

Rethinking of Old Orleans

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Highlights of 2000

At the end of each year, I've taken the opportunity to poll out municipal historians to find out what the major highlights were in their towns and villages.

Our public historians have reported in random order as follows:

Yates Town Historian Virginia Cooper

Atwater Foods Inc., at Millers, expanded its dryhouse operation with a modern addition. Atwater dries apples, prunes and several other fruits of the region.

The kitchen has been remodeled in the Yates Town Hall for more convenience, especially for the Seniors group, which meets there.

Several Amish families have moved into the western part of Yates, while several Mennonites have taken up property on the eastern end of Yates.

Carlton Town Historian Lysbeth A. Hoffman

Kenyonville's ancient Sasafra tree was cut down due to age and decay. At one time, this tree had been proclaimed as the largest and finest of its species in New York state.

As far as anyone could determine, the tree was in the range of 175 years old.

Carlton's Dog Control Law was passed and is in effect. One and a half miles of Transit Road were reconstructed.

A replica of the old Oak Orchard Harbor Lighthouse,

which was destroyed by winds and waves in 1916, was built by Richard Anderson of Oak Orchard On-the-Lake. It was put on display in the conference room at the town building this fall.

The plans for a sports park to be built along Park Avenue were approved.

Eleven new houses were built in the town during the past year and are now occupied.

The Carlton Water District purchased a New Holland Backhoe and the Carlton Highway Department purchased a 2001 Autocar Truck.

Kendall Town Historian Joette Knapp

The sidewalk from Kendall Junior-Senior on Roosevelt Highway to the elementary school on Kendall Road is almost completed. Work on extending water lines continues, although there was no actual installation this year.

Sixteen building permits for new houses were issued. And 106 building permits were issued for other home improvements.

The Kendall Fire Department purchased a "Hurst Tool," otherwise known as the "Jaws of Life."

During Oct. 7-8, a group of "Sons of Norway" from Illinois, New York, New Jersey and seven people from Norway conducted a 175th anniversary celebration of the "Sloopers" coming to America.

The group, named from the type of ship they journeyed on, came in 1825 and established in Kendall the first Norwegian settlement in the United States. A dinner with a program, a Lutheran Church service and four of the area were included in the weekend.

A new business — "Buba's Wings 'n Things" — opened in the former Odd Fellows Building.

Gaines Town Historian Della Robinson Deputy Town Historian Janice Thaine

A new town highway garage was built taking the place of one that collapsed due to a heavy overload of snow. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted Dec. 19 for this building.

The Olde Dogge Inn, a kennel and grooming business for pets opened in Childs.

The Cobblestone Society dedicated a Garden Court on the museum grounds in Childs, in memory of Homer C. Brown and Marcia Brown Hart.

The northern-most point on the Erie Canal — 900 feet west of the Gaines Basin Road bridge — was marked with an historic marker.

Shelby Town Historian Lou Fuller

The town has purchased the former Niagara Mohawk building on Salt Works Road, near the railroad.



Once renovated, this will become the new Shelby Town Hall and highway garage, thus relocating from the present site on Maple Ridge Road.

Albion Village Historian Neil Johnson

Hillary Rodham Clinton made a visit to Albion Feb. 8 at the Village House restaurant. Late night talk show hosts had fun with the news that she forgot to leave a tip for the waitress.

The former site of Henri's inn, which burned in 1994, is now a village parking lot. The former Citizens Bank

has been enclosed and deeded to the village, which will finish it off. The village has established an Historic Preservation Commission that is working toward an historic district.

The widening of routes 98 and 31 has been planned to commence in 2001. Tops Markets is planning a move to the former site of the Piazza Green House, where millions of tomato plants were raised during the 1950s.

Barre Town Historian Helen Mathes

Barre started out the year

with a new supervisor in Mark Chamberlain.

It wasn't the best year ever for farmers especially the muckers. Five new houses were built in the town during 2000 compared to zero in 1999.

Both the Barre Center Church has architectural plans for expanding, which include moving the old Grange Hall. Plans also have been drawn for expanding the present town hall on West Barre Road.

The picture shown here, is of a lime kiln somewhere in Barre around 100 years ago.