



Bethinking of Old Orleans

Vol. XXV

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No. 31

Victorian Tea

8/1/03

Today's photograph, dated 1892, shows six ladies at what I assume is a tea.

If memory serves me correctly, the tea is taking place in the dining room of the Franklin Clarke residence, which was located on South Main Street in Albion. The house was built in 1888, and torn down in 1967 to make room for a Bells Supermarket.

At any rate, our ladies all appear in formal attire, and each one is wearing a little lace cap. Several of them are holding tea cups. The table is adorned with lighted candlesticks, and a candelabra is in the middle next to a vase of roses.

The setting represents Victorian clutter at

its best. This was the era of the great cover-up. Notice the number of things that are draped, including the easel, the mantle and a picture on the wall. A three-panel screen is more of a decoration than to hide something.

From noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, a Victorian tea will be held at Ward House, during the Cobblestone Exposition in Childs. This historic home was once owned by Horace Greeley.

Pat Morrisey will be the hostess for this tea, which will be served in a setting not unlike the dining room in our photo. Tea and cookies await the guests.