

Bethinking of Old Orleans

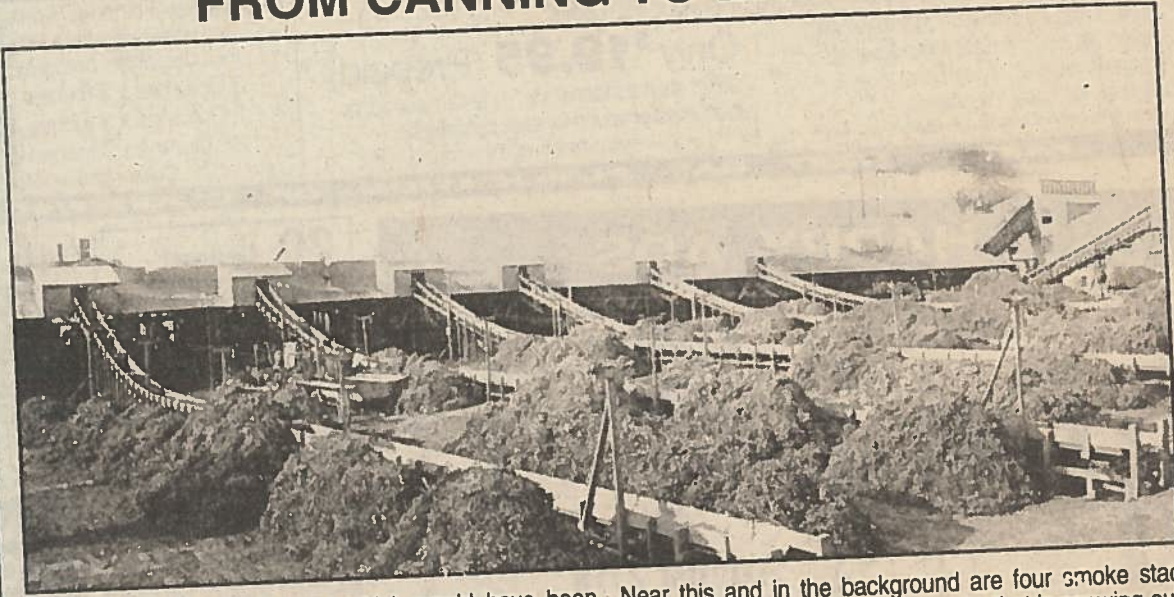
C. W. Lattin County Historian

Vol. XX

8 - 27 - 98

No. 34

FROM CANNING TO BANKING



Our photo this week is one which would have been taken around ninety years ago. It depicts the Burt Olney Company which was located along the railroad off East Avenue in Albion. The view should be of particular interest to anyone associated with the Dime Bank Operations Center which is now located on this property. We would all agree this makes for quite a transformation.

Back when this picture was taken, there were several canning companies operating in Orleans County when farming in our area was much more diversified than it is now. We see here heaps of pea vines ready to be pitched by men into the six conveyers with continuous belts. The pea pods are still on the vines. Once into the shed, the pods were removed and I think the vines carried back out on a continuous belt up another conveyer which we see to the far right in the distance. Here, the vines were dumped on to wagons standing underneath. Looking carefully, we can see a wagon standing there with a load of vines. The other conveyer near this in the distance took the pods into the canning factory for shelling and further processing.

Near this and in the background are four smoke stacks adjacent to a water tank. The smoke that is spewing out is an indication of coal-fired boilers, etc. in the processing of canned foods and running such an operation at the time.

The Burt Olney Canning Co. had plants in Oneida and Albion at the time this picture was taken. They owned the Albion plant between 1903 and 1920. All the buildings in the picture have been removed years ago. With successive canning plants after the Olney Co., masonry structures were built to replace the older wooden ones. It was on these same grounds that German prisoners of War were kept in barracks during World War II. They served in part, as a labor force in the Snyder Canning Factory when tomato-raising was reaching its height in our area.

All in all this is quite an amazing picture when you see the heaps and heaps of pea vines which would all have been brought here by horse and wagon and a lot of human labor. Today's banking operation is a transformation to say the least.