

Accident confession pays off

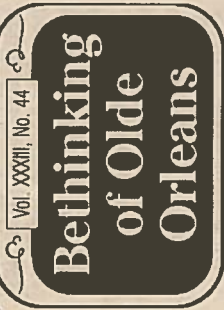
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Our aerial photo from the 1940's shows the H.D. and Clara Cliff farmstead on Route 18 in the Town of Kendall. We also note here the intersection of the railroad where it crosses Route 18 on the Roosevelt Highway. It was at this railroad crossing that the following story occurred.

As a kid back in the 1950s I recall my father telling of an interesting incident which took place here. I no longer remember the woman's name involved or the year it happened. However, it seems that a lady was driving along Route 18 and did not see an approaching train, for whatever reason I don't know.

The railroad bed was in



deplorable condition so trains moved at a very slow rate, like under 20 miles an hour. This railroad called the "Hojack" ceased operations in the early 1970's. At any rate, the lady ran into the locomotive with her car and knocked just the front wheels off the tracks.

Likewise she did damage to her own car but was not seriously injured. The railroad had to bring in a crane to lift the locomotive back onto the tracks, otherwise no damage to the train.

The lady knew it was her fault and was embarrassed

she had caused the accident and expense to the railroad. As a result she wrote a letter of apology to the railroad.

When the superintendent of this division received her letter he was totally impressed. He wrote back to her something to this affect.

"That in all his years in working for the railroad she was the only person who had ever written a letter of apology for damages to a train."

He continued by saying that most people under such circumstances would have sued the railroad even though it was not the railroad's negligence. Therefore in this case they would pay for all the expenses in repairing her car.

Honesty and forthrightness along with being contrite is surely the moral of this story.



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