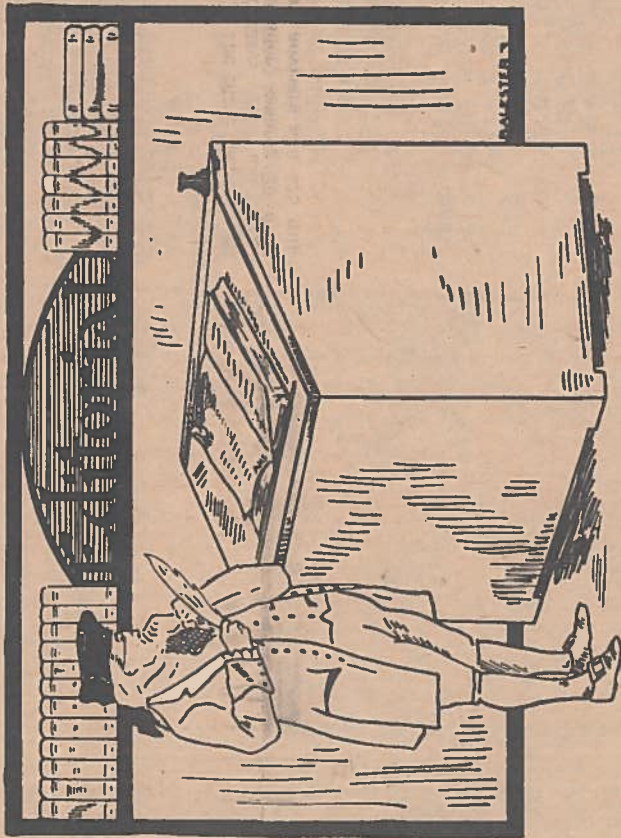


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# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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1981 COMPLETE AND "EVERYTHING IS COPACETIC"

Our illustration this week, a pen and ink drawing entitled "Editorial" by the late Jack Balester is reproduced from the 1925 Christmas edition of the Albion High School Chevron.

As 1981 draws to a close, I will reflect upon some of our most recent history which has occurred in the past twelve months. In compiling a very selective account of a few happenings I'm sure the result will seem somewhat editorialized, hence the illustration.

First off we find that the 1980 census bureau figures give us a modest increase in population in Orleans County since 1970. Next I would mention the booklet "Discover Orleans County" which was a joint effort of the Albion and Medina Chambers of Commerce. Although there have been pro and con evaluations of it, it is certainly to be included among one of our achievements. Surely one of the year's highlights took place on Flag Day when the Orleans County Court House Square District including thirty-four buildings was dedicated into the National Registry with a solemn and impressive ceremony which was in part, conducted by the BPOE Elks. Another event which attracted much attention during October was the county's first Salmon and Trout Derby sponsored by the Orleans County Fisheries Board. I would also mention the seemingly successful attempts of Bald Eagle restoration through the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge.

Other accomplishments include: the finishing of the Point Breeze boat launching and parking facility complete with rest rooms, the reroofing of the Orleans County Infirmary and completion of the new county office building behind it. Progress also continues on the new Medina Memorial Hospital wing which will be complete early next year and restoration is underway at the Medina Armory.

A contract was finally OK'd for Global Cable television to be installed in Albion. It is also noteworthy to mention the acquisition of the Albion Advertiser by the Medina Journal-Register.

The Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department marked twenty-five years with a successful celebration in August. On July Fourth the National Commander of the American Legion dedicated the new Sheret Post Community Building in Albion. Other dignitaries who have passed through Orleans County this last year include: U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the Hon. Richard M. Rosenbaum, and Rep. Jack Kemp.

For people in Lyndonville a new slogan was coined "We Love Lyndonville". It's important to note these creative accomplishments such as the new reading book "I Am Your Reading Partner" by county author, Thomas D'Andrea.

Along with many other events and accomplishments too numerous to mention there were ones hard to resolve such as the Landfill and possible Port off the shoreline in the Town of Yates. A close vote concerning the County Legislature has left that unresolved with 3309 Yes and 4241 No votes. And there are the few things that just shouldn't have happened, such as the Landauer Store closing after 116 years, four men escaping from the Orleans County jail and the awful calamity of arson at Sacred Heart Church in Medina.

But all in all, "everything is copacetic" as 1981 winds down. I'm not a clairvoyant but as we look ahead to 1982 I can tell you Medina will be in the spotlight by celebrating its sesquicentennial. The Cobblestone Museum will erect a replica of a 19th century Liberty Pole and the restoration of the lily pond at Mt. Albion Cemetery will be finished.