

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Canal Festival Honoring Orleans County's 160th Anniversary

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As I look at the pictures shown here it seems hard to believe that they were taken 10 years ago in 1976. At that time our nation celebrated its Bicentennial and our county celebrated its Sesquicentennial. One of the highlights of that year's celebration was the Bicentennial Barge with various exhibits at Medina's canal basin. The historical exhibits depicted the Colonial Period from 1765 to 1789. The barge is shown here at night in the distance as a crowd stands by on the canal bank. Thousands of people visited the New York State barge and viewed a huge parade down Main Street in Medina as seen here in another photo. To herald the arrival of the barge which was moored two days at Medina, a fireworks display lit up the skies around the canal basin.

This year the fourth annual Medina Canal Festival will be held July 9 - 12 with Nancy Berger as chairperson. The theme of this year's celebration will be Orleans County's 160th anniversary. This year the Festival is being dedicated to the Statue of Liberty.

The Festival will have an opening parade on Wednesday, July 9 at 6:30 P.M. followed by the opening ceremony at 7:00 near the canal basin. That evening will be featured as Youth Night with street dancing and Country and Western music.

Friday, July 10 will feature a Boat Parade on the canal, Variety Show and the lighting of the canal. Saturday's activities will include tricycle races for kids, the famous outhouse race, canoe race and chicken barbecue. At 6:30 a big parade will go from Fisher-Price to the canal basin. A feature there will include a Banjo Band and a finale of fireworks. See you at the Canal Festival.

