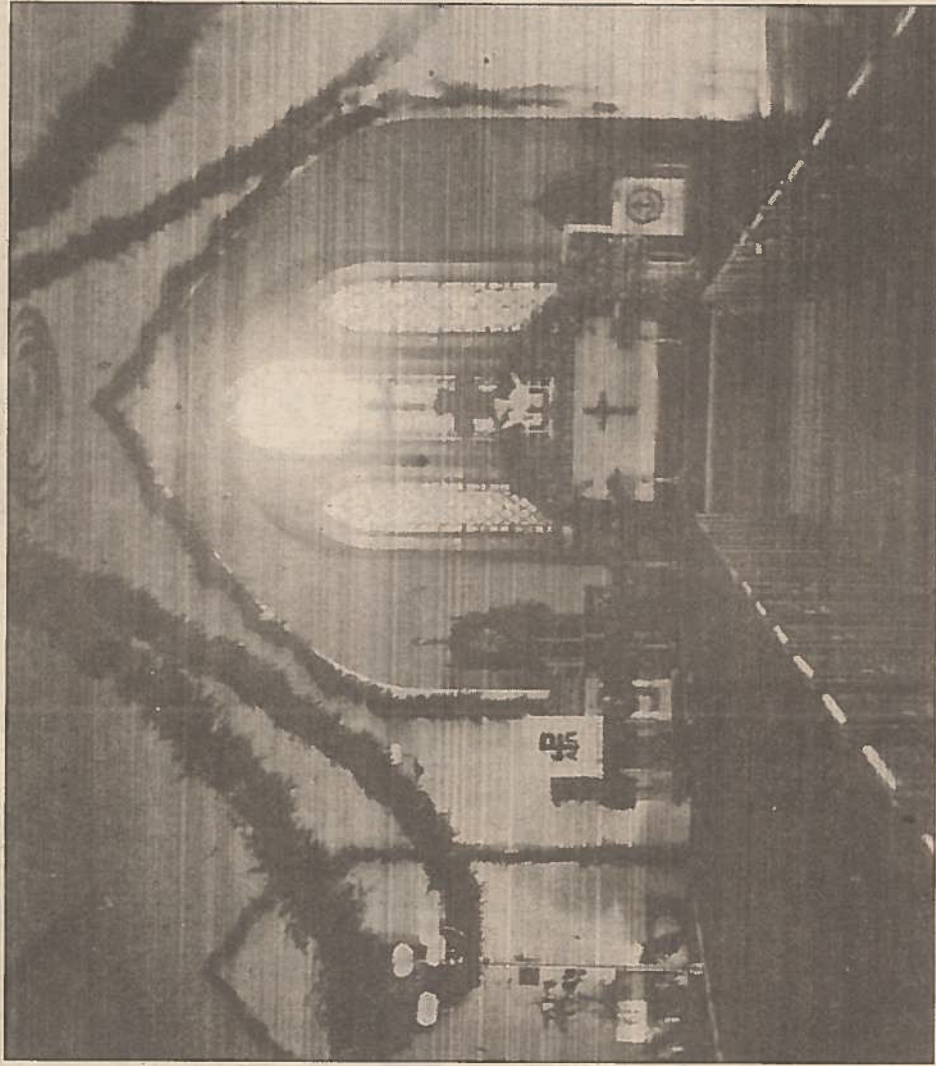


Rethinking of Old Orleans

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The church in the middle of the street

St. John's Episcopal Church in Medina has the unique physical location of being in the middle of Church Street.

An historic marker in front of the church on East Center denotes this unusual feature and indicates its inclusion in "Ripley's Believe it or Not."

This is just one of 78 tidbits of local history mentioned in a recent publication entitled "Historic Markers in Orleans County N.Y." The 44-page booklet contains the text of all the historic markers in Orleans County. This has been compiled by the Orleans County Historian and the Village of Albion Historian with help from the Carlton Historian. It has been dedicated to Frank Berger of Medina and was published in recognition of the 175th anniversary of Orleans County. This illustrated book may be purchased at the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce offices in Medina and Albion. More details will follow next week for ordering by mail.

As to our photo, which accompanies this story: it was taken in St. John's Church at Christmas time, 1881. We first notice the extensive use of evergreen garland which the ladies of the church probably handmade. With a closer look, however, we can find

many interesting details. From left to right: A large marble baptismal font appears to have a double use as an urn for a plant. An organ now occupies this space. But when this photo was taken the organ was in the balcony in the rear of the church. In 1890 the present organ was installed at St. John's. The old one was sold and placed in Trinity Lutheran Church on West Avenue in Medina.

Note the gas light fixture which comes up between some of the pews. Next we see the pulpit which has a banner on it, denoting Christ as the beginning and end. Just to the right of this in the background of the sanctuary is the bishop's chair. The altar which is the centerpiece here has two decorative crosses on it. The windows behind it have long since been removed and replaced with a different window. To the right of the altar is another banner with an anchor, symbolic of hope. I believe this hangs from the front of a lectern. Notice in the center aisle a large round floor register for central heating.

The historic marker booklet is illustrated throughout with such pictures as this to enhance the publication and to illustrate various historic themes.