

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



FAIR FAVORITE - Bob Estes of Caledonia and his Red Devon oxen was part of Heritage Day, Aug. 7.

IT'S FAIR TIME

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This year the 4-H Fair will celebrate its fortieth year as an annual tradition in Orleans County during the week of August 4-9. Prior to the 4-H Fair, the Orleans County Agriculture Society held annual County Fairs from 1856 to 1941. The old Fair Grounds were located on West State Street in Albion. The photo shown here was taken around 80 years ago in a building known as Floral Hall. It was the main exhibition building on the Fair Grounds which housed a variety of displays each year during fair time. We see here in the foreground a display of selected apples. In the background on step-like shelves is a flower show which was always a part of the Agriculture Society's Fair years ago. Hence, the name Floral Hall. To the best of my knowledge, it's now been many years since there were any flower shows locally.

On Saturday, August 16 the Annual County Art Fair and Flea Market held at the Cobblestone Museum Complex in Childs, N.Y. will feature a Flower Show in that old time tradition. Anyone may enter that show with floral specimens or arrangements, either early that day or the day before. The Flower Show will be open for viewing 10-5.

Indeed, fairs are a good time for all, with a variety of exhibits to see and things to do. There is something in the blood that stirs one to the excitement of a fair. For centuries they have been the highlights of various celebrations and seasons. This year the Orleans County Historical Association and Cobblestone Society will present an exhibit throughout fair week on the Statue of Liberty and Immigration at the Log Cabin on the 4-H Fair Grounds. This coupled with Heritage Day on Thursday, August 7 will give one a real sense of pride and insight to our American Heritage on-going **At The Fair.**