

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## 1993 REFLECTIONS OF MUNICIPAL HISTORIANS



With Christmas just past, I thought it might be of interest to reflect upon this vintage photo. Written on the back side, it states: "Christmas 1899 - 3 yrs." Several years ago the late Nan Miller of Medina gave me this picture which she had found in her Eagle Street home. We can fairly assume it was taken in Medina. Obviously, the 3-year-old girl got the dollhouse for Christmas. To get the best photo, the photographer had to use natural light, so the child and dollhouse were set up on saw horses outside. Note her cute hat and winter coat trimmed with fur. A toy castiron range is clearly visible in the dollhouse kitchen.

Here now, let us reflect upon 1993 major happenings as seen from local historians in their various municipalities.

Town of Albion, Edith Anderson, Historian. The town has extended municipal waterlines. The Builard Park tennis court has been turned into an ice skating rink along with a new and improved parking lot. Richard Colonna is now in the process of redoing a building on West Avenue for his business, Colonna's Electric. The landfill east of Albion was officially closed and capped.

Village of Albion, Neil Johnson, Historian. Through a grant, the canal dock was improved into a park for boaters with an impressive sign, hook-up for boats, brick walkway and Victorian Style lighting. The tug boat Urger was on hand when the park was dedicated this past summer. The village continues upgrading street paving and curbing. The Navarra Restaurant has opened in downtown while Albion Federal Savings and Loan has expanded their offices into the former Cooper residence.

Town of Barre, Helen Mathes, Historian. The town celebrated its Septuicentennial in August with a parade and other events including the dedication of a water tower and new municipal water system. Divisiveness among residents occurred in the town over the issue of a proposed landfill. The town supervisor resigned and several incumbents were defeated in the November general election.

Town of Gaines, Delia Robinson, Historian; Janice Thaine, Deputy. The town dedicated a municipal monument in September. The Cobblestone Historic District became a National Historic Landmark as designated by the National Park Service. As seen on 20/20, Operation Migration landed at Frenchy's airport. This is where Canadian Geese were being taught how to migrate by following an ultra light airplane.

The town received a water grant to run a line to Eagle Harbor. In the fall election the Albion/Gaines legislative district elected Ronald Radzinski legislator. A new town highway garage was opened and dedicated in June and the old one razed to improve the site.

Town of Shelby, Alana Koneski, Historian; Alice Zacher Deputy. Roberts Farm Market plans to move, as their present site has been annexed to the Village of Medina for a shopping plaza. The Calvery Tabernacle Assembly of God has moved from its Shelby Center church to the old Medina High school. Several new businesses have opened in Shelby including: Hodge Podge Consignment Shop, Parts Plus in the Valu Plaza, Vinos Restaurant and Lounge and Smith Farm Market.

A 30-ton transformer was added to the substation on Bates Road. A rare American Chestnut Tree was discovered on the Wildlife Refuge. A water grant has been received to extend water on Maple Ridge, Salt Works Road and Freeman Road. Shelby elected a new supervisor and town Justice. Sadly, there were a number of fatal traffic fatalities.

Yates/Lyndonville, Virginia Cooper, Historian. The most notable occurrence was the burning of the Tiger's Den Restaurant and its re-building. The structure now has a video shop and two other business places and two apartments upstairs. The old mill across from the fire hall is being made into a restaurant. On June 5, the Village of Lyndonville had a gala celebration in honor of its 90th birthday of incorporation.