

Rethinking of Old Orleans

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JACOB LANDAUER 1867-1946

Louis Monacelli Photo

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“Jake” Landauer, a name which resounds beyond his grave. It is the name of a man who was widely known and highly respected the length and breadth of Orleans County. Although he died almost 35 years ago he is still remembered to day first and foremost as a leading merchant and public servant to his community.

Jacob Landauer attended the old Albion Academy and at the age of 15 began his employment and career in his father's drygoods store which was to give him 65 years as a business man. In 1905 he married Eva Goodman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Goodman. In that same year they erected a large house at 228 West State Street in Albion where they lived the rest of their lives. Jacob and Eva had one son Stanley. It is his two sons, Stanley Jr. “Skip” and Donald “Don” who presently operate the Landauer Clothing Store in Albion.

The Landauer clothing business actually began in Albion back in 1863 when “Jake’s” father Simon and a brother Moritz opened a store on the east side of Main Street. These two German brothers first came to America, settling in Macon, Georgia and established a store there but to avoid conflicts of the Civil War left the south for Orleans County. In 1882 Simon and Moritz dissolved their partnership so that Moritz could go into business with his sons Louis and Sam and they established a drygoods store known as Upper Landauers where the Shamrock Bar is located today. In turn, Simon went into business with his son Jacob and they established a drygoods business at the present location in 1882 known as Lower Landauers.

Upon the death of Isaac Landauer in 1895, Louis and Sam his nephews took over his drygoods business in Medina which was located where the J.C. Penney Store is. This business became known as Landauer Brothers with Sam overseeing the Medina Store and Louis looking after the Albion store.

Simon Landauer retired from Lower Landauers in 1890 and Jacob took a brother-in-law, Morris Strouse into partnership. Strouse had married Miss Augusta Landauer “Jake’s” sister. In 1914 the elder Strouse was succeeded by a son, “Sid” Strouse. In 1895 the business expanded from one store front to two and in 1910 these combined blocks of F.A. Day and D.P. Day were purchased by the Landauer concern.

As a public servant “Jake” Landauer was first elected to the Village Board of Trustees. In 1933 he was elected Mayor on the Democratic ticket over Harold Thompson. Three years later he was re-elected when he defeated Peter A. Dragon. In 1942 he completed his third term which had been won by a close margin over Pasquale Dilibura. As Mayor he succeeded Daniel Hanley, Sr. and was succeeded by Francis H. Blake. During his tenure as village head a new water standpipe on South Main was erected and a new water department building. Also several streets were paved.

He was President of the Albion Lions Club and President of the Albion Chamber of Commerce. He was an active Mason, including the Blue Lodge, and it was he as Master of Renovation Lodge who laid the corner stone in 1906 for the old Albion Grammar School, then a High School. For over 30 years he had been a member of the Dye Hose Company. “Jake” Landauer had a very special hobby. He was a collector of diamonds and prided himself on some of the items in his collection.