



Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian

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THE MAPLE CREST

It was forty-eight years ago on June 29, 1936 that Margaret Raymond opened her hotel and restaurant in Medina known as the Maple Crest. This business establishment is located in an old Italian Villa style house on West Center Street and Prospect Avenues, which once was the home of the Childs family. The exterior photo included here shows the Maple Crest Hotel as it appeared forty-eight years ago.

After almost half a century at the same location Margaret Raymond says "If I didn't have a lot of spunk I wouldn't be here today." She named her hotel Maple Crest because of maple trees which surround the house and the fact that all the leaded windows in her attractive bar and dining room show a crest design. The interior photo above shows Mrs. Raymond with these windows in the background. When the Childs family lived here the room served as a billiard room. For a number of years the Medina Rotary and Lions Clubs met here for their dinner meetings. Innumerable wedding receptions and parties have also been catered by Mrs. Raymond in this room. It was in 1950 that Mrs. Raymond obtained her first liquor license for the premises. She says "Although I run a bar I don't drink myself and don't really know the first thing about mixing drinks." Most of her time has been spent in the kitchen over the years. For the past twenty-five years Grace Weatherbee who lives at the Maple Crest has waited on table and worked behind the bar.

When Mrs. Raymond opened her hotel in 1936 she was no new comer to the restaurant business. In fact, it is something she has been in almost all her life. After

growing up a farm near Barker she first learned to wait on table as a teen-ager and was employed at the Niagara Hotel in Niagara Falls and the Jamestown Hotel in Jamestown, N.Y. She also worked at the Roof Garden Restaurant at the Sibley Lindsey and Curr store in Rochester. Prior to coming to Medina she ran the Raleigh Hotel in Lockport, N.Y. Many of her former Lockport patrons followed her to Medina during the early years she was in business. She says "With their support I was able to make it here." From the late 1940's to her death in 1961 her mother, Mrs. Johanna McChesney resided at the Maple Crest and greeted patrons with a very distinct Irish brogue.

Aside from being open daily for lunches and dinner (Friday and Saturday evenings and Sundays are her main days) Mrs. Raymond also rents out rooms. She has six rooms in the main dwelling and five sleeping rooms in an annex. Around twenty years ago she enclosed a large veranda for an extra dining room and also modernized other parts of the interior. In recollecting her years in business she says, "I've been very happy here." Surely the Maple Crest Hotel reflects that happiness with its charming old-time atmosphere and decorations. Mrs. Raymond who indeed has a delightful personality, speaks with pride about her business and landmark with its special heritage.

Three generations of Childs had lived in the house prior to the time it became Maple Crest. Judge Henry A. Childs who was born in Gaines in 1836, first acquired the residence. In early life he was determined to become a lawyer. After study with B.L. Besac of Albion for four years he was admitted to the bar and immediately set up a practice in Medina. He was first elected our district attorney in 1885 and served three terms. In October 1883 he was elected a Supreme Court Justice for the western district of New York. In 1897 the crossroads community at Routes 98 and 104 known as Fairhaven was renamed Childs in honor of Judge Henry A. Childs. Milford Childs and Adelaide Holt both of Medina, are his grand children.

Yes, the venerable landmark known as Maple Crest has a rich and interesting past. Margaret Raymond is to be congratulated for her forty-eighth anniversary and this columnist wishes her many, many more.



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