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Bethinking of Old Orleans.

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



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With the input of each town and village historian we have selectively compiled a few significant highlights which have occurred in Orleans County during 1982. Let's look back!

Albion Edith Anderson, town historian and Dr. Neil Johnson, village historian both point with pride to the completed micro-filming project of Albion newspapers from 1845 - 1980. Neil also points out the finished restoration work and updating of the Albion Middle School which kept the 1930's flavor of the building and was celebrated with a dramatic and musical production entitled "To Albion With Love". This and "Fantasia II", a Christmas musical program were produced by Kate Echaney and Donna Rodden. After several years in the process the Mt. Albion Cemetery lily pond was restored and after twenty-seven years as County Clerk, Francis Rumble will retire.

Barre One of the most significant accomplishments this year for Elba-Barre-Clarendon farmers was the digging of a ditch which will drain 3,000 acres of muckland. Accomplished under the "Oak Orchard Small Watershed Protection District", Helen Mathes, Barre Historian says it was more than twenty years coming about. Also a dramatic victory by county-wide vote came to Barre Supervisor Richard Bennett, as he was elected to the Orleans County Legislature. Along with this a permanent form of county government was selected.

Carlton Town Historian Betsey Hoffman notes that a two-part trout and salmon derby took place during two weeks in August and two weeks in October. During the last week of June anthropology students from the University of Buffalo spent five days digging in an unconfirmed Indian site near the Ontario Parkway bridge. She also felt the "Roosevelt Special" was an attraction at the Fair and that plans for the Seaway Trail were significant.

Clarendon Alan Isselhard, town historian feels one of Clarendon's highlights was the "Hands On Contest" for Volunteer Fire Companies sponsored by Duryea Motors which offered a \$500 prize. The only three companies to enter the contest were Fancher-Hulberton-Murray, Holley and Clarendon. FHM won but Clarendon earned over \$500 as part of the fun. He notes that Eastman Kodak is the top Orleans County employer and that two major issues still facing us are landfill and unemployment.

Gaines Deputy Historian Dee Robinson notes the importance of the newly established Cobblestone Resource Center at the Cobblestone Museum. The Cobblestone Society also erected a replica of a 19th Century Liberty Pole which was dedicated "To The People of Gaines" in recognition of the Bi-centennial of the American Eagle. Area farms in a cooperative venture have erected the enormous Lake Ridge Apple storage just west of Childs. The Town of Gaines set a precedent by appointing a deputy historian to assist Mr. J. H. Pratt.

Kendall Historian Kathy Scroger indicates that the Kendall school buildings have been revamped for energy purposes and that Kendall also has a new Post Office building which matches the Town Hall across the street. She also points with pride to the Kendall Championship Soccer Team which was undefeated in Class B, Section V of the Genesee Region. And it was during 1982 that Joseph P. Kirchgessner was charged and convicted of the murder of Ingrid Johnson whose body was retrieved from a Kendall pond.

Murray Historian Marcia DeFilippis was able to procure the bound issues of the Holley Standard 1878 - 1964, a vital resource. She notes the construction of a new bridge on Rt. 237 over the canal, a Rock Concert at Fancher in May, the institution of Cable TV, a new super market in Holley and another successful St. Rocco's Italian Festival. Also one of the most unusual events of 1982 was the Viking Ship "Huemkmst" which passed through on the canal in June on its voyage to Norway.

Ridgeway The new railroad bridge at Knowlesville and a new waterline of approximately two miles in length on Rt. 63 are two important construction projects noted by Historian Evelyn Allen. Medina Historian Ceil White updated a village history for Medina's Sesquicentennial which drew throngs of people to well-organized activities. She also indicates that during 1982 Sacred Heart Church was rededicated, Medina Historical Museum was opened, Cable TV installed and Medina's first woman mayor Marcia Touhey took office.

Shelby Historian Alice Zacher feels the following are significant highlights for her township in the past year: Shelly Wilson is the N.Y.S. FFA President and Robin Boyle was selected Orleans County Miss Teenager. The Shelby Baptist Church started its own Christian School and the Planning Board OK'd an Agriculture District. The Job Corps located in Shelby was ranked as the best Job Corps in the United States. The Corps also has a new administration building. Shelby Fire Company has its first woman president and a new \$75,000 truck while East Shelby Fire Company had its mortgage burning.

Yates Virginia Cooper, historian, says that the canning company "Indian Summer" in Lyndonville has expanded with a cold storage for apples used in sauce and juice which in turn has extended the working season and employment. She also indicates that three historic markers have been erected in the township which mark the Tarbox House, First Settler and Lyndonville incorporation and founding of the Fire Company.

There was of course, much, much more. But this gives you a quick glimpse of what has happened in Orleans County during 1982.