

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XII

6-28-90

No. 26

## THE GOLF COURSE AT EAGLE HARBOR



Albion

Sporty Hole Albion Golf Club

New York

In October 1898 a golf club was organized in Albion. There were previously other golf courses around the country but the Albion Golf Club is reputed to be the third official golf club in the United States. There were forty-five charter members who elected W.H. Cornell as the first president and Marc W. Cole, Sr. as the first Secretary/Treasurer. The golf course was laid out by a Rochester Pro and was located on the Eagle Harbor-Waterport Road about half way between the canal and Ridge Road. It was a six-hole course situated on both sides of the road around Otter Creek and the gully.

In 1900 they built a club house on the west side of the road which is now a private residence. It was surrounded by a large veranda where the ladies of the golf club served meals. Nearby, was a tennis court also on the west side. The old post card here, shows a view of the Albion Golf Club prior to 1910. Back in these early years the noted football coach Alonzo Stagg frequently played here when visiting his wife's family who happened to live just south of Gaines on Route 279. It was at this time when sheep were pastured on the golf course to keep it mowed down, although hand mowers were used on the greens.

By 1910 however, the Golf Club had become inactive but in 1919 was brought back to life by the Cole Family and was renamed the Orleans Golf Club with Marc Wheeler Cole as manager. According to "The Golfer's Yearbook" of 1930, this public course boasted six holes, 2,783 yards, par 24 and golfers were charged 50¢ for 18 holes. The

amateur record was held by E.D. Cole, who shot an 80 in 1929, and the Pro record, 79, was won by A. Campbell in 1926. In 1938 the club had been named the Four Chimney's Golf Club. It was during the 1920's and 1930's that Mrs. Marc Cole ran a tearoom in their home, which was known as the Four Chimney's. This home north of Eagle Harbor on the east side of the road, is now the residence of Dr. Drew Chenelly and family. As a side note, Mrs. Cole also produced here, King Cole Mints and King Cole Plum Pudding. During the 1950's when the Coles lived on South Clinton Street in Albion, she canned and sold her delicious King Cole Watermelon Pickles.

At any rate, by 1940 the Golf Club at Eagle Harbor had ceased operation. Those who remember playing on it recall that it was a difficult course, not because it was divided by a public road, but because of the very undulating terrain. This made it especially difficult in one area where golfers had to hit their balls from a lower area up to the top of a higher lever, i.e. it was tricky.

Bill Covell is perhaps one of many who can say he caddied on the golf course when he was a kid. It was no doubt, a meeting place for some of Albion's elite but with inadequate club house facilities, it ceased to exist by around 1940. Golfers from this area then began traveling to Stafford which provided better accommodations. Most of the old golf course which has not been utilized for agricultural purposes has gone back to nature and lingers only in the minds of those who remember it in more youthful days.