

# DR. BEN HOWES

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**O**ur photo this week shows Dr. Ben Howes of Carlton in 1934 with his horse Sandy. From the Albion Midlander dated February 1934, we find: "We know of no man, old or young, who gets any more 'kick' out of life than Dr. Benjamin Howes, prominent Orleans Co. Veterinary." "Doc" formerly connected with the Bureau of Animal Industry U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, is an ardent baseball fan, cross country motorist, antique collector and horseman supreme. No parade in Orleans County is ever complete without him mounted on his splendid horse-Sandy."

"Doc" was especially noted for his antique collecting especially early pioneer implements and utensils which he often

shared in display yearly at the Orleans County Fair. He also prided himself on a collection of conveyances. This included carts, wagons, buggies, and sleighs from early times. Unfortunately when "Doc" died in 1946 at the age of 87, his collection did not remain in tact for the benefit of this county.

As for his cross-country travels, there is this story handed down by my father. It illustrates in a small way that "Doc" was an individual and seen perhaps by some as a little bit eccentric. It seems "Doc" wanted a more suitable seat to ride

in while driving. Therefore he removed the front seat in his car and replaced it with a more comfortable wicker chair behind the steering wheel.

On a return trip to Carlton in the 30s while coming through Ohio "Doc" was pulled over by two young police officers for some driving infraction. He put on a good act for the men in blue. First he became very contrite and started apologizing and to cry (make believe) saying "If I ever get back home I'll never leave the old homestead again." The police became sympathetic with one of the officers saying to the other, "Oh, let the old guy go." "Doc" laughed about that all the rest of the way home and recounted his deception more than once.

As to his horse Sandy, when the bridge over Oak Orchard River on Route 18



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was dedicated in 1937 "Doc" rode Sandy in the parade. However it was during this parade that "Doc's" beloved horse reared up and died on the

spot. This unfortunate incident overshadowed the event, as it was what people who were there remembered and talked about years afterward.