

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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1998 REFLECTIONS OF PUBLIC HISTORIANS PART II

ORLEANS COUNTY TRUST COMPANY



This week we continue with some highlights from the past year as assembled by your local public historians.

Village of Albion - Neil Johnson, Historian

The Chamber of Commerce was deeded the old Citizens National Bank building on Main Street. This, with pending grant funds, will be transformed into office space, visitors center and canal museum, etc. A new auto parts store is being built on West Avenue. Nearby, Monroe Muffler built a garage and opened for business. Waters Auto Body Shop has relocated into the former Agway Store on West Avenue. Through a grant, restoration of the slate roof on the County Clerk's building commenced in the fall. Interior renovations have been taking place at Marine Bank. Our photo, taken back in the 1930s, shows Marine Bank when it was the Orleans County Trust Co.

Town of Albion - Ruth Larimer, Historian

This past spring the present town historian was appointed to take the place of Mrs. Edith Anderson who had served as historian since 1982. Perhaps the most significant highlight which occurred in the town during 1998 was the creation of the Orleans County Public Safety Building at the old Marquarts store. This much needed facility has consolidated several departments into a much more efficient operation for the needs of the people.

Town of Murray/Village of Holley - Marsha DiFilippis, Historian

In April two local boys found the body of a woman missing seven years from the Rochester area. Plans are now in place for the reconstruction of Route 31 through Holley. In September the Holley Fire Department purchased a new pumper. The village board has approved space for an industrial park. In August an historic marker was erected for Phebe Sprague on Geddes Street. A state of emergency was declared on Labor Day following a bad wind storm. Work has begun in connecting the Elementary and Intermediate School buildings. Jim Piedmont, well-known political figure, died in July. He had served for 24 years as Murray supervisor.

Town of Ridgeway - Richard Nellist, Historian

Like several other towns, Ridgeway has a new water district. During 1998 twelve new homes were built in the town. Boat launches were improved at Glenwood Lake, making this area of recreation more accessible.

Town of Gaines - Delia Robinson, Historian/Janice Thaine, Deputy

Highlights for Gaines in 1998 center around Childs. The Village Inn transformed a former residence into a four unit motel called the Fairhaven Inn. The carriage barn with the house has likewise

been turned into a gift shop. These make for attractive additions to the historic theme in Childs. The former H & A store was sold to Dennis Piedmont who effectively renovated it into a convenience store. The Cobblestone Museum purchased an adjoining 1836 brick house, removed the former H & A liquor store, and restored the house to a 19th century appearance. The Watt Fruit Co. acquired a train which they now give rides on through their orchards.

Town of Shelby - Alice Zacher, Historian

In January Shelby broke ground for its fourth water district. The town also adopted a property tax resolution giving increased tax exemption to property owners over 65 and veterans. The Willows marked a decade as an adult home in May. Auto Zone opened a new store on Maple Ridge Road. In August the Smith Family Farm Market held their second annual corn festival. Construction workers laid foundations for a new gymnasium at the Iroquois Job Corps Facility. The new gym and a dormitory are slated to open in September. New "Welcome to Shelby" signs were erected around the town. Don Cook wrote a book, "Taking A Look Back," for the 60th anniversary of Sportsmen's Clubs in Orleans County.

The Medina Area Chamber of Commerce named Michael Zelaney's accounting office Professional Service Business of the Year.

Village of Medina - Edsel Grinnell, Historian

During 1998 Medina experienced the usual changes and improvements. Jose Avila was named police chief by the village trustees, succeeding Don Draper to the position. The Medina Memorial Hospital made news several times. In June the name was changed to Medina Memorial Health Care System. The 90th anniversary of the hospital was also celebrated. A dialysis center was also opened in Batavia. Administrator Walter Becker resigned and was replaced by James Sinner as CEO and president.

In August Ontario Foods in Albion announced they would move to the former Matel Plant in Medina. Also in August, reconstruction of one of Medina's oldest thoroughfares was commenced on State Street. Water lines, sanitary and storm sewers are being replaced and are now 30 percent completed.

Railroad crossings at Main Street, Salt Works Road, Gwinn Street, West Avenue were regraded and rebuilt by the Falls Railroad, a much appreciated improvement. The Glenwood Avenue canal bridge has been repaired with replacement of support steel, resurfacing of the road bed and repainting of frame work. This work was done by the state in preparation for turning the bridge over to the village in the future.