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Bethinking of Old Orleans

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THE LONE STAR INN

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Fifty years ago the Lone Star Inn was one of the finest restaurants in Orleans County. Serving excellent food and boasting fine service, it attracted the elite. Many of the Lone Star's clientele sought it out from as far away as Buffalo and Rochester on a regular basis. Located on Gaines Basin Road near the New York Central Rail Road it was practically adjacent to the old B, L and R Trolley tracks to the north. It was owned and operated by Lewis E. Sands of Albion and for a season or so was also operated by Art Case who used to manage the old Lakeside Hotel in Lakeside Park.

The Lone Star Inn was created out of the Thurston Farm residence in the early 1920's and had a seating capacity of 450. Often three cash registers were in use for the many large dinner parties, receptions and banquets held there. Live music was frequently provided by some of the best bands of the era in the area.

The large porch was used as a dining room in fair weather where many a lobster, fillet mignon, broiled shrimp or other house specialties were served with vistas of flower gardens around the lawn. In fact, the Albion Rotary Club was founded there and continued to meet there for several years. Amazingly the Lone Star Inn even ran a hot and cold delivery truck in the early 1930's which was a custom made vehicle for the transporting of food for catering purposes.

But all ended one Fall evening in the early 1930's with a disastrous fire which destroyed the entire structure. Following this, the property was purchased by the State School Administration and was used as a prison farm. Two houses were moved on to the site of the Lone Star Inn and several barns were erected. In 1960 Gov. Nelson Rockefeller deemed the State School farm operation inefficient and the property was sold.