

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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MEDINA, HERE'S TO OUR HERITAGE



When a four-hundred-page history of Medina is released this October, it will certainly be a toast to an illustrious heritage. The book, which will be entitled *Medina, Here's To Our Heritage* is being published by the Medina Historical Society. The author is none other than Mr. Edsel Grinnell, Historian for the Village of Medina.

Mr. Grinnell's indepth research began over eight years ago when he first tried to determine the age of business blocks on Main Street. As a result, he started making a record of what he found. Consequently, this record grew and as the years have passed, it became his passion to assimilate Medina's history. This began in 1988 as a point of reference, for seeking grants for facade improvement through the Medina Chamber. However, as a result, a significant body of work has been produced through an untold number of hours of research. The author discovered, and states: "History was spread all over" and that it has been his task to pull it together. His sources have included reading old newspapers on micro film, both at the Lee-Whedon Library in Medina and the Swan Library in Albion. He has also read all of the Village of Medina Trustee minutes from 1832 to 1890.

Believe me! Mr. Grinnell has not been working on a whim. We can expect an indepth historical account of Medina and a fine piece of work which will be a reference for years to come.

Mr. Grinnell retired from the Medina Cold Storage, Inc. in 1988 having started working in his family business in 1946. He took over the business in 1971 as owner and operator when his uncle J.C. Posson died. Concurrently, Mr. Grinnell has been active in the Medina Historical Society since its inception in 1971. Therefore, as a native, Mr. Grinnell's interest runs deep into local history.

His book is divided essentially into four parts: 1822-1849, 1850-1899, 1900-1949 and 1950-1995. The text will bring in early canal times and the importance of mills and mill races during the developmental years of Medina. We can also expect information on terrible fires, various businesses, churches,

clubs, Fraternal Organizations, general history and one hundred thirty biographical sketches of prominent men and women. The book will be illustrated with around sixty photographs and several maps.

The pre-publication price for these hard-bound books, measuring 8½ x 11 inches, is \$24.00 before June 1 and thereafter, \$27.00. Coupons for the pre-publication price are now available at the Medina Chamber of Commerce and the Book Shoppe at 519 Main Street, Medina.

Our photo shown with this story is from a photographic post card made in 1906. It shows West Center Street looking east to the four corners. The banner across the street states: "Old Home Coming Week Aug. 19-25 '06. On the right, we see the Hart House which was a hotel bedecked with patriotic banners around a second-story porch. This building now houses the Newell Shirt Factory. The building to the immediate left was the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple. In the lower bottom left of the picture, we see an early automobile. The man sitting on it is identified as Charles Swett. In the distance we see in the right, another early auto. This was indeed, a period of transition as most of the vehicles are horse-drawn. Note, this is before West Center Street was paved. Old Home Coming Week was simply a big reunion of a sentimental nature which drew, according to newspaper accounts, close to 2,000 former Medians. Many events took place during the week including a huge parade. In 1956, the Community Historical Association sponsored a Fiftieth Anniversary of Old Home Week. This too, included a parade, window displays, picture show, picnic, banquet at the Moose Hall and a two-act play written around the events of the day in 1906.

Indeed, Medina has always had its roots in the past and eyes on the future. We look forward to the release of Edsel Grinnell's book, *Medina, Here's To Our Heritage* published by the Medina Historical Society when it appears this coming October.