

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W. Latin County Historian

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A CROSS TO BEAR

*To escape criticism;
Do nothing,
Say nothing,
Be nothing*

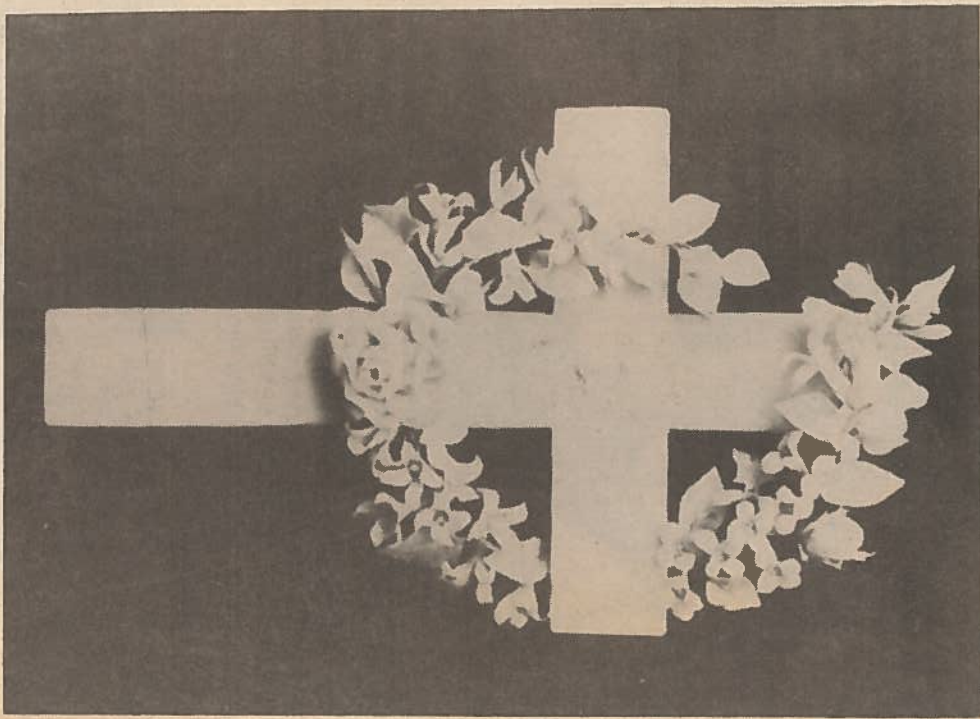
Since this appears to be the last issue of Bethinking Of Old Orleans, it only seems appropriate to end with this mid-19th century photo of a funerary decoration.

In case you have not heard, five members of the Orleans County Legislature voted to eliminate the Orleans County Department of History in the 1993 budget year. I would like to thank Legislator Ted Wiercznski and Legislator Frank Berger for their vote of confidence and support in my behalf and also Richard Bennett, although he waffled on the issue.

I suppose 14 years is a long time to be in one job. After all, the fourth graders I now speak to weren't even born when I started as historian. It's been a very enlightening endeavor which I have enjoyed doing. I'm a better person because of it. It's been a pleasure working with those who also care about preservation, local history and regional art. These same folks have often given tips or leads in stories or direction for further research. There are many who have been very supportive in innumerable ways and I will be forever grateful.

The first year or two in the position I felt incompetent as there was a lot to learn. Now, after 14 years, I feel more confident

and trained for job duties which include writing and speaking. When I leave this post on December 31, I'll that I've assimilated in my mind goes with me. The county loses. A couple of years ago Neil Johnson remarked that he and I were getting to be real historians because we were now old enough to tell story first hand. If that is the mark of a real historian, then I shall end this column with some first-hand observations about being county historian.



nation of the contractual category plus a decrease in salary in 1992 and a kick in the pants now. I hope you will put these circumstances into your long term memory bank as 1993 is an election year and as one older taxpayer told me, "some heads had better roll!"

Finally, you don't spend 14 years in the county workplace without coming to some conclusions. Therefore, I'd like to offer some advice to those