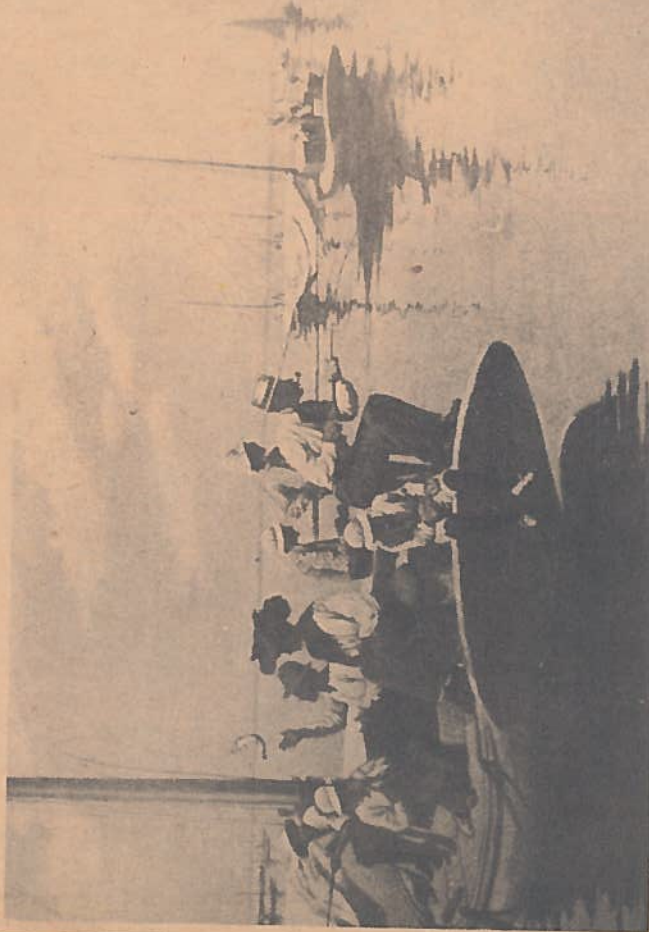


# Bethinking of 10-1-81 Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



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## FEELIN' FREE FISHIN'

And I think, as I angle for fish,  
In the hope that my hooks will attach 'em,  
It's delightfully easy to fish...

But harder than blazes to catch 'em.

For generations the call of outdoors has lured the likes of man, from school boys to old timers to lay down their routines and just go a fishin'. Sometimes it's with the high hope of bringing home a beauty while sometimes it's just to have fun with the boys. Sometimes it's a necessity with a mouth watering taste like nothing else. And sometimes it's just to seek solitude and commune with nature at its best. But whatever time it is, it's the feeling of being free. That's what it's all about. Ah yes, to get away from it all.

Got your pole and line? Got your hooks and a bobber too? Got your lures and bait? Oops, don't forget that 'dag blasted' license. Where's the dingy? Let's go fishin'.

The Orleans County Salmon and Trout Derby is being held Thursday, October 1 through Sunday, October 4, 1981. It is being sponsored by the Orleans County Fisheries Board and is the first such derby ever to be held just within Orleans County. So you see it's kind of like history in the making. Prizes will be issued at the Derby Awards Night at Ricci Meadows in Carlton on October 4.

Let's now go back one hundred and ten years and see what Arad Thomas had to say about this subject in his Pioneer History of Orleans County which was published in 1871.

"Fish were plenty in the streams, coming up from Lake Ontario in great numbers.

"At the first settlement of the country, white men and Indians caught an abundance of salmon here. These fish, in high water would run up the Oak Orchard and Johnson's Creek, and out into their tributaries, where they were often taken. Salmon were once caught in a small stream in the west part of the town of Gaines. It is related that at an early day, after a high freshet, Mr. John Hood caught a number of salmon on the bank of this stream, south of West Gaines, where a tree had overturned, leaving a hole through which the water had flowed; and where they were left when the water subsided.

"A kind of sucker fish, called red sides, used to run up from the lake in plenty. They were taken in April and May, in seines, by wagon loads. The salmon disappeared years ago, and very few red sides run now."

But the salmon have returned, thanks to foresight in stocking and rejuvenation attempts at cleaning up Lake Ontario. So once again you can FISH 'N FEEL FREE.