

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XIII

8-21-91

No. 33

EARLY TRUCK



The farm truck pictured here was purchased in 1913 by Jay E. Allis of Bates Road north of Medina. It is being driven by Mr. Simkins of North Academy Street in Medina who is seemingly enroute to the railway depot loaded with barrels of apples. We may snicker when we first see this early truck but it was the beginning for the transport business as we know it today. Yes, it's a far cry from what we observe nowadays but at least we can recognize it as a truck.

In this foreunner we note the absence of many modern improvements including a windshield and

enclosed cab, not to mention seat belts. Here we see kerosene headlamps which Mr. Simkins or Mr. Allis had to light with a match at night. I'm sure this must have steered just like a truck too, not to mention the ride it must have provided with hard rubber tires. Note that the vehicle is chain driven to the rear axle with no guard. In spite of all the missing safety features and convenience of today's trucks, this one does have a license plate. When people talk about "the good old days" they often forget about the many trials and tribulations that went along with them, the first truck included.