



Bicycle Belles of '94

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Reminiscences

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In this week's issue, I have taken some one-liners from a column published in the Orleans Republican back in 1922. The column in this Albion paper, titled *Reminiscences*, was compiled by Lafayette H. Beach. At the top of each column it stated, "Doings of the Old Days Long Gone By — Do You Remember?"

"When the lumber used hereabouts came down the canal or from farmers' wood lots in the shape of logs which were sawed and dressed at our three saw mills?"

"When drug stores displayed in their window big red and green bottles which pierced the darkness at night with their colors?"

"When as late as in the 1860s pots and kettles were to be seen on cranes in open fireplaces in the houses of some of our pioneer settlers?"

"When the milkman rang his bell at your front gate and you went out with a pail or pitcher to receive your dipped milk, before we learned to fear germs?"

"When the women and children found work during the Civil War making lint for use in dressing wounds in the hospitals, surgical gauze being then unknown?"

"When a tall liberty pole stood on the north side of the canal near to Mansion House, with a perch halfway up on which rested a big wooden eagle?"

"When four or five town pumps were maintained at different points in the village?"

"When cows roamed the village streets and were sometimes slyly coaxed into backyards and robbed of their milk by mischievous boys who had learned how to filch the lacteal fluid?"

"When the gas company employed lamp-lighters to light and extinguish the gas lamps about town and they made their daily trips with

a ladder and a pocket full of matches?"

"When the first moving picture was shown in Albion, depicting the rescue of two horses from a burning barn, and how we all wondered at the curling smoke and moving figures?"

"When venison and bear meat were sold in the local markets every winter?"

"When George Wilson traveled with his panoramic wagon of war views and dispensed root beer from his octagon stand on East State Street as people journeyed to Mt. Albion on Sundays?"

"When the traveling junkmen visited your home and swapped tinware for ragbags and gave soft soap for wood washes?"

"When country school teachers were paid \$5.00 a week and boarded 'round?"

"When Albion was filled with tailor and cobbler shops and when we all had our clothes and boots made to measure?"

"When tobacco was a staple farm crop along Ridge Road and when revenue agents used to snoop around and try to catch farmers selling tobacco without a government tax?"

"When a distillery did business on the main highway south of Albion?"

"When one of the accomplishments of every grocer was the ability to roll a cornucopia to hold your purchases, before bags came into general use."

"When the County Clerk occupied a little one story brick building standing west of the Court House, and so dark that gas jets were always burning?"

"When Norman Standish had a grocery store at the Gaines Basin bridge?"

More to follow next week.