

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

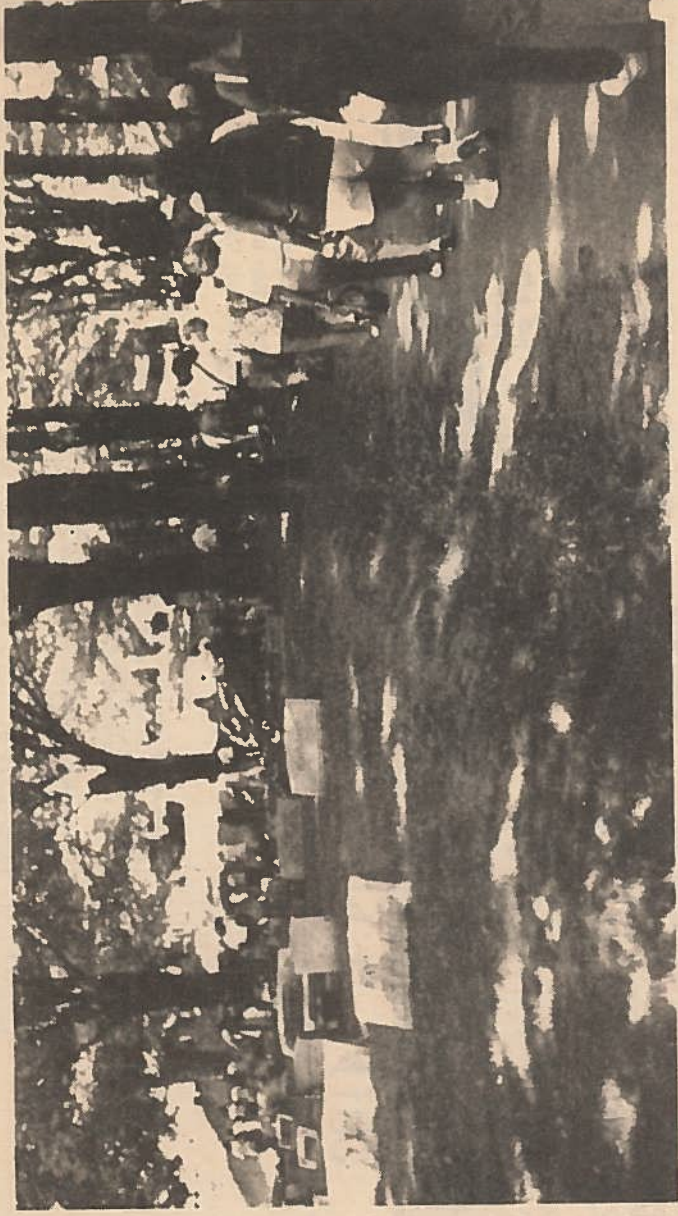
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## ANNUAL FALL TOUR OF MT. ALBION

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occured on Sept. 7, 1843. The dedication speech was given by Daniel R. Cady. Here follows a couple of excerpts from his flowery verbiage:

"Amid these mementoes of perishing humanity we shall also be reminded of our mortality. How full of tender interest to us is this cemetery! Soon those we love - our nearest relations, our dearest friends - our own forms - will be gathered to its silent bosom...Hark, the trumpet of the Archangel summons the slumbering dead - and forth on every side you start from your shrouded sleep - the tombs open their ponderous and marble jambs. And father and son and mother and daughter and husband and wife rise here, side by side to meet their descending Judge. Oh, in that dread hour may we all meet him with joy and not with grief."

In June 1978 Mt. Albion was one of the first cemeteries in the county to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has been heartening on past cemetery tours to see the amount of interest and respect people hold for this hallowed and "eternal city" of over 30,000 buried on 100 acres of hills and dales. The following verse perhaps best describes the true essence of Mt. Albion:

### *This is A Cemetery*

*Lives are commemorated - deaths are recorded - families are reunited - memories are made tangible - and love is undisguised. This is a cemetery.*

*Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information and our heritage is thereby enriched.*

*Testimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments and to the life - not death - of a loved one.*

*The cemetery is homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living.*

*A cemetery is a history of people - a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering - always.*

*"For our soul is bowed down to the dust, our body cleaves to the earth."*

*Psalm 44:25*

On Sunday, Oct. 13 the third annual Fall Tour of Mt. Albion Cemetery will be held beginning promptly at 2:00 p.m. The tour is being sponsored by the Friends of Mt. Albion Cemetery and is again hosted by yours truly, Bill Lattin. However, on this occasion Neil Johnson, Historian for the Village of Albion will be a co-guide. The walking tour will start at the cemetery chapel, rain or shine. Here, visitors will have the opportunity to not only see the chapel but also the receiving vault and antique coffin on display, courtesy of the Merrill-Grinnell Funeral Home Inc.

The Friends of Mt. Albion are continuing to raise funds for the restoration of a severely damaged stained glass window in the chapel. Donations toward this restoration fund will be gratefully accepted.

Our photo with this article is compliments of Amber and Richard Kennedy of Jeddo who took it at the spring tour of Mt. Albion, June 1. At that time the tour covered the western portion of the cemetery.

On Oct. 13 the tour will cover the eastern portion of Mt. Albion which is the original or older section. As a warning: because of the severe undulating terrain, be aware that there will be steep inclines to climb. And, as in the past, a \$10 prize will be awarded to the person who is the first to find a symbol which will be designated at tour time.

In planning tours, I've tried to vary them somewhat so as not to be repetitious. Therefore, I'm very pleased that Neil Johnson will be assisting me. We have planned to concentrate on the grave sites of early settlers in our area. Neil will focus on their history through his vast knowledge, much of which he has gleaned from local newspapers. Likewise, I will be pointing out and describing monumental symbols and the architecture of the cemetery. Our stops, to mention a few, will include the gravesite of Coddington Swan, the first burial in Mt. Albion, the Jewish section, the unique plot of the Church Family, the tower and Glen Park where the dedication exercises of Mt. Albion Cemetery