

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Fairview Manor Destroyed by Fire Had Wide Reputation for Serving Foods

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## FAIRVIEW MANOR

This large structure was built in 1870 for a residence by A.M. Brinsmaid. It was located on the north-west corner of Route 31 and the Knowlesville Road. Shortly after it was built Mr. Brinsmaid sold it to Willis Gregory who later sold it to Messers Cummings and Goetsky of Rochester. They turned it into an eating place which operated for several years. After this, it was owned by A.J. Skinner of Medina and later by Thomas Robbins. Eventually, it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hill who ran a very fine restaurant known as Fairview Manor. Their motto was "Service and Satisfaction". The manager and chef was Thomas Fitzgerald. Mr. Hill erected a large addition on the

south side of the building which served as a dining room. Rooms were also available at this establishment. In fact, the Medina Rotary Club held their weekly meeting there.

In April 1937 this popular eating place was completely destroyed by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Hill, their son Howard, Thomas Fitzgerald and Donald Latta, a farm hand, barely escaped the raging flames after they were awakened by smoke. A stairway being cut off by fire, meant that Mr. Hill had to let himself out a second floor window by a sheet. He then obtained a ladder from the barn to rescue the others.

The house which now occupies the site was moved there from the grounds of the N.Y.S. Training School in Albion during the expansion of that facility in the late 1930's.

