Across the street from Landauer's was the Wright & Ross corner drug store in the Bent Bldg. I don't know about Wright, but do remember that Dan Ross was the proprietor for many years.

Other stores on the west side of north Main St. included Chas. Hurd's Jewelry store where Howard Stebbins repaired clocks and watches near the front window. A big brass ball in the window, released by "wireless" from national headquarters, would drop at exactly high twelve (noon) to signal the correct time.

Crook & Metz had a mens clothing store and so did George L. Owens. There were a few saloons. Earl Card ran a bank that went out of business. Son Robert who stuttered was in one of my high school classes. Frank Hunt had a cigar store. Abner "Ab" Gray worked in a grocery store. Sanderson A. (Sandy) Ross was an optician; also captain in the national guard. There was Culver's Bakery.

Charlie Hood, who wore a Windsor tie and twirled a cane while walking on the street, had an office (Insurance, I think) upstairs in one of the buildings. Son Robert was in my H.S. class. The B.P.O. Elks and the Knights of Columbus had second floor rooms on that same side of Main St. Also the Civil War veteran G.A.R. rooms. The women's auxiliary Women's Relief Corps, wives and daughters of the veterans used the same rooms. My mother was once top officer of that group. The Masons were nearby on the third floor of one of the buildings. I joined Medina Lodge #336 F&AM in 1919 after returning from W.W.I. Two wood-burning stoves were used to heat the lodge room in winter. Later the lodge moved to the present temple on West Ave.

In the Downs-Kearney Bldg. on W. Center St. the Odd Fellows occupied the third floor. Clyde Porter had a taylor shop on the second floor. The Post Office was on the ground floor. John Waldner's Barber Shop with David Bunn's shoe-shine stand in front was next; then Harry Bickle's news and cigar store; and the Home Telephone Co. on west end of the bldg. Harry Bickle had his suits made by Philip I. Brust whose taylor shop was on E. Center St.

Across the street from Bickle's was the Hart House hotel and the police station and lock-up. The Union Bank was on the s.w. corner of Main & W. Center. The main personelle consisted of George A, Howell, head man, Myron Post and Harry Welton. After the old fire headquarters burned down, the new City Hall provided a jail and police headquarters. Charles Arnold and Agnes Burnham ran the City Clerk's office.

There were several millinery shops specializing in ladies' hats. They did a thriving business at Easter time. Bert Cummings had an ice cream parlor. Frank Hurd published the weekly TRIBUNE. Bernard O'Reilley had a furniture and funeral business on the east side of the street. Other businesses were Caudy Hoy's saloon, McElwee's Grocery, Ennis Meat Market, C.D. LeVan Furniture. And many others.

John Stork was chief of police and Henry Fuller was a policeman. After that J. Seumour Brainerd was chief of police. McGinn was one of the cops. After my father died, he bought our house on State Street.

Among my friends were Russell H. Droman, George R. Wood, Russell J. Waldo, etc. George Wood lived on Orient Street facing the creek on the other side of the road. We were interested in the same things, electrical experiments, etc. Russell Droman lived on State Street. His father Andrew was a stone mason who built cellar walls. Russell and I were class mates thru high school after which he taught school near Fredonia and after that was school head in Gasport and thereafter was involved with the Brooks Company. I admired Russell Waldo for his genius. While the rest of us kids were still going to school, Russell took off on his own and made his way out west. I liked his accounts of how he made out. Apparently he made his way mainly by writing and selling what he wrote. He lived in Indianapolis for a while and eventually returned to Medina and lived with his parents on Maher Street.

He didn't bother anybody, minded his own business. Every day he went to the postoffice to mail his manuscripts and returned home with his hands full of mail, magazines, etc. Some people considered him a bit wacky but I liked him and was amazed at how well he managed his career. He had one whole room upstairs just for his papers. He had orange crates set up as filing cabinets for his papers and a large pair of shears for clipping newspapers. He had copies of various articles he wrote in the past. He would send the Democrat & Chronicle a column or two of news every day and got paid by the inches of column space.

After a while he got married to a local girl. His wife, Helen, played the piano at the motion picture theater on Park Ave. just west of the S.A. Cook block. The movies at that time were still silent (and black & white), so it was necessary to have piano music to add reality to the picture. It took a lot of talent to play appropriate music for whatever scene came up on the screen, to synchronize the music with the picture and to "ad-lib" as the subject required.

Russell became Medina's official historian and the Medina Daily Journal printed his stories of Medina history. The accompanying photo of Russell J. Waldo looks just like the way I know him, cheerful and smiling. He was known as "THE WRITER".