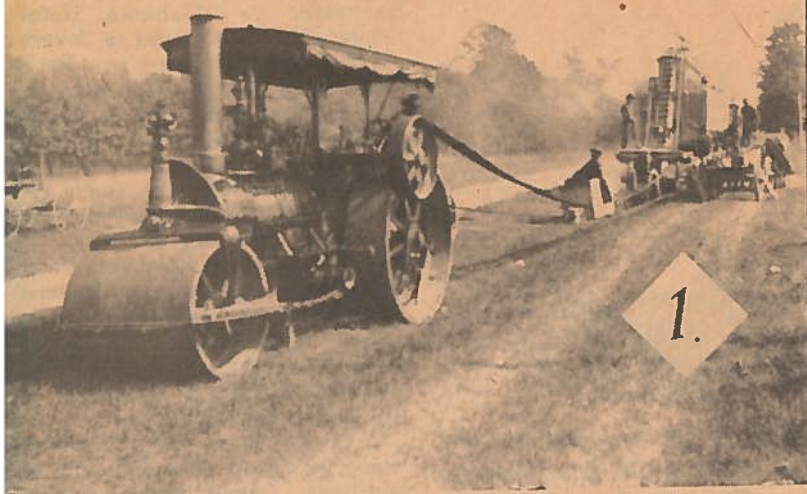


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



Stone Crushers

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During the earlier part of this century roads were first improved with crushed stone. The stone crusher which was a large piece of noisy machinery, was run by a steam engine. All this apparatus was taken to the area where a road was to be improved and shop was set up, so to speak. This provided an excellent opportunity for farmers to clear up stone piles. Stones were usually picked off the fields every year when they were fitted for planting. Likewise, there were innumerable stone piles in every neighborhood which had accumulated over a period of time. Large boulders, being too large to fit into the crusher, were often blasted first to make small pieces that would fit. But not only stone piles found their way to the crusher. Unfortunatley many beautiful stone fences or stone walls which had been laid up dry, met their doom. It stands to reason that a neat and tidy farmer would have wanted to clean up old fence balks. Of course, the stone walls were replaced by woven wire fencing. Indeed, our rural landscape certainly looked different one hundred years ago with many stone fences separating fields and pastures.

The number one photo here, taken around 1903 in either the Town of Carlton or Gaines, shows a stone crusher in the distance along side of a road. Men are seen here loading stones into it off a farm wagon. In the foreground is the engine and roller used for power and packing.

The number two photo, courtesy of George Callard of Carlton, shows a group of workers at a stone crusher during the 1920's. At the time this photo was taken, the crusher was located on the Oz Van Epps farm on Sawyer Road in the Town of Carlton. The engine shown in the immediate background was a Frick Steamer originally owned by George N. Callard a local thresher. The men in the photo are: Front row, Walter Arter, Phil Podgers, Waldo Callard, Pat Crosson, Bill Wigley, Lany Ennis. Second row, Ken Hollinger, Bill Lienhart, Frank Waldron, Art Webster, Lewis Webster. Back row, Charles Arter, Gordon Frostdick, Jim Hollinger, Hank Podgers and Bert Brown.