

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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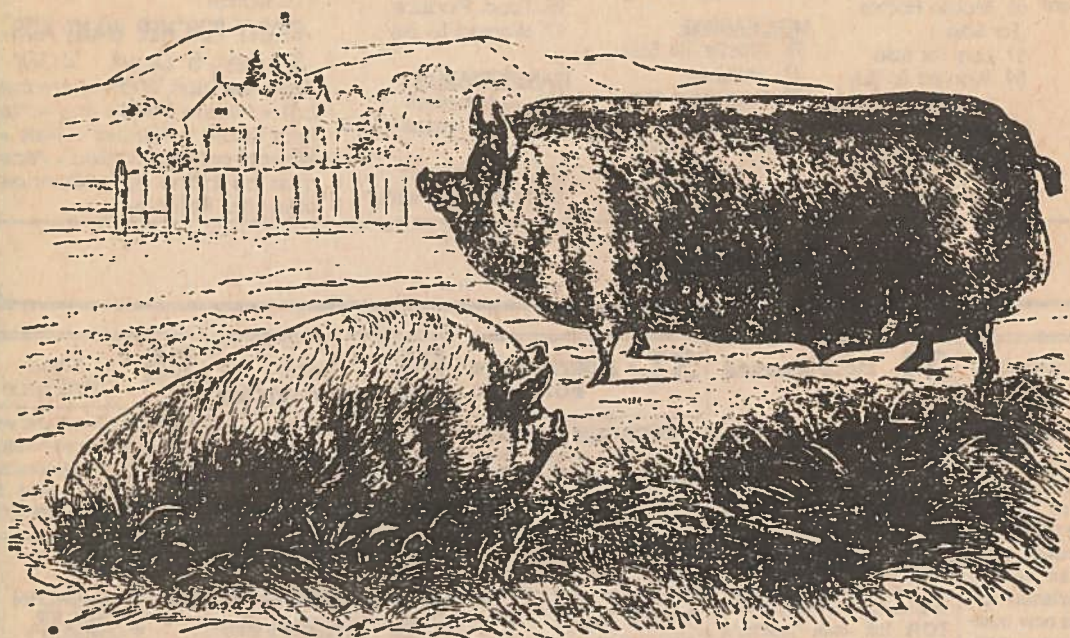
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TOXIC WASTE

or

Poison and Pigs



Nowadays we hear and read a lot about toxic waste substances, about toxic dump sites (Love Canal, for instance), about medication debris washing up on a Long Island beach and about garbage afloat on barges for lack of knowing were to do it. Air pollution, impure lakes, acid rain, and polluted wells, are but a few of the problems of Three Mile Island or the catastrophe in Russia.

But these problems are not new. What high school student can't tell about horrendous conditions during Medieval times when people simply threw their slop out the window into the street. And rats, flies and Bubonic Plague were all a part of it.

Wherever people are, there is waste material. It always has been, always will be. I learned a long time ago that before anything can be created, something else must be destroyed. With destruction, comes waste which is a life-long fact. Living now in a more highly technological age, I suppose we create waste substances of greater toxic potency. But like I've already stated, there is really nothing new. Recently I ran across a newspaper article published in 1900 which is a very interesting story about a situation concerning some toxic waste. The cast of characters are:

1. Dr. William F. Eaman a physician, surgeon and farmer who resided in Gaines. He was the father of Marjorie (Mrs. Whitney Howes) who will be remembered by some local people;

2. Dr. Frank G. Sherwood a physician and surgeon who once practiced in Albion and was the father of Frank Sherwood who will also be remembered by some;

3. George ? and his seventeen hogs.

Here now is the most intriguing and unbelievable story about a deadly dilemma which was entitled "Killed All Of George's Hogs":

"ALBION, Jan. 9. On Wednesday evening Dr. Eaman of Gaines, Orleans County, took a dose of

poison by mistake, and is still dangerously ill from the effects of the dose."

"Dr. Eaman was troubled with asthma during the night and got up and went to his medicine chest without a light to get a remedy. He got hold of a bottle of poison instead, and did not discover the mistake until he had taken a large dose."

"Dr. Sherwood of Albion was immediately summoned. He at once used a stomach pump and in a few minutes removed the contents of Dr. Eaman's Stomach."

"The strange part of the incident now comes in. The undigested food taken from Dr. Eaman's stomach was placed in a garbage pail in the woodshed of the doctor's house. A farmer of Gaines, who keeps a large drove of hogs, is in the habit of collecting the garbage of the vicinity for his drove of porkers. The morning following the painful experience of Dr. Eaman this man collected the garbage as usual. About 8 o'clock he took the first load to his home and fed the hogs. He then went out for another load."

"It was 10 o'clock when he returned and going to his hog pen, was astounded to find his entire drove of hogs, seventeen in number, lying on their backs. Jumping into the pen, he found to his consternation that all of them were dead. The man's name is George. He had consulted a lawyer and may bring an action against Dr. Eaman for the value of the dead porkers."

Indeed, as the subtitle on the article noted: "Contents of a Man's Stomach Proved Too Much For the Porkers." A note in a local paper two weeks later stated that Dr. Eaman who was seriously ill is improving rapidly and will be out soon. As to the dispensation of this case, I've found no answer. However, this story points out the fact that the disposal of toxic waste needs to be well thought out before it is just left behind for some unsuspecting person to gather, the ramifications of which are often untold.