

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## "EARLY SCHOOL BUSSING"

The first district in the county to abandon instruction and "centralize" was Albion District No. 6. The old cobblestone district schoolhouse was located on Gaines Basin Road near the N.Y. Central Railroad crossing. Known as the Loveland School, the trustees negotiated a contract with the Albion Union Free School in 1907 for instruction. Consequently, District No. 6 had to provide transportation for its pupils. Hence the first school bus in the county was operated by William Howard, the father of the late Charles Howard of Santa Clause School fame. This photo was taken in September 1907 after one of Mr. Howard's first return trips back home at the end of a school day. The first motorized school bus in Medina was operated in 1922 by S.T. Pratt Jr. as we see in the other photo.

As time went on more and more rural school districts started to send their pupils into the villages for their education. And in due course of time the State Department of Education recommended centralization and eventually mandated this move. The last district school to operate in Orleans County was Eagle Harbor District No. 7, which closed its two-room school in 1963.

As we now see innumerable yellow school buses on our byways, we look upon an old photo like this and are reminded of how many changes have occurred in a life time.

For a final note, the 1850 census indicates that we had 141 school districts in Orleans County. We now have five. Each town was divided into school

districts with one-room school houses generally not more than two miles apart. The Town supervisor who is the chief fiscal officer was the one responsible for coordinating, assessments, tax rates and individual school district budgets in his town.

### IN ADDITION

A couple of weeks ago some memories by Lena Britt which appeared in this column sparked more memories of the Landauer store in Medina from Margaret M. Shannon. Here is what she writes: "...the store had an elevator in the north east corner of the building.

They also had a basement store that was accessible from the inside of the store and also from the East Center side of the building ... south east corner.

They also had a cashiers desk in the middle of the north side of the store to which all cash was sent on a "trolley line" ... all the floors sent their sale money to the main cashier.

I well remember the store ... all Medina felt bad when they closed the doors. They were a high class establishment ... like the Albion store.

One of the Landauers lived at 410 W. Center Street ... same house that Alonzo Waters lived in and where Paul Groat now lives.

Even though the Landauers were Jewish, they celebrated Christmas by having an oyster supper for their employees on Christmas eve ... after the store closed."

