

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XII

3-8-90

No. 10

WHO - HOW - WHY



On Monday evening, May 7, 1990 the Swan Library in Albion will release an historical publication that will describe the Who, the How and the Why of its origins. May 7 incidentally, has been the date set for the Annual Meeting of the Swan Library Association. It will convene this year at the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church beginning with dinner.

The book about the history of the library has been written by Neil Johnson, the Village of Albion Historian. In Essence, it will commemorate the 90th Anniversary of Swan Library as it opened to the public on March 17, 1900. Although the book concerns the library's history, we must remember that this is also the history of a community, not just a single facet of history. Johnson gives detailed information about the personalities, politics, and purposes. The book therefore, relates to our social, educational and economic history of this area.

This soft covered volume of sixty-four pages will contain around twenty photographs of historic literature. A sample picture included with this article, shows five familiar faces to those of us who have been around for at least thirty years. The occasion in which the late William Monacelli took this photo was at a reception for Miss Lucy Fancher and Miss Inez Warner when they both retired from employment at the Swan Library in December 1960. From

the left we see Francis Blake, Sr., Pres. of the Library Board of Trustees, Miss Fancher, Miss Warner, John D. Robinson, Mayor of Albion and Mrs. Joan Farnsworth, a library supporter at the time and presently on the library staff.

Miss Lucy Fancher (1895-1988) became the head librarian at Swan following the death of the first librarian Miss Lillian Achilles in 1941. Miss Fancher was a graduate of Albion High School in 1915 and received a BA from Vassar in 1919. She taught high school English and received a BS in Library Science in 1938 from Geneseo State. She was active in the First Baptist Church as a Sunday School teacher, church clerk and Chairman of the Board of Christian Education. She was also a representative of Buffalo Goodwill Industries in Albion and a member of Pine Needle Twig.

Miss Inez Warner (1887-1969) also an Albion native, began working as an assistant to the librarian at Swan Library in 1918. She was active in the Pullman Memorial Church and is remembered as being a very frail wisp of a lady.

To help defray the publishing costs the Swan Library is offering anyone the opportunity to become a sponsor for \$10-\$24 or a Patron for at least \$25 and up. These individuals will be listed in alphabetical order in the book. Checks may be made out to Swan Library.