

# Albion Water Works

BY C.W. LATTIN

A frequent question posed to me is "What is the old brick building west of Albion, north of the Canal?" This structure with a tall smoke stack and high water tank was built in 1887-88 and served as the Albion Water Works.

Our photo taken 50 years ago shows the fitter tanks and pump house at this plant.

Water at that time was supplied by the canal and a reservoir in Otter Creek off Route 31 and the Eagle Harbor-

West Barre Road. A small pump house located on the Albion-Eagle Harbor Road at Otter Creek pumped water to the plant in our photo.

When the Water Works was established, water was obtained from 14 wells one mile west of Albion. Two steam engines could pump a million gallons of water on a daily basis to the standpipe located on South Main Street and Allen Road. This tank was completed in the fall of 1888 and stood 160 feet above the level of Bank Street. The tank was 75 feet high and supplied water to 101 hydrants.

In 1891, there were 540

customers using this municipal water system.

In 1934, improvements were made to the existing water system and at that time a second standpipe was erected next to the original one.

Prior to municipal water being supplied to the Water Works, people were on their own well water or used town pumps at wells provided by the village in a few various locations.

Notice: The tour of Mount Albion Cemetery will be at 2 p.m. Saturday.

