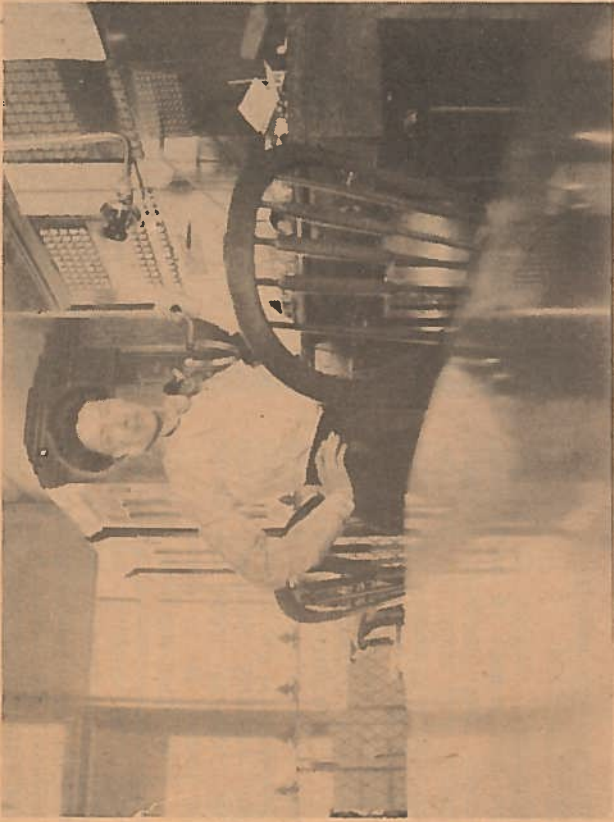


# Bethinking of Old Orleans

2-27-86 C.W.Lattin • County Historian



telephones, transmitters and receivers, each using a single cell battery and provided with a magnetic call bell, and the line will be equipped in a first-class manner. Mr. Selheimer moved that the company be known as the Albion-Carlton Telephone Co. Carried. The chairman presented a paper for the signatures of those wishing to take stock in the company and the stock was taken as fast as the names could be written. A committee was appointed to survey the line consisting of Messrs Warner, Blake, and Over and the following were named as directors: E.K. Hart, Ashley Blake, H. S. Selheimer, Fred Beach, C. Warner, H. C. Murray and B. D. Fowler." The construction of the line progressed rapidly for on Aug. 25 the line was completed and this item appeared in the Republican on that date: "On Saturday last, just three weeks from the date of origination, the Albion-Carlton telephone line was completed. As soon as the instruments were adjusted at the northern terminus word was sent to the other stations and for the rest of the day an unceasing stream of communication was maintained. On Monday the line was opened for business. Following are the stations: At Albion the Western Union Telegraph Office; Fair Haven at George Over's Store; At Carlton Station, Selheimer & Beckwith; Two Bridges at B. F. Fowler's Store and Oak Orchard at H.C. Murray's Store."

It is interesting to note what the initial investment was to get this telephone company into business. Here we have a breakdown of costs: 10 miles of wire \$132.00, brackets and insulators \$38.00, 5 batteries \$7.50, 234 poles at 20¢ each \$46.80, setting poles at 10¢ each \$23.40, rental of 5 Bell phones \$50.00, 5 call bells \$42.50 and labor \$50.00.

It would seem such a telephone service would not have been unlike the one depicted in Hooterville on the TV program known as Green Acres a few years ago.

The accompanying photo also dates to early telephone service. It was taken in the late 1890's at the Albion telephone exchange which was located for many years on East Bank Street. The operator was Miss Elizabeth Smith (later Mrs. Henry Hughes). At the time this picture was taken she was the only operator at the Albion exchange. It is believed she received night phone calls at her residence.

## Albion-Carlton Telephone Co. No. 3

In the July 21, 1880 issue of the Orleans Republican the following advertisement appeared:

"Public Meeting"  
"All citizens of Albion, Gaines, and Carlton who are interested in having telephonic connection are requested to meet at the Court House in Albion on Friday evening, July 23, at 8 o'clock". On Aug. 4th the following news item appeared in the Orleans Republican. "On Wednesday last a meeting took place at Warner & Nobles Hotel at Point Breeze at which decisive action was taken. The Necessary Fund was subscribed and a Board of Directors was chosen for the ensuing year. The necessary instruments and poles were ordered and the route was ordered surveyed. There will be five stations on the line, viz; Albion, Fair Haven, Carlton Station, Two Bridges, and Oak Orchard Harbor. The instruments will consist of Bell