

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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KENNETH AND THE BEAR

"Mama she wanted turkey Thanks-
giving Day to eat.
Daddy he wanted chicken
'Nen I went out huntin' an'
had the bestest luck:
Heard an awful growlin' but
say, I didn't care.
I-des aimed my rifle and
shot this great big bear.
Mother wants the gizzard, the
neck or anything
Father'll take the wishbone, with-
jus- a slice of breast
an' as I'm starvin' hungry
I think I'll eat the res.
Don't I wish that Rosefelt, the
president, was my pa
'Nen I'd shoot some el'funts 'way
-down in Africk ah!"



This delightful picture postcard shows Kenneth C. Warner as a very small child, possibly around Thanksgiving time in 1908, as it mentions President Roosevelt. Ken was born in the year 1906 which is about the right age for the boy pictured here at that time. On the reverse side of the photo is penned the cute poem above. I presume Ken's mother probably wrote the poem to go with the picture and did it in the first person as though he were speaking. The "fallen" teddy bear, which he appears to have shot with his toy rifle, lies at Ken's feet.

Let me also address Ken's appearance and attire in this photo. Frequently in the 19th century and early part of this century little boys were often dressed in dresses. It was simply the style of the times and the normal thing to do. Likewise, their hair was not cut short. However, by the time the boy was ready to begin attending school, the hair would be cut and trousers took the place of the dress. Many times the child's mother would save locks of the child's hair as a memento neatly tied with a ribbon and placed in a box for safe keeping. Indeed, boys dressed like this gave the appearance of Little Lord Fauntleroy, the main character in a popular child's book of the same name.

Kenneth Warner grew up in Albion and had a sister Amy who was married to the late Ernest Stockton. Ken was employed a number of years at

Marine Midland Bank and then SUNY Brockport. He was married to Melva Vagg and took much interest in amateur photography. He died in 1982 at the age of 75.

UPDATE

1. From a couple of weeks ago, two ladies have been identified from the DAR high tea photo. One is Mrs. Emma Taylor (seated) who worked in the Albion School superintendent's office and lived on West Park Street. Another lady standing in the back is Mrs. James Small who lived on Hazard Parkway in Albion.

2. Our Mt. Albion Cemetery tour on Oct. 14 was attended by 130 people on a rainy day. Dale Burrell found the designated symbol — a sickle. Another tour of Mt. Albion is being planned for the first weekend in June 1996 and another for mid-October 1996. The one in June will be somewhat a repeat of the last tour while the tour in October will focus on early pioneers buried in Mt. Albion. At that time Neil Johnson, village of Albion historian, will also participate.