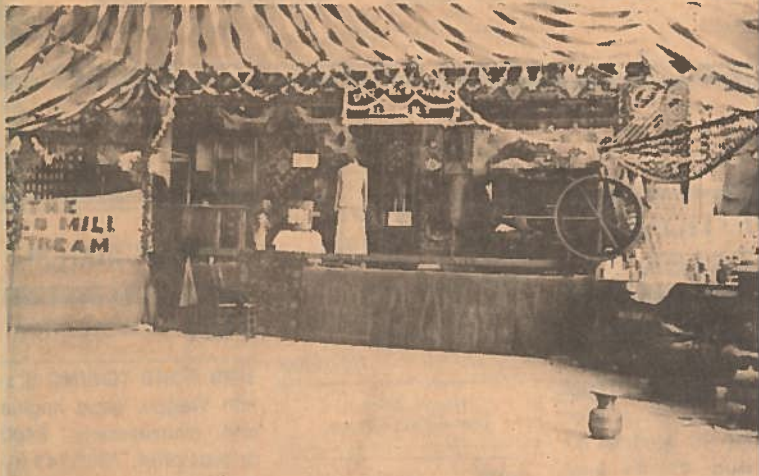


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHT

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The very first electric light used in Albion was in 1888 for the Dye Hose Fair. The so-called fair was set up on the third floor of the Bordwell Block located on East Bank Street. This building is now the Masonic Temple. During the 18th Century the third floor served as a community hall for all kinds of lectures, musical programs and various other events.

One of the features of the Dye Hose Fair in 1888 was to show electric lighting. A compressor was brought in from Rochester, placed on a wagon, and run from a belt on a traction engine in the alley behind the building. The current thus generated was wired up to the top floor to a few electric lights which were temporarily placed there to light the fair. Following this, things progressed rapidly for the illumination of Albion with electricity, for it was in April 1890 that the first arc lamps were used for street lighting.

The old postcard view displayed here shows what a Dye Hose Fair was like during the early part of this century. It indicates that various businesses displayed their merchandise. We see rugs, a roll top desk, a Hosier kitchen cabinet, some sort of heater, a Mission style grandfather clock, piano, a lady's suit, a man's suit and innumerable canned goods. We can also preclude that some sort of game of chance was played by use of the wheel to the far right of the platform. Note, too, the prominence of the spittoon. Small fairs of this sort have been highlights in the yearly events of many organizations for decades.

On Sunday, August 31 the Cobblestone Society will sponsor an Old Timers Fair at the Cobblestone Museum Complex at Childs, NY, Rts. 98 and 104. Between 1 and 5 P.M. that day various old time skills will be demonstrated and music will be provided for your entertainment.