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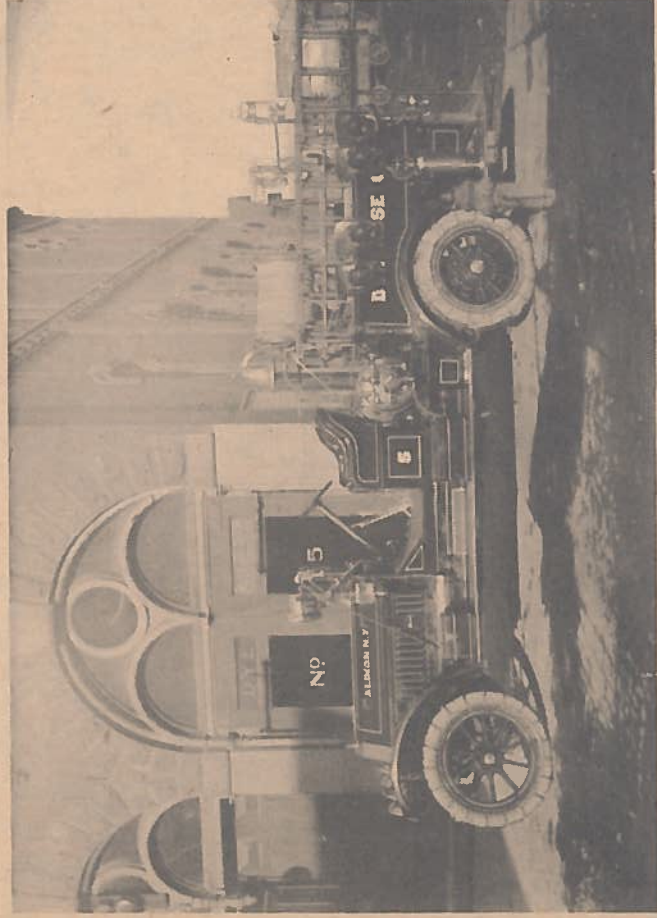
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# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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C.W.Lattin • County Historian

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## VOL III

No. 9  
"THE NEW AUTO HOSE TRUCK OF THE ALBION FIRE LADDIES"

In 1912 the Dye Hose Company of Albion, N.Y. was credited with being the first fire company in the State to own their own hose, chemical and ladder truck. Pictured here is the Dye's pride and joy, a 90-horse-powered Thomas Flyer which cost a total of \$6,000. This fire truck measured 19 feet 3 inches over all and was capable of making 75 miles an hour with all equipment including a crew of ten men. It has a 1000-foot 2½-inch chemical hose, a 50-gallon ever-ready carbonated gas chemical, two 3-gallon hand chemicals, a 10-foot scaling and roof ladder, a 20-foot extension ladder, coats, helmets, axe, door opener and lanterns.

For comparison's sake let's see the difference now between the truck of 1912 and the recently purchased truck of the Albion Fire Department. The new 1980 American LaFrance has cost \$125,000, \$119,000 more than the Thomas Flyer. The new truck is over 9 feet in height and 33 feet in length making it 14 feet longer than its predecessor of 69 years ago. With automatic transmission it weighs 28,000 pounds, carries 1000 gals. of water, expansion foam, and has a horsepower of 410 which is a horse-power of 320 more than the truck above.

In 1912 when the first truck was purchased, the Dye Hose Company was one of the best known volunteer fire companies in Western N.Y. The company was formed in 1883 and named in honor of Mr. William B. Dye [1840-1922]. The Dye name still remains with the Hose Company but recollections of the man himself are almost forgotten. He was born in Carlton and moved to Albion in 1870 where he resided in a house which later became the McNall Funeral Home and is now the site of Liberty Bank. He was in the clothing retailing business first with Simon Adler and later with Henry W. Fox. He also engaged in clothing manufacturing in Rochester, N.Y. In later life he formed a partnership with his son-in-law P. W. Collins.

Mr. Dye was very prominent in public life serving several years as President of the Orleans County Bank, President of the Western House of Refuge, Mayor of Albion, Village Trustee, President of the Board of Education, Supervisor of the Town of Albion and was widely known in Democratic State politics. At one point in his political career he even ran for Congress. He was a member of Renovation Lodge, the Monroe Commandery and Albion Elks. Upon his death he was survived by his wife Charlotte DeDiemar and two daughters, Mrs. P.W. Collins and Mrs. Judson Coann Curtis.