



Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Perchance you noticed the volume number in this, my first column for 2003. It was in January 1979 that I began writing "Bethinking of Old Orleans." Therefore this is the beginning of the 25th year.

As I have frequently done in years past, I've put together a review of highlights in the county for this issue. This is done with the aid of several of our public historians for whose help I am grateful.

Here are a few selected highlights for the past year. The village of Albion continues to undergo reconstruction of its main arteries, namely Route 31 and Route 98. With this under way, the village of Medina anticipates the same sort of reconstruction to its main thoroughfares.

Albion was recently named one of seven most endangered historic sites in the state. Its rich architectural heritage and its relationship to the Erie Canal are worthy of preservation.

Construction work was completed on the Orleans County Courthouse and Clerk's Office for more space and handicapped accessibility. The county Legislature was again plagued with how to maintain service through a weakened economy and shortfalls on revenue.

Assemblyman Charles Nesbitt came to the rescue for partially funding the county libraries, which had been cut from the county budget.

The village of Holley was in the news during

2002 in part because of the Diaz chemical spill which caused the evacuation of several residents from their homes. The first business, Precision Plastics, took up residence in the new industrial park in Holley. While this was on the plus side, it was unfortunate to see Ames close their stores in Medina and Albion. A new Tops store, however, is now well under way in construction in Albion.

Weather, too, played its roll during 2002. On Feb. 1, a bad ice storm caused extensive damage throughout the county, which was declared in a state of emergency. Then, on March 10, wind storms caused many power outages.

Farmers suffered losses because of a very dry growing season, reporting about 75 percent harvest rate as compared to a normal season. Tons of muckland onions were thrown out because they did not store well. Likewise, apple producers complained of only a partial crop affected by the weather conditions.

As we look ahead to 2003, plans are well under way for the 100th anniversary celebration of the incorporation of Lyndonville. Along with this, the village of Albion will note its 175th anniversary in April, having been incorporated in 1828.

Our photo shows the railway depot at Lyndonville about the time the village was incorporated in 1903.