

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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1995 REFLECTIONS Of Municipal Historians Part I



This week and next week this column will be devoted to a random sampling of highlights from around the county during 1995 as denoted by our Town and Village Historians.

Town of Kendall-Alida Clow, Historian. The Town Board established Water District No. 2 to extend water lines for the benefit of more residents. Victor Jurhs, Town Justice for 32 years, retired. In October, the Kendall Central School District voters approved a 6 million dollar renovation project. Social Lodge #713 dedicated an organ on Oct. 21 which was built and donated by Darwin Stata. In June, the Masonic Lodge presented a 75-year pin to Marshall Mayes just four months to the day after his ninety-ninth birthday.

Town of Shelby-Alana Koneski, Historian. Significant growth has taken place in Shelby with the opening of a new plaza on Maple Ridge Rd. Stores included in this development are: Tops, Movie World and Fashion Bug. Also a Burger King and Medina Savings and Loan are a part of the complex. A new K&K Mini Mart is also under construction on Maple Ridge near Rt. 63. The Bells Super Market in the Ames Plaza closed.

Yates/Lyndonville-Virginia Cooper, Historian. The last dry house in Yates, located at County Line Corners on Rt. 18, burned but has been rebuilt by the owners, Atwater Foods Inc. In Lyndonville, the Family Health Care Center has opened. Four lamp posts mounted on the Main Street bridge over Johnson's Creek were restored after being inoperative for over thirty years. A ground-breaking ceremony with Congressman John LaFalce took place for a 350,000 gallon water tank as part of a town-wide water project. And yes, Lyndonville made the national news through a follow-up story on America's "Most Wanted" when DeStaffan was nabbed.

Town of Albion-Edith Anderson, Historian. The new wing of the Orleans County Nursing Home was dedicated and opened for use. Water lines were extended in areas of the town. The old Tanner Cemetery across from Mt. Albion was cleaned up and headstones reset. A new housing tract on West County House Rd. near Rt. 98, is being developed. The Victory Baptist Church was erected on Clarendon Rd. and the Larmel Car Agency opened on Rt. 98. The Albion Coalition grew in strength and helped wield some political clout in opposition to the Tow Path Recycling Center which has persisted for expansion. No final decision has been made concerning the proposed

Federal Holding Center. The village and town were both willing to put up funds to attract this new prison.

Town of Carlton-Lysbeth A. Hoffman, Historian.

1. New York State's Department of Transportation replaced the c. 1930 Route #18 bridge at Kuckville at a cost of \$695,000. The project was completed by Keeler Construction Company of Albion.

2. The famous, yet badly deteriorated, 103 year old railroad trestle crossing Oak Orchard Gorge north of Waterport was dismantled in late summer by owner, Charles Pellechi. This trestle was in use until the "Ho-Jack" railroad line was discontinued in 1978.

3. Carlton's Water District has been extended to bring service to approximately 60 homes in the community of Kenyonville. The construction has been done by Pilon Construction Company of Albion.

4. Carlton's Town Board has initiated a Recreation Committee which will provide recreational opportunities for youngsters within this municipality.

5. Carlton's Water District has been able to acquire a 3/4-ton utility body pick-up truck and the Highway Department a Ford 4630 tractor to be used for roadside mowing and other needed projects. Both were purchased under New York State Bid Contracts.

6. According to Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., the concrete portion (spillway portion) of the Waterport Dam, built c. 1920, was in a deteriorated state. The dam as it existed would not pass New York State and Federal safety guidelines. The spillway has been replaced with a longer and more modern design. This longer design will enhance the spillway when used for modern flood control.

7. The Greek Revival style structures, originally housing Carlton's 19th and early 20th century School Districts #1 and #2, have fallen into sad disrepair in recent years and have become eyesores. It's a shame the owners of these ruins leave what little is left instead of having those once hallowed learning centers completely leveled or removed.

Photo-The accompanying photo by Fred Holt, shows Dr. Ben Howes of Carlton, disguised as a Santa Claus around sixty-five years ago. Dr. Howes, a well-known Veterinarian, was beloved as a colorful fixture in his community for many years.