

Two poems by Joseph B. Achilles

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Orleans County Historian



Joseph B. Achilles of Albion served as the Orleans County Historian from Aug. 3, 1944 to Dec. 23, 1957. He always had a genuine interest in collecting the folklore and history of this area even prior to his tenure as official historian.

He was a frequent contributor to journalism in Albion and over a period of years, particularly during the 1940's, had a number of original poems published. These poems for the most part are reflections of his sense of humor, thoughts and observances of life as he saw it. Here are two:

"In Hock"

How times have changed
Since we began
To listen to
The Finance Man.
We used to save,
We tried to plan,
No we just call
The Finance Man.
We think we can't
He says we can,
So we buy it on
The Finance Plan.
Our G.E. range,
Sp spic and span,

Still belongs to
The Finance Man.
Our Frigidaire,
So clean and white,
Has payments due
Tomorrow night.
I fact, each dish
Each pot and pan
Suggest somehow
The Finance Man.
No matter how
We twist and turn
The Finance Man
Gets all we earn.
In other words,
All life's brief span
We'll labor for
The Finance Man.

--J.B.A.

"Winter Complaint"

Late Winter days
Give me a pain,
I want the robins
Back Again.
Somehow I've never
Learned to love
A day that's only
Five above.
And nights when

Winds begin to blow
And drive it down
To five below.
Next day, perhaps,
The sun will shine
And drive it up
To thirty-nine.
And then the rain
Comes with a rush
And puts your ankle deep

In slush.
These bracing das
They rave about
As far as I'm concerned
Are OUT.
And I'm sorry for
The fuss I've made
When it was ninety
In the shade.

-- J.B.A.