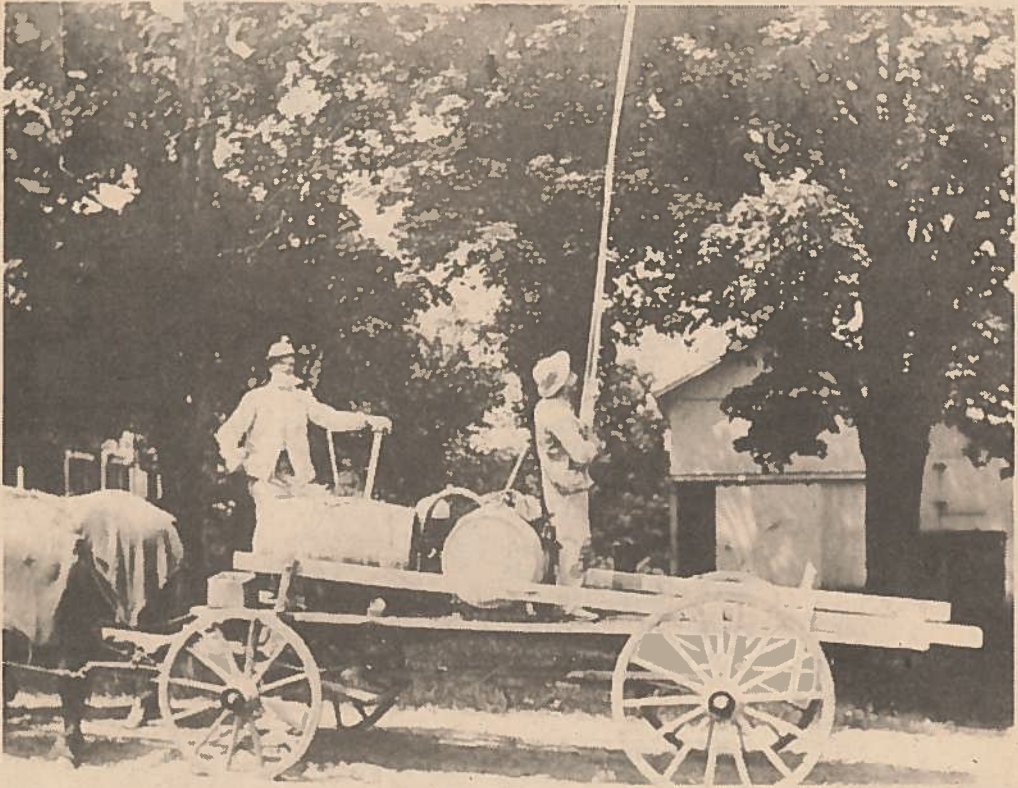


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



Vol. X 8-22-98 No. 33 Spraying Orchards

Methods of spraying orchards have vastly changed over the past 90 years. This photo was taken around the turn of the century in the Town of Marlton and shows Albert Allen and his hired man Patrick Drennan, spraying trees. The picture was snapped by a Dr. Ferno to illustrate a book on the care of shade trees. At the time, Dr. Ferno was working with the Department of Forestry in Washington, D.C. and was particularly interested in the care and culture of shade trees.

This same kind of spraying apparatus was used commonly at the time for spraying orchards. It consisted of a hand-powered pump and two oak barrels transported on a horsedrawn wagon. The hose and nozzle was attached to a long bamboo pole which could be held high to reach into the tree tops. Note here that burlap blankets were thrown over the backs of the horses to keep off the spray.

In the background is the Allen Farmstead which was removed several years ago to make way for Lake Ontario Parkway and bridge over Oak Orchard creek.

An example of this kind of early spraying equipment is on display at the Farmer's Hall in the Cobblestone Museum Complex. It consists of a large cask with a hand pump mounted on top. Attached is the hose and bamboo pole. Information cast on the pump notes: "Empire King 1896 Fieldforce Pump Co. Lockport, N.Y. Pat. July 19, 1892."

Also displayed in the Farmer's Hall is a vitriol crusher used for pulverizing blue vitriol crystals which was used as a common spray material years ago. The Cobblestone Museum Complex is open June 23 to Labor Day Tue.-Sat. 11-5 and 1-5 Sundays. During September and October the museum is open Sunday 1-5. Group tours are accepted by appointment April through October and the Annual Old Timers Fair is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 11, 1-5.