



Bethinking of Old Orleans

By C.W. Lattin, Orleans County historian

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Albion Knights of Columbus

Over the years, the Orleans County Courthouse has served as a backdrop for various community groups to have their pictures taken. Here we see the Albion Council No. 1330 Knights of Columbus assembled on the front steps around 85 years ago.

The K of C, as it is best known, is a fraternal and beneficent society of Catholic men which was founded in 1882 in New Haven, Conn. The Rev. M. J. McGivney was the founder of this organization which was to promote Catholic education and charity.

The Albion council was instituted on June 2, 1908. The first degree was conferred in Village Hall to 46 charter members. The first Grand Knight was Thomas A. Kirby, a talented leader who was a local prominent attorney. Names of the men in this picture are not recorded. However, I can identify Mr. Kirby who is seated in the third row up, second from the left. Two others who are also identifiable are John Bordwell, fourth row up, seated third from the left, and Daniel Dugan, top row, sixth from the right in front of the court house column. There are 76 men in all in the picture. It is reported that by 1920 the council pos-

essed 108 members. Judging from the style of clothes and hats it is a fair guess that this picture was taken in the teens.

In the fall of 1908 rooms were secured on the second floor of the Bordwell block. When John Bordwell became Grand Knight the council leased the third floor as well. From here the K of C moved to the Warner block and eventually membership dropped. Then in the early 1940s Joseph McKenna became Grand Knight and the council purchased its own building, a house once used as Christ Church Rectory on Platt Street. Guido Mancelli loaned funds to purchase this property. With their own building the Knights began to prosper. In 1959 this building was sold to the telephone company which razed it for the present telephone building. The Albion council then relocated to East Avenue in the present K of C Hall which was constructed around 40 years ago for that expressed purpose.

As St. Joseph's Parish in Albion is now in its 150th anniversary year, we take liberty to note this facet of its history.