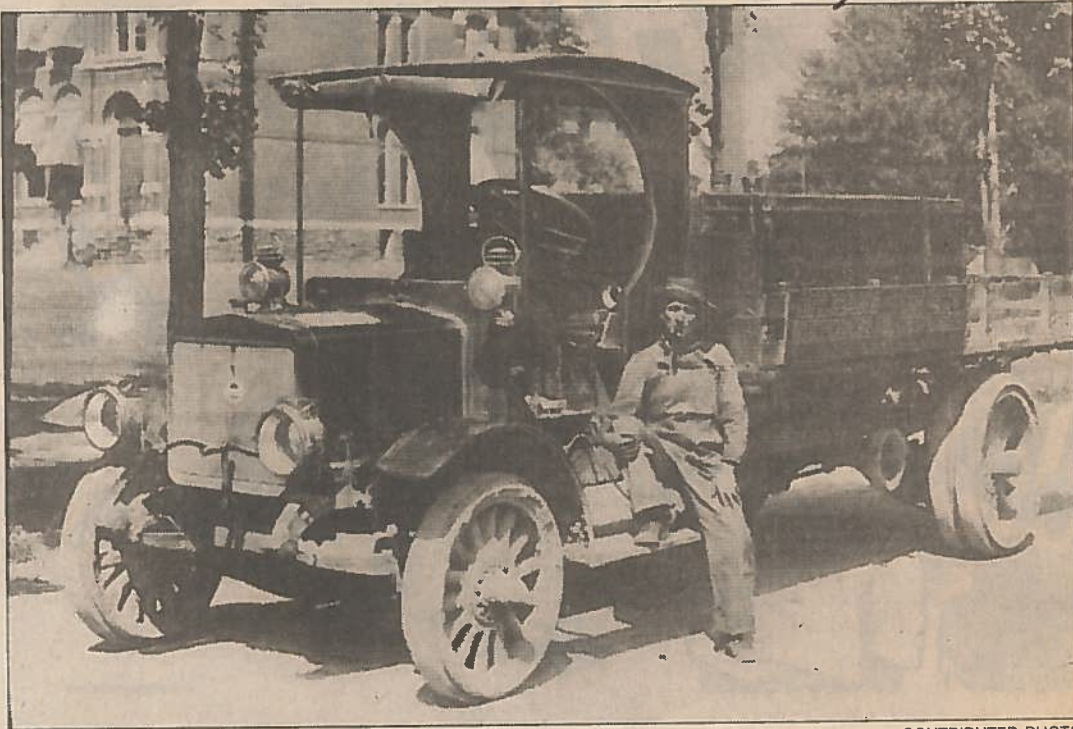


BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Motor vehicle information

BY C.W. LATTIN

In March 1920 it was reported that in 1919, there were 3,406 motor vehicles in Orleans County. As stated in an article, "one to every 10 inhabitants." The total registration for New York state was 571,662, or one car for every 16 people. The article further states this figure shows a 23 percent over 1918.

For 1919 in Orleans County there were 2,998 pleasure cars, 327 trucks, an increase of 116 over 1918, and 119 motorcycles. Also mentioned is the fact that automobile dealers increased state-wide from 2,252 in 1918 to 2,681 in 1919.

It was in 1906 that State Senator Irving L'Houmedieu from Medina, who introduced legislation requiring license plates in 1906. Just imagine, those early people driving horseless carriages around without a driver's license or a license plate on the car. You simply bought the car and started driving.

Our truck pictured here is from around 1918. Parked on East Park Street with the county

clerk's office in the background, the driver poses on the running board. A sign to his right indicates "Orleans County Independent Oil Company." Note the hard rubber ties and wooden spokes. There is no windshield or doors on the cab. A crank was used for starting the engine which shows in front

of the radiator. Back in these early developmental years of the motor vehicles, America was sure on a roll.