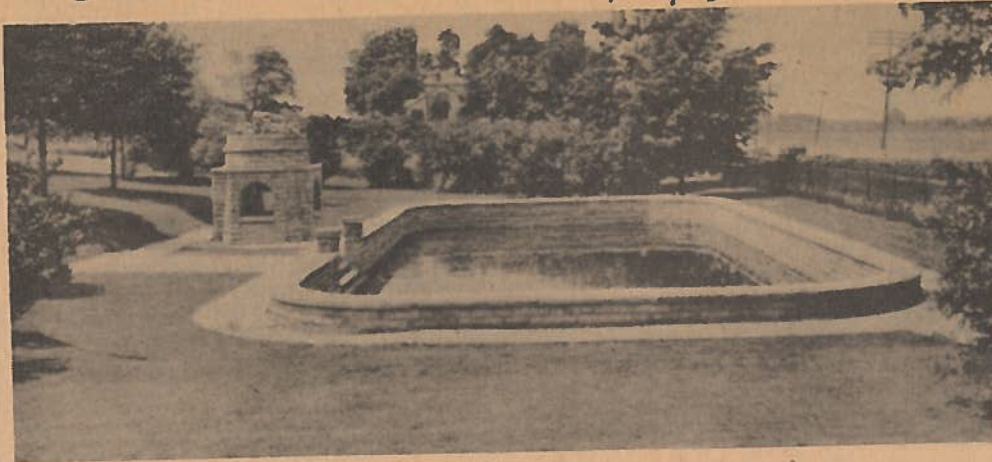


# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin  
County  
Historian

9-14-83



Vol. V

No. 37

## LILY POND DEDICATION

It was a little over four years ago that the Orleans County Historical Monument Corporation undertook the project of restoring the Mt. Albion Cemetery Lily Pond. After a number of setbacks of various sorts and problems in raising funds for the job, the work was finally completed this past Spring by Horace Estes, a local masonry contractor. The photo included here shows the pond as it appeared when newly built circa 1909. It was originally made of grey Medina Sandstone quarried at Eagle Harbor and laid by J.B. Bartlett. But through the years freezing and thawing had caused serious dilapidation to the soft grey stone retaining walls. It was then in 1980 that the pond was drained and the old walls removed by the Village of Albion. Gold fish were temporarily placed in an adjoining water-filled hole. Fortunately the nearby-original grey Medina Sandstone Spring House was not in serious condition and remains intact today. The pond was rebuilt using reinforced concrete up to the water level with harder pink and brown Medina Sandstone being used above the water level, which came from the Hulberton quarry.

At 12:00 Noon on Sunday, September 18 this project will see its final chapter as the pond will be dedicated to local Volunteer Firemen. The September date for this ceremony was selected for several reasons. Number one being that September 18 would be "Aster Day" if that oldtime traditional holiday were still being observed. Aster day was started in 1900 by Cassius M.C. Reynolds, a local undertaker and furniture dealer. This holiday which was always the Sunday closest to the 15th of September symbolized to him "After Thought". Many gardeners raised asters for the sole purpose of decorating graves at the cemetery. In fact, the idea of Aster Day caught on in other states and Canada until its founder died in 1925. From then on little attention has been paid to this day when speeches and other ceremonies took place at that 140 years ago on September 7, 1843, Mt. Albion Cemetery was officially opened and dedicated. It is now therefore, fitting that the pond be dedicated to local Volunteer Firemen. Why firemen? Because we so often take for granted the bravery and gallantry demonstrated by volunteer firemen in their line of duty. Why the Lilly Pond? Because a fireman's main ingredient in extinguishing a fire is water and that's what the Lily Pond is all about - water.

It is indeed fitting, appropriate and most symbolic that many of these long over-due tributes be paid now. A dedication marker engraved by Leo LaCroix of Brigden Memorials will be unveiled by former Village Historian Eleanor Wilder and the present Village Historian Neil Johnson. Mrs. Dorothy Miller, granddaughter of Cassius M.C. Reynolds will then place a bouquet of asters at the marker. Mrs. Marjorie Moore Boire will sing a patriotic song. The Sheret Post American Legion Color Guard and Auxiliary will also participate. Mayor Donna Rodden will act as Master of Ceremonies with the County Historian delivering the dedication address. Fire Chief Richard Tibbets will accept the dedication on behalf of all local volunteer firemen, followed by a benediction by Sal Stuart, Chaplain of the Fire Department.

"Waters are the way of the world, sweetening this passage,  
floating us on to oblivion."