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# Remembering the Hotel Orleans

BY C.W. LATTIN

This picture was taken circa 1920 in the dining room of the Hotel Orleans, which was located at East Bank and Platt streets in Albion.

The 1921 Orleans County Directory indicates that Herbert S. Field was the proprietor at that time.

Our picture shows a long narrow room with windows that would have faced Platt Street covered with lace curtains.

Steam heat through radiators was the state of the art in heating at the time.

The lighting fixtures have six branches, three for gas and three for electricity. Combination fixtures like this were common back in the 1890s and first decades of the 20th century. The power was out more frequently so gas was

there for when that happened. We also notice a large ceiling fan for air circulation when it was hot weather.

The tables are all neatly set with white linen tablecloths and matching napkins. Place settings include dinner fork, knife, soup spoon, desert spoon and teaspoon. Most tables seem to have a water carafe on them.

Two buffets appear in the dining room as serving stations. Near one we see the ubiquitous potted palm so popular in that era. The patrons are all seated in very nice spindle back chairs.

The Hotel Orleans was built in the mid-1860's and burned and destroyed several years ago.

Such notables as William F. Cody "Buffalo Bill" and ex-President Taft stayed there on visits to Albion. Taft having been there in 1920, the time frame of this picture.

