

Bethinking of Old Orleans

3.30.83

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



Vol. V

No. 13

ORLEANS COUNTY TOURISM

Hugh James, Chairman of the Orleans County Chambers of Commerce Tourism Advisory Board has announced the completion of the 38-page "I Love New York -- Orleans County Travel Guide". The publication which has just been printed this past week by the Albion Holley Pennysaver is now being distributed.

A reception for the official release and acknowledgment of the travel guide will take place on Tuesday, April 12 beginning at 4 P.M. in the Social Rooms of the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion. Local officials and advertisers are invited and encouraged to be present. The public is also most cordially invited to attend this reception.

20,000 copies of the travel guide have been produced on a matching grant basis with N.Y.S. funding and with the support of many local advertisers. The Medina and Albion Chambers of Commerce working cooperatively can be proud of this year's publication with most of the copies being distributed outside of Orleans County. However limited copies will be available with advertisers and the two Chamber offices.

Briefly, the travel guide lists significant 1983 Orleans County special events including everything from fishing derbys to Hulberton's Bocci Ball tournament. An historical sketch of our county is included which touches upon each township along with a descriptive tour of Medina. Another drive-yourself-tour includes farm markets and U-pick farms. A full page has been devoted to the Historic Court House District in Albion and Mt. Albion Cemetery. Another full page has been devoted to the Cobblestone Museum at Childs. In fact, the front cover of the travel guide features a full color picture of the historic Cobblestone Church. Numerous advertisements will lead tourists everywhere from restaurants to bait shops.

Until recently we have not recognized the real potential for attracting tourists into our county. The purpose of the I Love N.Y. Orleans County Travel Guide is to do just that -- attract tourists -- making use of the I Love N.Y. theme. We are told of the unlimited and spectacular fishing possibilities emerging in this county. Also we have a wealth of truly unique historical advantages. For instance, over 5,000 visitors attended the Cobblestone Museum or its related activities during 1982. Slightly over 900 were students from area schools including one as far as Kenmore and there is potential for attracting more. As county historian, I personally guided over a dozen groups, both adult and student, through the Historic Court House District. Many of the groups arrived by the busload. The tour usually includes the interiors of the Court House, the Pullman Memorial Church and Swan Library. Depending on time, St. Joseph's church and the residence housing JHL Designs were also included.

The photograph here shows a history group from Chemung County which visited here last Fall. Their itinerary included the Court House Square (2 hours), lunch at the Village Inn, Cobblestone Museum Complex (2 hours) and Mt. Albion Cemetery (1 hour) where you see them mounting the outside steps to the tower. In other words, it was a full day of educational entertainment. And what's more, all of these groups seem very surprised and thrilled with the historic architectural beauty in Orleans County.

Yes, tourism is already upon us! Recognizing it and gearing ourselves to it can be most advantageous to Orleans County. It was Neil Johnson, Village of Albion Historian, who recently said "...history is worth money".