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Apple harvest circa 1905

This wonderful vintage photograph taken around 95 years ago shows apple harvest at its peak.

Look carefully and you can find seven men and a boy posed in working positions here.

Four of these individuals are seen on ladders leaning into the apple trees. I would estimate that the ladder to the far right is at least 24 feet high.

The apple pickers appear to be using picking baskets rather than picking bags as was later more common.

Just look at the height of these trees compared to the dwarf varieties we see in mod-

ern orchards.

Located about center in our picture is a sorting rack.

Apples were first dumped in here in order to select the quality ones for facing the tops of the barrels.

About six weeks ago an article appeared in this column, Vol. XXII No. 42, about a facing machine. In this case the apples were simply picked out by eye-balling them.

Note the number of barrels that appear to be already packed up. The three barrels that are stacked up show stenciled letters on the head of each barrel. This was like an address. These state:

"Geo. Middlebody & Co., HS Chicago."

Farther down on the barrel head it gives the variety of apple being shipped "Baldwin." By the left leg of the sorting rack is a box with the brass stencil they were using plus brush and paint.

The man standing to the far right is holding a barrel press. This device was used to press or pop the head of the barrel into place, once packed with apples.

The man in the background appears to just be arriving on the scene in a one-horse two-seater surrey.

