

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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1995 REFLECTIONS Of Municipal Historians Part II



Last week and this week our column is devoted to a random selection of highlights from around the county during 1995 as denoted by the town and village historians.

Town of Clarendon-Alan Isselhard, Historian. A new water line has been installed in the hamlet of Clarendon but is not yet operational. The DEC is cleaning up chemical waste which had been stored on the Haight farm. In the spring, Karen Lill was seriously injured in a car accident at Hulberton Road and Route 31. The community has had several important fund raisers to help her during her recovery. In politics, there were no primaries at the town level with all incumbants running unopposed. John DeFilipps built a replica of the original belfry for the Clarendon Historical building which the Highway Dep't. helped hoist into place. The Historical Society had an auction and open house at the museum which were very successful. They also have reprints of Copeland's "History of Clarendon" (1889) for \$42.00. The Genesee-LeRoy Stone Corporation will be expanding through under water mining while parts of the old quarry will be back-filled with fly ash for reclamation. Mr. Isselhard states "I lament the closure of the Holley hardware store, the personal service and items we were once able to buy in town."

Town of Gaines-Delia Robinson, Historian; Janice Thaine, Deputy. As in many other towns, water expansion grants are of note. In Gaines, Water Dist. #2 to Eagle Harbor was completed while a bid was accepted for Water Dist. #3, soon to be under construction. This will go up Rt. 104 to the Ridgeway Town line and down the Eagle Harbor-Waterport Rd. Water Dist. #4 for Brown Rd., E. Bacon Rd. and Rt. 279 north of the Ridge Rd. are now on the drawing board. Teresa Martilotta won a position on the Town Board during the general election, the first woman to be elected to this position in Gaines. Canadian geese with their human coordinator, again landed at Frenchy's airport on their trek to warm climes. Edith Downey celebrated her 99th birthday and was pictured in the Advertiser in a five generation group of her family. Other major museums look to the Cobblestone Society's Resource Center and local mason, Bruce Midkiff, for information and help on soft lime mortar used in restoration work. The Cobblestone Museum also had a very successful Holiday Shop for what will become an annual event. The Town Historian was elected President of the Region 8 Municipal Historians which takes in nine Western New York counties.

Town of Ridgeway-Richard Nellist, Historian. The town now has three new board members elected at the last general election. They are: Jeff Toussaint and Bob Waters, Councilmen and a new Town Clerk, Barbara Klatt. The Town has also recently put up welcome signs with a new

logo.

Town of Barre-Helen Mathes, Historian. The town has received a grant for records management. Water Dist. No. 2 along Rt. 31 A is in progress while Water Dist. No. 3 was also approved. The town assessment reflects however, little town growth. Town Highway Superintendent Joe Grabowski retired after 28 years of service. He leaves the roads in excellent condition. David Mathes reports that the farming season started out quite dry but they ended up with good crops, especially wheat, corn and hay, but oats were poor.

Village of Albion-Neil Johnson, Historian. With the merger of Anchor and Dime Banks, the new Dime Operations Center on East Ave. is now under reconstruction. The former Hunt's building on East Ave. and Platt St. is being renovated into an industrial center. Cadillac Rubber & Plastics Injected Division is moving from Main St. into this new industrial complex with the village being responsible for a new parking lot to accommodate the Industrial Center. In early December, the Albion Central School Dist. voters turned down a proposed renovation project for its school buildings.

Town of Murray/Village of Holley-Marsha DeFilipps, Historian. The Town of Murray has completed Water Districts 4 and 5. The Harrington Residence on S. Main St., Holley suffered a devastating fire. St. Rocco's Festival and the Holley Fountain Festival were again both very successful. New signs were erected at the Village Electric Co. and the Holley Pumping Station. The Holley Gallery opened. It is an Antique, Flea Market and Craft Shop Co-Op. The Village Pub also opened during 1995. Sam's No. 2 Restaurant burned. A walking trail was opened from the Murray-Holley Museum to the Holley Falls. Police and Village employees chased an emu which got loose from a nearby farm and entered the village.

Village of Medina-Edsel Grinnell & Chris Busch, Co-Historians. An addition to the Orchard Manor Nursing Home was completed. Fisher-Price was closed out but has re-opened. Work was done on the Canal Basin Park. A grant was received to improve the sewer line and street surface for E. Oak Orchard St. North and South Avenues were also blacktopped. Ed Grinnell, after several years of in-depth research and writing, plans to have his **History of Medina** finished for publication and release in 1996. It was during 1995 that the business district in Medina was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Our photo accompanying this column shows a winter scene on Main Street in Medina around the turn of the century. Several of the Italianate Style business blocks on the west side of the street appear here. Because most of these have remained intact, Medina has a significant architectural heretage worthy of National Register Status.