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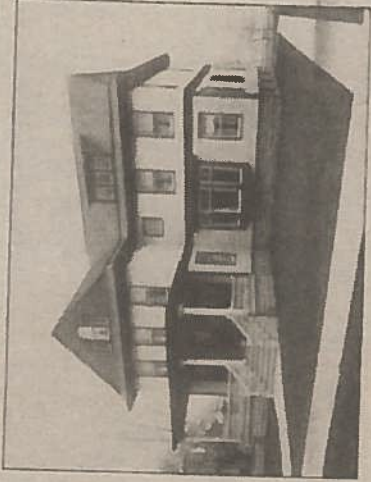
## BETHINKING OF OLD ORLEANS

## Women's Work

BY C. W. LATTIN

This is a page taken from the Souvenir Book of the Village of Albion 1905. It shows the residence of Martin Tilden on West Bank St. in Albion and the bean house directly behind it on West Academy backing up to the Erie Canal. What is interesting is there are 48 women pictured here with just two men in the doorway at the top of the staircase. Bean houses, like apple dry houses, hired women as seasonal laborers to sort or pick beans as it was considered women's work at the time. Wages from \$6,000 to \$9,000 per year, as noted, were collected.

A man like Tilden bought threshed beans from local farmers in bulk. The beans had to be stored so women like these were employed to pick out what were called the "poor beans." Help like this probably sat along picking



RESIDENCE OF M. W. TILDEN

TILDEN & SCHARPING  
Grain and Bean Business

Highest cash market price paid on delivery  
All kinds of grain, clover, timothy and garden seeds for sale.

M. W. TILDEN'S BEAN AND GRAIN WAREHOUSE.  
Now conducted by Tilden & Scharping.

Employing from 30 to 100 women for picking beans. Wages ran from \$4,000 to \$9,000 per year.



machine equipment, in the bean house, where a conveyer belt passes slowly by so the women could sort out the poorer beans. This poorer stock became food for swine, as it was cheaper than the

quality beans used for human consumption as in the form of delicious baked beans piping hot out of a bean pot.

The Tilden bean house was conveniently located on the Erie Canal for easy transporta-

tion years ago for shipping purposes. When the Erie Canal was enlarged in this area, roughly between 1911-1913, the bean house we see was torn down because of this expansion.