

AN INTERVIEW WITH DANIEL W. HANLEY 1934

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Orleans County historian

The following interview with Daniel W. Hanley is taken from the Albion Midlander of January 1934. He owned a show store on the east side of Main Street in Albion next to Fischers News Room as well as serving as Albion post master.

Mr. Hanley was also elected mayor and served from 1924 to 1933. In this interview

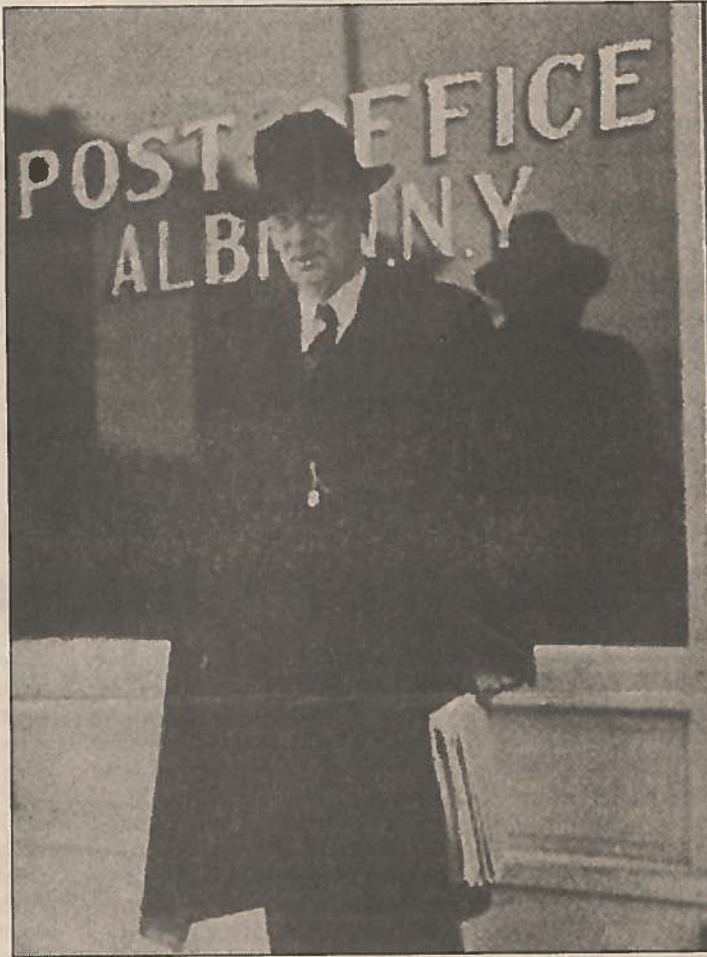
"Dan" relates a few interesting recollections of Albion business now dating back over one hundred years.

"I started in business on Main Street in November, 1893. Of the many shopkeepers who were conducting various business establishments at that time, only two remain today: Jacob Landauer and John Daniels. When I first set up shop the various lines of shoes were represented in Albion by C.H. Harding, Shoemaker & Mix and O.H. Taylor.

"Hours of business in those days were somewhat longer than the hours which prevail today ... Grocery, hardware and shoe stores, also meat markets, remained open until 9 every evening in the week except Saturday when the 12 o'clock closing prevailed.

"About 1904 a movement was begun by the more progressive members of these various establishments to close their shops at 6 o'clock. This idea met with strenuous objections from the older members of the business fraternity

"Those were the years of the first great apple shipments which were destined to make Orleans County known the world over. Albion then boasted



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five good hotels: the Orleans House, Young's hotel, the Albion House, McMann Hotel and Exchange Hotel. Each fall these were the headquarters of the many apple buyers from New York City, Philadelphia and western cities.

"The rigs from Charles Heady's and Young's livery stables were in great demand, transporting the various buyers over the country roads on their inspection of orchards. Main Street, below the Four Corners,

took on the appearance of a produce exchange as the large wagons loaded with apple barrels pulled up at the curb and the buyers scrambled on the load to inspect the fruit. If the fruit met with his approval he would arrange to purchase the grower's entire crop which would be drawn to one of the local storages to await shipment to the large cities or to seaboard for export.

"The quarrying of Medina sandstone was in its heyday

during that period, a thousand to fifteen hundred men being employed in the three large quarries situated on the outskirts of the village.

"We carried a large stock of hob-nailed quarry boots and on Saturday nights it was not uncommon for us to receive \$200 to \$300 in gold from the sale of shoes as the quarrymen were paid in that metal.

"In the years I have been in business, I have not noticed any radical changes in the appearance of the village. Of course, firm name, store fronts, styles and types of merchandise have changed greatly, but the business blocks present very nearly the same general appearance now that they did in earlier days.

"Improvements in the shape of paved streets, electric lights and a modern water system have added to the attractiveness of the village and to the comfort and convenience of its inhabitants.

"Albion merchants have always preserved their high standards of dealing in quality merchandise and it is as true today, as it was in the days when the village was considered one of the best retail sales towns along the Falls Branch of the New York Central Railroad, that Albion is not a good town in which to sell cheap and shoddy goods."