

Bethinking of Old Orleans

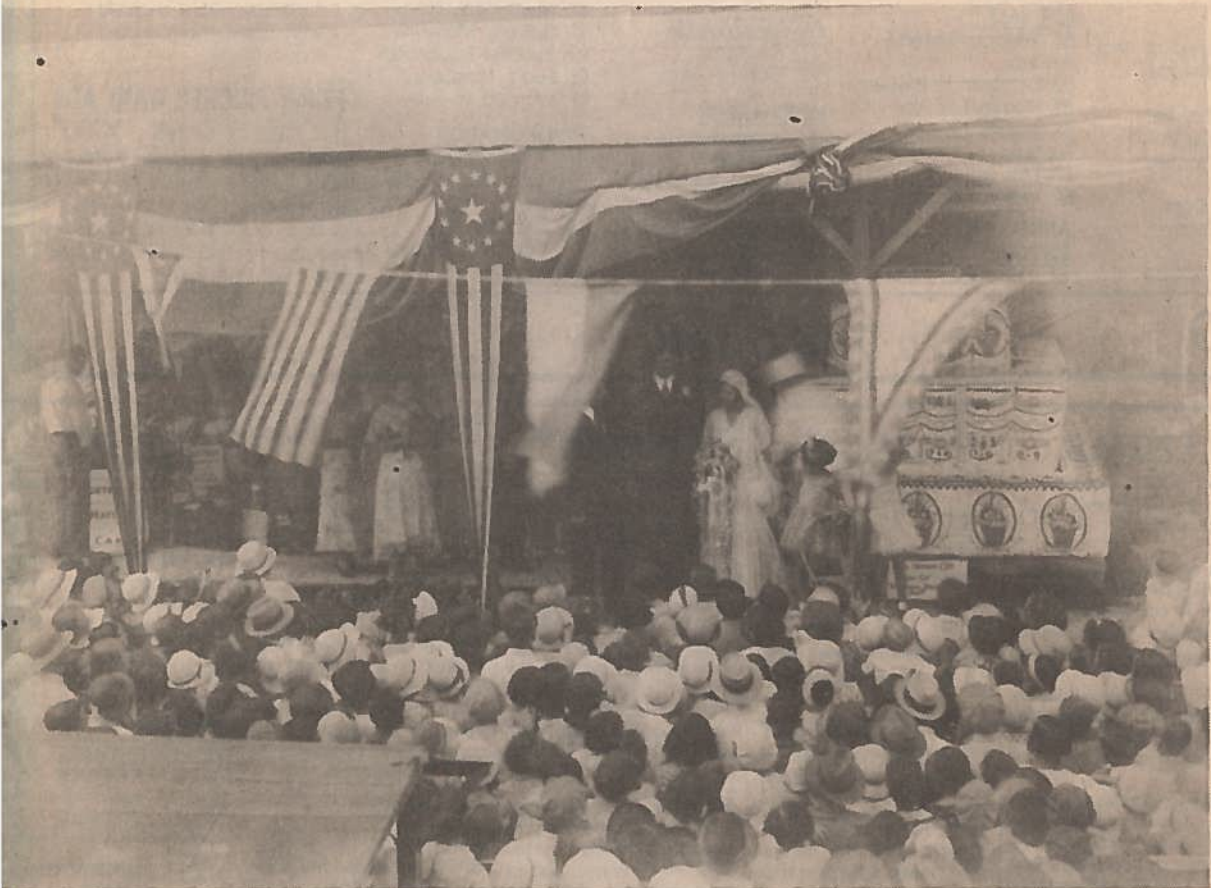
C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XV

8-4-93

No. 27

MAMMOTH CAKE



This past week hundreds and hundreds of people visited and were entertained at the 4-H Junior Fairgrounds near Knowlesville. As we reflect on the event, from the past, we may recall some unique attention-getting, unusual and promotional activities for this week-long highlight.

It was in 1977 that the world's largest pie was created at the fairgrounds. The huge pie tin remains displayed at the eastern end of the Lartz Building to this day. This idea was a recreation of a similar pie made in 1929 but much larger.

Of all the noteworthy productions of yesteryear, it was perhaps, the year 1931 which we could call extraordinary for its featured success. It was the world's largest cake. The purpose of this was to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the old Orleans County Fair.

The cake was baked at the Wehle Baking Co. of Rochester under the supervision of John F. Woggon. The pieces were transported by truck to Albion and assembled. Herman Thorschmidt of Rochester, a champion cake trimmer did the deco-

ration. The 14-foot high cake topped with a sugar eagle had a base 8-foot square and was placed in a special building erected to house this giant creation. The recipe included 1,600 pounds of flour, 1,140 pounds of sugar, 910 pounds of shortening, 7,272 eggs, 455 quarts of milk, 1,000 pounds of applesauce, 100 pounds of baking powder, 1 gallon of vanilla, 1 gallon of lemon juice and 56 pounds of fluff-up chocolate and white fudge.

After the cake had been on display for some time, a public wedding was held at the fairgrounds next to the cake. Accompanying photo shows the bride, groom and flower girls before many spectators. The sign at the base of the cake note "This mammoth cake will be cut by a local bride at 3:00 P.M." After she cut the cake, small pieces were boxed and sold for 10¢ each. It earned \$500 and people remarked how delicious it was. Who were the bride and groom?

This entire spectacular scheme was the fruit of the creative mind of Charles W. Howard best known locally as Santa Claus and his world-famous Santa Claus School and Christmas Park.