



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Orleans County on the move

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By around 1910, when this photo was taken, Americans were on the move under the power of the gasoline engine. There are more than 5 automobiles lined up for this picture on some sort of special occasion. Drivers and passengers appear by each vehicle posing with pride.

The "Tin Lizzie," by 1910, had become all dominating. The only obvious horse-related item shown here is the water trough in the lower right hand corner.

However, we were still in a period of great transition, 100 years ago, as we leaped

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from the worthy horse to Henry Ford's Model T.

Upon closer observation, the signage in the background gives clues to the times. The center building in this view is located on North Main Street in Albion, at the corner of Orchard Street. It is now the Lake Country Pennysaver. Advertising at the time included "Ford Cars," "Albion Garage,"

"Harness, Horse Foods and Carriage Trimmings" and "General Store."

The building to the left, now Burgio's Garage, was a "Drive Barn and Auto Livery," surely a transitional business. A drive barn or livery was where one could stable a horse or rent a horse and carriage. I suspect one could perhaps also rent an automobile out of this place as well.

Although the picture represents the future of how transportation was to take us, it would be another 10 or so years before the horse was chiefly relegated to farm labor. By the end of World War II, the ever-present farm tractor finally replaced the common use of horses.