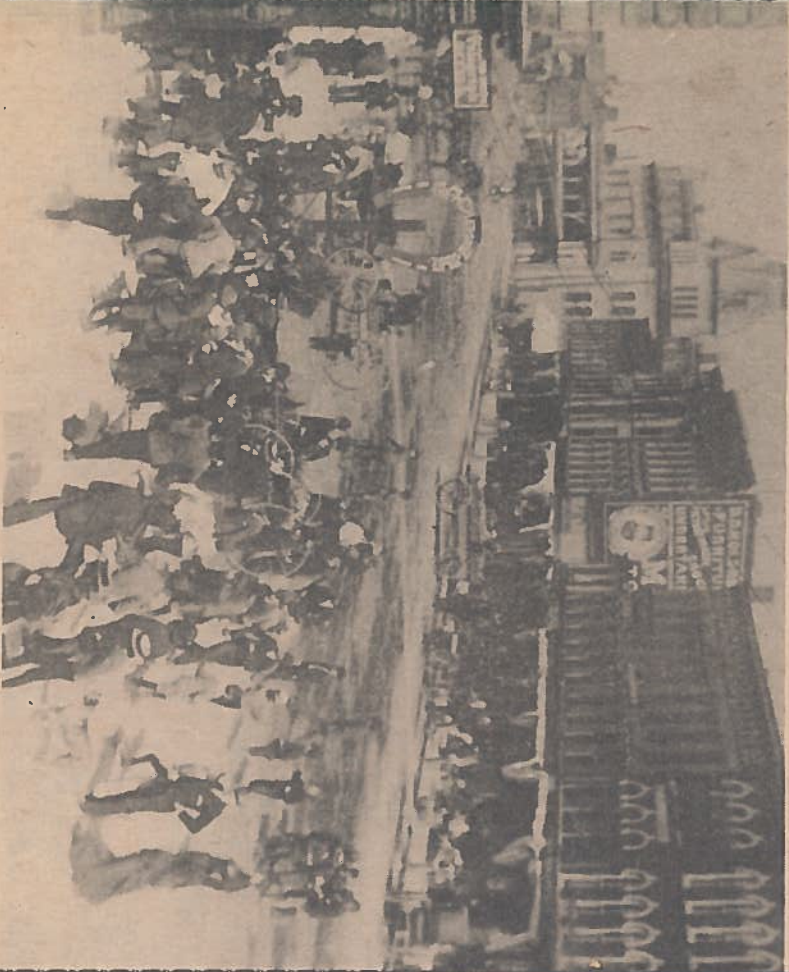


Rethinking of Old Orleans

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MEDINA AT THE AGE OF FIFTY IN 1882

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Let us look back to the time when Medina had only been incorporated for fifty years. Here are some assorted highlights of 1882 which were once compiled by the late Russell J. Waldo, Medina Village Historian. We'll start first with the weather:

One of the worst hail storms known in history was experienced on April 2nd and Easter came with a bad snow storm. Wind also took its toll tearing scaffolding of a building which took several hours to clean up before the painters could resume work. A wind also made pole setting dangerous for the new Bell Telephone line through Medina.

Quarrying being a major industry, here are some interesting tidbits relating to Medina Sandstone. Labor was not plentiful in 1882. The Horan Quarry received fifty Englishmen from their agent who was hiring in Great Britain, with a promise of fifty more. The quarry season opened early with the first boatload of curbing leaving for Buffalo on April 12. The steamer Edward Hanlon made its first trip of the season to Albion from Medina on April 9 having been chartered to take quarrymen to the Bowen and Rourke's quarry at Culvert Road. Later that summer the steamer tipped over when too many men jumped off in haste. M. Rourke with eight teams, loaded two lake boats with paving stone in seven hours and 55 minutes thereby winning a bet of \$25.00. The railroad too was moving thirty-five cars daily of stone, flour, feed and iron goods out of Medina.

Now for some other business developments of 1882. V. M. Sharpstein prepared to open a brickyard at Hastings Bridge on Bates Road with plans to produce 15,000 brick per day. Whitmore and McGee started rigging their East Center Street mill to grind limestone, and after a couple of setbacks Hoag and Lower put their mill in operation for limestone.

Samuel Rice shipped 133 cases of eggs, 990 dozen in one week. A Dawson advertised for 60,000 cords of wood which he would require for shipment by August first. This was to be delivered at the canal dock for loading.

Mount and Robinson reopened the old Mount Foundry. They owned the patterns of the Curtis plow and parts. The Empire Manufacturing Co. also started in business making iron goods and sinks in the old Bignall plant. During the summer, the village added a new road scraper which assured people of better streets. The post Office expanded by adding 80 new boxes which still did not meet the demand.

Now as to firemen, here's what they were doing in 1882. The Hook and Ladder Co. added five hooks to its cart that more buckets could be carried, thus bringing the capacity to 27. The Alert Hose Co. leased three rooms in the Fuller Block upon completing the papering of their carriage house. The Protectives launched an effort to secure a telephone and four bunks in their rooms. A fire burned out Hanlon's warehouse. During the blaze brave firemen moved five kegs of gunpowder from it to safety.

In 1882 education was advanced when a new academy building was erected for a cost of about \$15,000. Academy students numbered 306 while enrollment at Laurel Hill totaled 104 and Oak Orchard school numbered 180.

And so that's the way it was one hundred years ago when Medina was considered a bustling village with hopes of becoming a city.