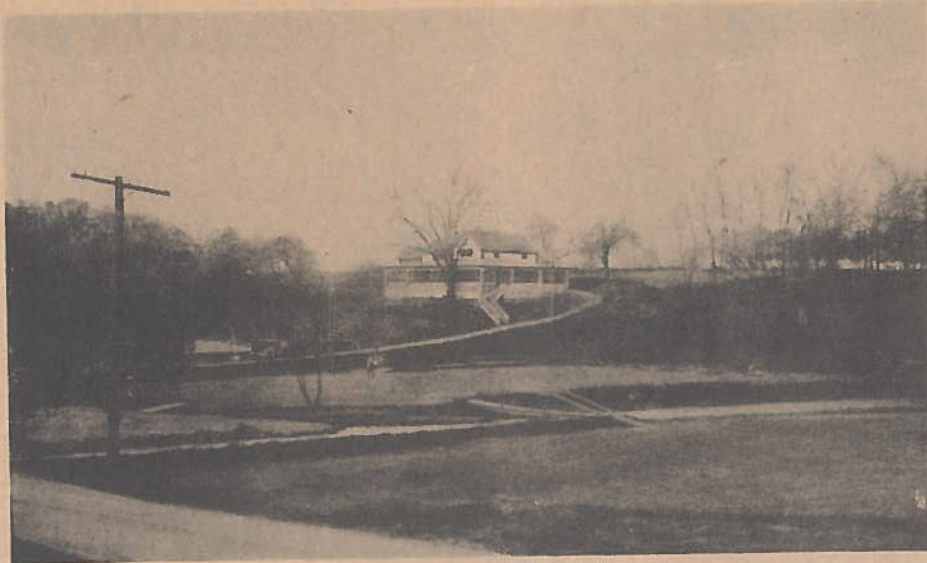


Bethinking of Old Orleans

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THE GOLF COURSE AT EAGLE HARBOR

In October 1898 a golf club was organized in Albion. There were previously other golf courses around the country but the Albion Golf Club is reputed to be the third official golf club in the United States. There were forty-five charter members who elected W.H. Cornell as the first president and Marc W. Cole, Sr. as the first Secretary/Treasurer. The golf course was laid out by a Rochester Pro and was considered to be a rather difficult one. It was located on the Eagle Harbor-Waterport Road about half way between the canal and Ridge Road. It was a six-hole course situated on both sides of the road around Otter Creek and the gully. The photo here shows the club house, built in 1900 and a tennis court which were located on the west side of the road. Now almost completely concealed by trees, the club house serves as a private home. Ladies of the golf club served meals here on the large veranda. Back in these early years the noted football coach Alonzo Stagg frequently played here when visiting his wife's family who happened to live just south of Gaines on Route 279. It was at this time when sheep were pastured on the golf course to keep it mowed down, although hand mowers were used on the greens. By 1910 however, the Golf Club seems to have become inactive. In 1919 it was reactivated by the Cole Family as the Orleans Golf Club with Marc Wheeler Cole, Jr. as manager. The golfers year book of 1930 indicated the following:

"Orleans Golf Club, Albion, N.Y. 3 miles from town; established 1898.

6 holes 2783 yards par 24, 32 miles from Rochester.

Public Course

Manager: M. W. Cole, Jr.

Visitors charges: 50¢ per 18 holes

Amateur Record: E.D. Cole, 80 in 1929

Pro Record: A. Campbell, 79 in 1926"

The last mention of this club occurs in the 1938 Golfers Year Book and notes it as the "Four Chimneys Golf Club at Eagle Harbor, N.Y." It was during the 1920's and 1930's that Mrs. Marc Cole, Sr. ran a tearoom or restaurant known as the "Four Chimneys". This was located in the large old red brick home just north of Eagle Harbor which is now the residence of the Greaser family.

Bill Covell and Henry Radzinski are two of perhaps many who can say they caddied on the golf course when they were kids. It was no doubt, a meeting place for some of Albion's elite but with the depression and inadequate club house facilities, it ceased to exist by around 1940. Golfers from this area then began traveling to Stafford which provided better accommodations. The old golf course which has not been utilized for agricultural purposes has gone back to nature and lingers only in the minds of those who remember it in more youthful days.