



## BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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# Spraying apples the old way

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Our photo shown here is taken from a booklet published in 1912 by the Albion Chamber of Commerce. On Aug. 14 and 15 of that year, the New York State Fruit Grower's Association met in Albion. The conference used both the courthouse and the auditorium of the Albion High School on East Academy Street for meetings and entertainment.

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church provided dinner and supper for 150 people. An automobile trip was scheduled through the county to see orchards and equipment on the 14th with lunch at Point Breeze. Such equipment as we see here was no doubt demonstrated at some point during the day.

This spray rig was obviously a horse-drawn piece of equipment for a two-man operation. A gasoline engine and pump created pressure for squirting spray onto apple trees. Because these trees were allowed to grow so high, a tower was necessary for the man spraying to reach the treetops. The lower man is spraying branches closer to the ground.

The spray solution used back then was blue vitriol. This product came in crystallized form, which had to be crushed before it was dissolved in water for spraying purposes. Before fruit farmers spraying apple trees in the 1890's worms were abundant. The only way to control those pests was to hire men to pick them out of the trees by hand, which was a nasty job. It's not surprising this early spray rig is called "friend."