

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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A.L. Swett Iron Works — 1939

The photo presented here shows the A.L. Swett Iron works in Medina in early 1939. What we see in this interior shot by Fred Holt is the production of park benches for the New York World's Fair of 1939. This fair, which was located at Flushing, Long Island, cost more than \$156 million to produce at the time. The A. L. Swett Foundry received the contract to manufacture 2,000 park benches, with cast iron legs and wooden slats. It was reported at the time this order kept the Swett foundry operating on a five-day week for two months.

Note in the picture a number of cast iron ends leaning

against a post in the building. Several employees can also be seen assembling these benches with their wooden slats. The armrest of each bench is circular, giving it an art deco quality of design that would have been seen as very modern back then.

The A.L. Swett Iron Works was located on Glenwood Avenue in Medina with Raymond F. Swett as president in 1939. His father, Albert L. Swett, had established a foundry business in Medina during the late 19th century. They produced soil pipe, agricultural equipment and custom work for several decades.

