

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian

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With the input of every Orleans County Municipal Historian, we have selectively compiled a few highlights which have occurred in Orleans County during 1983.

Albion Town Historian Edith Anderson points out the current expansion of Bayex and the Restoration of the Annis Cemetery on Riches Corners Road. A five-year plan by the Town is being carried out to restore all the Town's rural cemeteries with Annis being first.

Village of Albion Historian Dr. Neil Johnson notes the greatly improved Main Street Railroad crossing and the disastrous fire in July which gutted the Waterman and Briggs Buildings in the downtown business district. In September the Lily Pond at Mt. Albion Cemetery was dedicated "to the Volunteer Fireman."

Barre Helen Mathes, the Town Historian indicates that the township is now 165 years old having been erected in 1818. She also notes that the two Barre churches, Barre Center Presbyterian and West Barre United Methodist, are going strong and that the Barre Grange still active, remains the only one left in Orleans County. After some controversy, new surfacing was completed on East Barre Road and Richard Bennett was returned by county-wide vote to the Orleans County Legislature.

Carlton Town Historian Betsey Hoffman points out a number of things including over 1350 who participated in the Orleans County Trout and Salmon Derby. In the ESLO Derby, the biggest fish was caught off the Orleans County shore line. Carlton Fire Pumper #30 was rebuilt at considerable savings over purchase of a new truck. Kenyonville United Methodist Church celebrated 150 years in the same building with erection of an historical marker, the third now in Carlton. The Hanlon Road extension was completed after the Hanlon Road bridge collapsed.

Clarendon Town Historian Alan Isselhard notes that Clarendon will have a new highway garage in 1984 and if adopted, new zoning laws which have been written. An historical marker was erected in front of the old Universalist Church with plans for one next year for the Akeley home on Hinds Road. On issues, he feels landfill and unemployment are problems still facing us and that with the outcome of the Fall elections voters were trying to send a message to the Orleans County Legislature.

Gaines Town Historian J. Howard Pratt after several years' work, published his book, "Saga of the Ridge" which is now on sale for \$9.00. Deputy Historian Dee Robinson reports that fire-proof storage was procured for valuable Town Historical records. Several new businesses have started in Gaines and tourism is on the upswing at the Cobblestone Complex. A unique Cobblestone repair workshop was conducted in the Fall at the Cobblestone Museum which received publicity in a Canadian newspaper. An old Ridge Road Historical Marker was placed by the Village Inn and plans are under way for the Gaines Historic Jubilee in 1984.

Kendall Kathy Scroger the Town Historian notes that the energy conservation project at the Kendall Elementary School was completed. Local merchants around Kendall have started a flyer called "The Kendall Billboard" which is published once a month. It contains advertisements, church services and many other activities. William Vick of Kendall was elected Legislator-at-Large by county-wide vote in November. And for the first time Christmas decorations adorn the Main Street in Kendall which were put up by the Town Board and Highway Department.

Murray Marcia DeFilipps, Town Historian and Village of Holley Historian notes the completion of the new bridge over the canal on Route 237. Two major fires occurred, that of the Murray Hotel in June and Piedmont's Cider Mill in October. The Town Clerk has moved into a new office in the Town Building and updating of the electric substation in Holley is taking place. Marcia DeFilipps and Ray Santora have produced a film entitled "History of Holley" which is now available to groups.

Ridgeway Town Historian Evelyn Allen notes that a new water line on Route 63 north and south of Ridgeway corners was completed. A sewage system is also in the works for Knowlesville with a final hearing yet to be held.

Ceil White Village of Medina Historian indicates that a time capsule was buried in front of City Hall with information of Medina's 150th anniversary to be opened in fifty years. The front porch of City Hall was rebuilt. A successful canal festival was held in September and plans are under way for a school swimming pool with the YMCA lending support.

Shelby Town Historian Alice Zacher reports that Job Corps completed a new administration building in April and another building in July for teaching plumbing, carpentry and electrical trades. Shelby firemen hosted the Orleans County Volunteer Firemen's Association to which Charles Wilson of Shelby was elected president. In March local teacher George Skinner had an article published in N.Y. Sportsmen's Magazine on fishing. William Menz introduced a new type of house construction fully insulated with a home on Gwinn Street, Medina. The body of a woman was discovered off Rt. 63, the identity of which is still being sought. In Millville, the United Methodist Church held a mortgage burning.

Yates Virginia Cooper, Historian for Yates and Lyndonville notes that Lyndonville Vinegar built a new office and expanded a new line to include several new juices. Indian Summer (formerly Lyndonville Canning) developed a new product which is apple butter. Word has been received that "Parkside" Senior Citizen Housing Project on Maple Avenue will break ground in the Spring. It will contain 16 one bedroom apartments, laundry and recreation facilities. Yates' oldest living resident, Mrs. Claudia Stisser Young celebrates her 99th birthday in August. During the Fall the First Presbyterian Church in Lyndonville celebrated its Sesquicentennial.