

Rethinking of Old Orleans

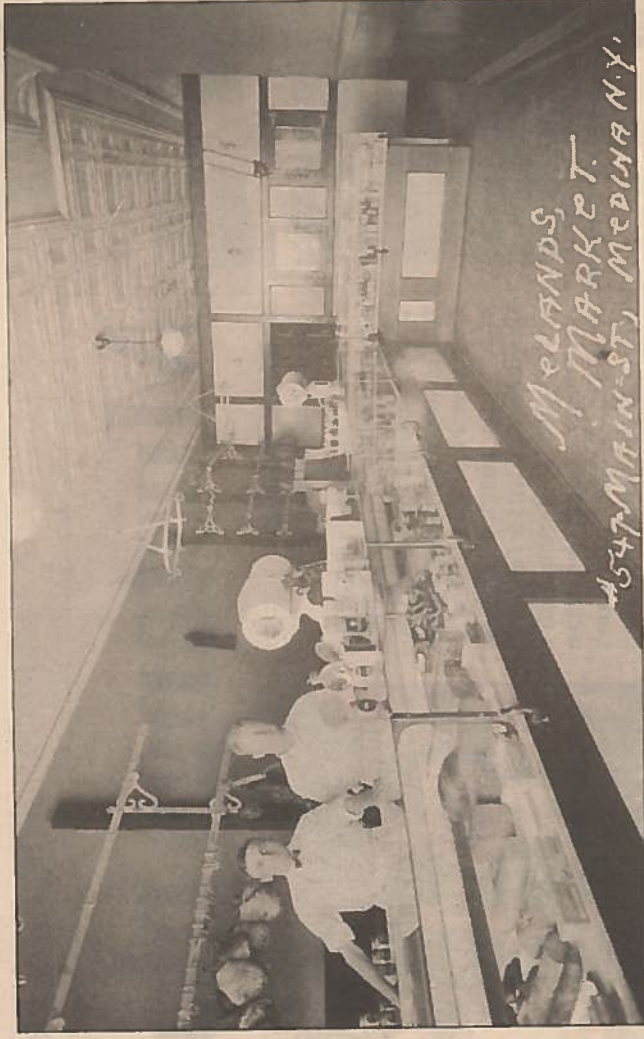
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Meland's: Albion and Medina



Our photos presented this week are through the courtesy of Richard Monacelli of Albion. One picture represents Meland's IGA store on Bank Street in Albion while the other represents Meland's Meat Market at 547 Main St. in Medina.

In the Albion store we notice a banner which states: "Member Champion Team Eastern League 1930." An American Eagle also appears in a shield with the IGA letters superimposed over it. With this we can assume the pictures

were taken in 1930 or certainly shortly thereafter.

The 1930 Niagara-Orleans County Directory lists these markets. Under Albion, Austin E. Meland is shown as a grocer at 42 E. Bank St. and also proprietor of the hotel. In fact, the IGA store front was located in the old hotel building at the corner of Platt Street.

Under the Medina listing in the 1930 Directory we also find Austin Meland and the notation "Meats" at 547 Main St., and Harry Meland with the same

notation, "Meats" at 547 Main St. The Directory also indicates that Harry lived on Park Avenue in Medina and Austin on North Main Street in Albion.

I find it interesting that in 1930 there are some 52 grocers listed for Orleans County. The Directory also lists 15 meat markets in the county as well. There may well have been more of each, which didn't make the listing.

That, compared to the number of grocery stores today, is certainly an astounding decline.

There were grocery stores in individual neighborhoods 70 years ago, especially the ethnic neighborhoods. Almost every little hamlet had its own grocer.

Meland's Market in Medina was located across the street from the S.A. Cook Building. It is fair to assume that one of these men in the Medina store is Harry Meland.

With the Albion store photo we may assume that Austin Meland is the man standing behind the counter with the apron. However, none of the five people shown in

the picture are identified.

In the Albion picture, we notice two different brands of coffee, one for 25 cents a pound, another for 28 cents a pound. A sign advertises two boxes of Pillsbury Cake Mix for 67 cents.

In the Medina store we see smoked hams hanging out in the open, while cold cuts and wieners are behind glass in a case.

The prices for groceries have certainly increased over the years.