

Bethinking of Old Orleans

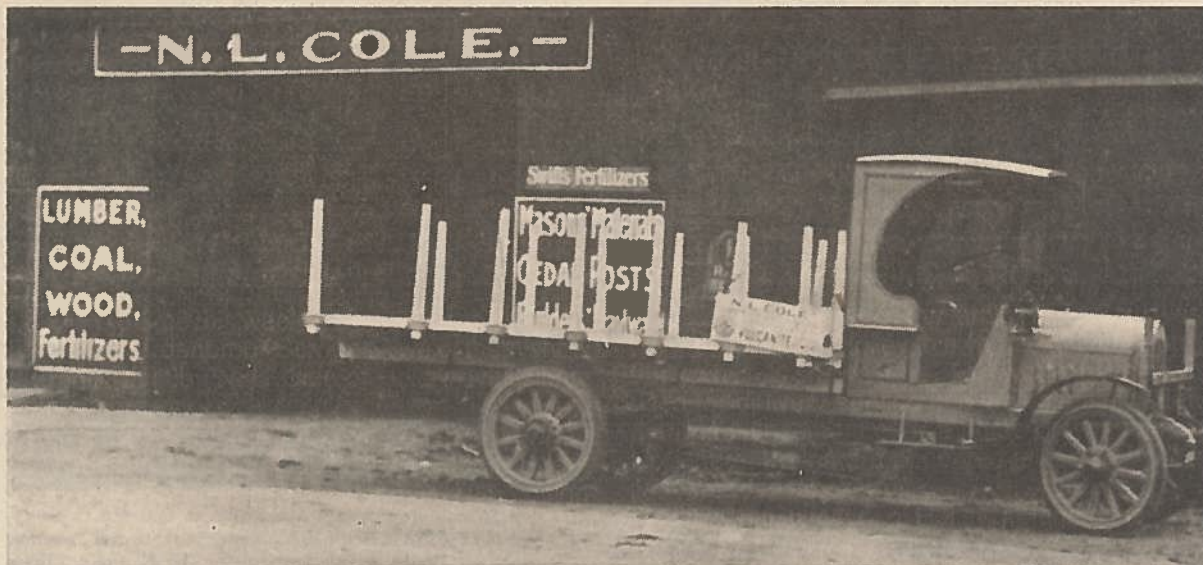
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THE N. L. COLE "HILL"



Our pictures this week are through the courtesy of Kathy Hardenbrook Scroger. Two of them show the "hill" built by N. L. Cole of Holley over eighty years ago.

At the time, Neville L. Cole (1855-1943) owned and operated a lumber business on Geddes Street in Holley. For him, lumber was cheap, so using what he had available, he built a "hill" for sledding purposes. The pictures show two huge sawhorses supporting a platform with a long ramp or "hill" to slide down. This make-shift facsimile of a "hill" was located at the corner of Geddes and Hickey Streets (West Ave.) in Holley. The Cole residence shows in the pictures next to it. The middle photo includes left to right: Lewis Cole, Florence Ives Cole and Kirk Cole. The lower picture shows left to right: Lewis Cole, Edna Cole, Amy Barton Morrow, Florence Ives Cole and Kirk Cole. Note the sled in this picture. It's possible these photos were taken in 1912 or 1913.

Now to the upper photo which shows at the time, the N. L. Cole lumber business. According to

stories handed down in the family, N. L. Cole was the first person in Holley to own and use an "auto" truck which is shown here. This would have been used for delivery service and was certainly seen as an advancement over a horse-drawn wagon. Note here, the hard rubber tires affixed to wheels with wooden spokes.

N. L. Cole, a mayor of Holley, inherited the lumber yard from his father Ira G. Cole in 1900. Lewis I. Cole took over the business around 1940. In 1959 it was sold to Bruce Stockham. The present owners are Mark and Robin Spychalski who acquired it in 1989. Kirk Cole who is pictured here, later owned a lumber yard on West Avenue in Albion.

The signage is interesting in the picture for it tells us N. L. Cole was not only dealing in lumber but, coal, fertilizers, mason's materials, cedar posts and builders hardware. This lumber yard was conveniently located on the New York Central Railroad for easy shipment of supplies to the business.