

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

Vol. XXX, No. 6

2-11-08

SPRING ICE

Editor's note: Volume XXX, No. 7 of Bethinking of Olde Orleans was inadvertently run last week with this week's corresponding photo. The following column, No. 6, is the correct story. Look for No. 7 with the proper photo in Thursday's Journal-Register.

BY C.W. LATTIN
Orleans County historian

Our two pictures relate to the Shourds Bros. business which was located in Albion back in the 1890s when these were taken.

One is a scene taken on an ice pond located in the west branch of Sandy Creek at the end of East Park Street. The houses in the background are on Clarendon Street. A man stands posed with an ice plow which was used to mark out cakes of ice which were then sawed by hand. The ice house for storage of cakes of ice is seen here where it was packed in layers of saw dust.

The delivery wagon is seen in our other picture dolled up for a parade. Here we see their advertising: "Shrouds Bros. Spring Ice. Cole and Wood The Two Great Elements of Fire and Water." The ice delivery man came around to sell natural ice for home ice boxes on a regular route a couple of times a week before electric refrigerators.

Along with their ice business they also sold coal and wood for heating and cooking purposes. This establishment was located on the canal at the end of Platt Street.

We note that the ice wagon is pulled by a single horse. The other horse in our photo is actually a dummy standing on a wagon advertising a harness maker. An adolescent of African American decent appears to be riding precariously on the roof of the ice



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

wagon as part of getting people's attention along the parade route.

The building in the background is the Albion United Methodist Church.