

Bethinking of Old Orleans

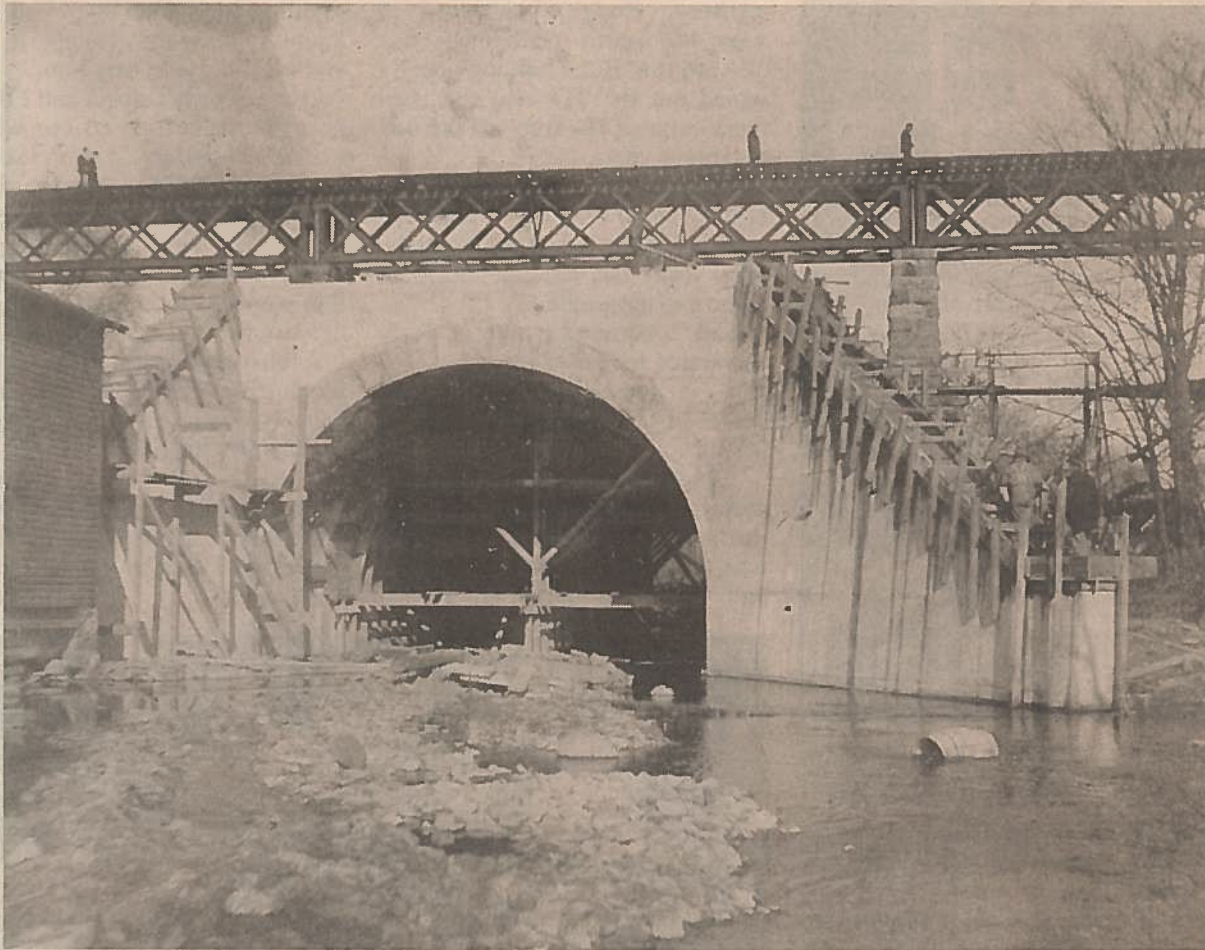
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MEDINA RAILROAD CULVERT



The Rochester, Lockport and Niagara Falls Railroad opened for service in June 1852. In Medina where the tracks crossed Oak Orchard River there is a deep ravine. Because of these high banks it was necessary to build a wooden trestle over 70 feet high. It soon acquired the name "Tin Bridge". This was due to the fact that locomotives at the time burned wood for fuel which, causing sparks, could easily set the trestle on fire. To prevent this from happening, strips of metal were nailed over the wooden structure to arrest the sparks. Thus the name "Tin Bridge". Eventually, the wooden trestle was replaced with a steel bridge which people continued to refer to as "Tin Bridge".

Our photo from the turn of the century shows the steel trestle with several men walking across it. This too, was replaced with a huge culvert which is

shown to be under construction in the picture. Hence, enormous banks of earth were drawn in to cover the top of the culvert to have the road bed up to proper level for tracks. Consequently, when the culvert or aqueduct was completed, the steel trestle was removed.

Our photo here is looking north down Oak Orchard River. The wooden building to the far left which only partially shows, was part of the Mahar Bros. Furniture Company located off Orient Street. Note how the sloping concrete retaining wall on that side is perpendicular to the culvert while the retaining wall to the right is placed at an angle to the culvert. This area is now all over grown with trees so it is almost impossible to see this feat of engineering which trains continue to cross daily.