

Bethinking of Old Orleans

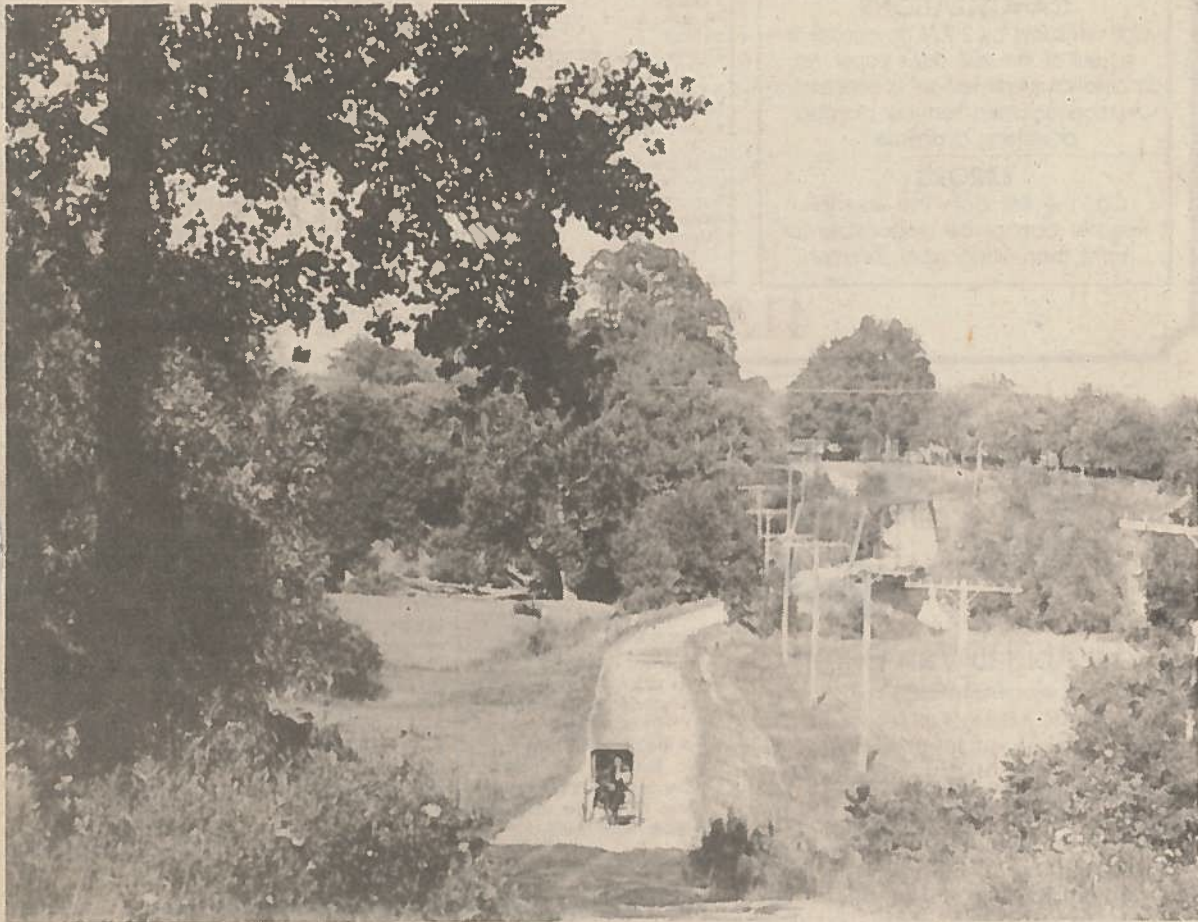
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"OAK ORCHARD"



Our photo this week is from the collection and through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Fred "Steve" Jones of Kent. I would judge that the picture was taken around ninety years ago by W.C. Eaton of Jeddo. The only written information on the picture in very faint letters is simply "Oak Orchard". With such minimal information, the picture at first glance was baffling because it just didn't seem to fit or relate to Oak Orchard on the Lake in the Town of Carlton. Where could it be? But then, there is Oak Orchard on the Ridge in the Town of Ridgeway. Could it be there? At first glance, you might say "No way!"

However, on more careful examination and getting our bearings straight, it is indeed, Oak Orchard on the Ridge. What you are seeing here is the Ridge Road as it crosses Oak Orchard River. We see therefore, a view looking easterly toward the intersection of Rt. 104 and the Culvert Road. Note the innumerable telephone poles and a horse and carriage being driven toward the photographer.

How things have changed in ninety years! It's really hard to imagine that this is Ridge Road which was barely more than a one-lane dirt road at

the time. During the course of ninety years some places have certainly become almost unrecognizable. At least, the notation "Oak Orchard" was a help. Otherwise, the photo would have baffled local historians even longer.

There is indeed, a lesson to be learned here. And that is: Take time to label your contemporary photos. Obviously, places change over ninety years and so do people, so that they too are unrecognizable. Use complete names so there is no question in the future and put on the date. In ninety years when no one is left who remembers the places and people, an unidentified photo will be practically meaningless. However, if it is labeled and dated it may become a treasured keepsake for yet an unborn descendant.

A nameless old pictures may well have its artistic merits and can well be appreciated on that standpoint, but it has no significant historical value to anyone in your family unless it is properly identified. So please, make a New Year's Resolution, to write on the names, identify the place and date your pictures for the future. You just may make someone in ninety years, very happy.