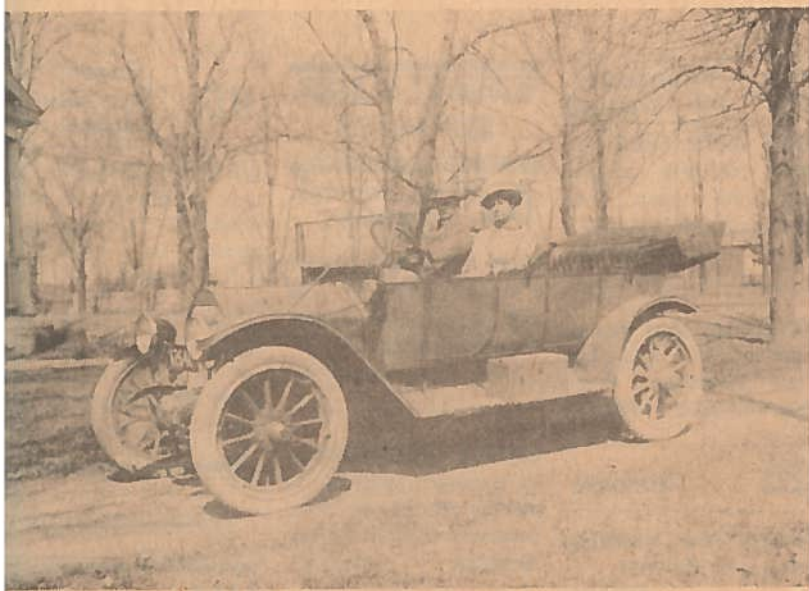


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian

Dr. Eckerson's Automobile



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The photograph shown here was taken about 1916 with Dr. Fred Eckerson and his wife Harriet Weet Eckerson seated in their new automobile. The Eckersons lived in Shelby Center where the photo was taken next to their house. It is believed that this touring car was a Loescher. Dr. Eckerson ordered it through a local salesman and the car was shipped on the railroad to Medina. When it arrived, Dr. Eckerson had his friend Ross Wilson, go to the depot with a team of horses and tow the car out to Shelby Center. We believe they did this because this was the doctor's first car and he was unsure about driving it. In other words, he just didn't want to drive it off the railway dock without getting acquainted with it first. Surely it was one of the very first autos to be owned by anyone in Shelby Center.

times. Note the high wheels with wooden spokes, two sets of electric headlights, wide running board with a huge tool box, tufted, cushioned seats and a boot to cover the convertible top. Although it's a black and white photo, we can discern that two tones of paint were used on the body as the moulding around the fake doors appears darker. In fact, it also appears that the steering wheel was on the right hand side of the car.

Fred Eckerson was an oldtime country doctor and with the auto, probably utilized his time better in making house calls than by horse and buggy. Indeed, he must have been progressive in his thinking when this picture was taken over seventy years ago.