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An Unpublished Romance

BY C.W. LATTIN

This is, in effect, a short story which was published in one of the Albion newspapers back in September 1903. It came under the title "An Unpublished Romance," with a sub-title "An incident of the roller skating craze twenty or more years ago."

It's true, roller skating became popular in the 1880's when rinks were built for such a purpose. Musical entertainment would have been part of the ambiance in some of these places as well.

Our photo from about the time of this story shows Hamilton's Livery on East Bank St. It's the building with a picture of a horse's head in the gable.

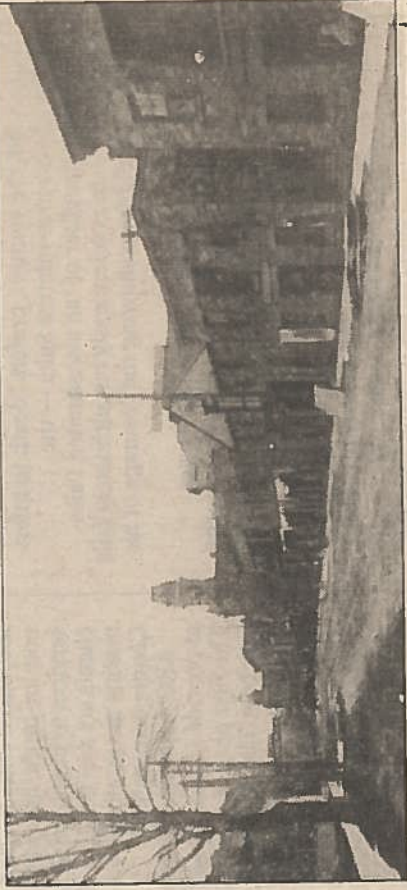
The romance (unedited) as it appeared in 1903 is as follows:

"I saw a child on roller skates the other day," said an Albion man to us last week," and it recalled a romantic affair which never got into the papers.

You remember what a rage for roller skating prevailed twenty years ago, and how skating rinks were erected in every town of any population. The stone building now occupied by Hamilton's livery stable was originally built for a roller rink by Albert S. Warner and was managed by Wm. A. Parmaly.

The craze took a firm hold on the young people here, and among them was a girl with a pretty face and attractive figure who was the admiration of all observers as she glided over the floor on the rollers. A traveling man happened in the rink one evening and immediately fell 'head over heels' in love with the graceful skater.

"He gained an introduction and in the next few weeks neglected his business to conduct a vigorous courtship. Things were going on finely toward matrimonial end when the girl chanced to learn that her lover had a wife and child in his home city. She charged him with the



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them upon the girl.

"Exposure followed and the man fled to Canada. Sickness ensued and in a month his corpse was sent to his faithful but neglected wife at home.

"Luckily he carried \$5,000 insurance and this made him worth more dead than alive.

"What became of the girl in the romance? Oh, she married, went west, and is now living a happy life west of the Mississippi."

fact, but he made a denial, and the courtship was resumed.

"Then like a thunderbolt from the clear sky, came the news that the villain had so neglected his duties as a salesman, in order to be near the roller-skater whose fascinations held him with an iron grip, that he had sent to his house fake orders to keep up appearances and, worse yet, had appropriated to his own use funds which he had collected from patrons and expended