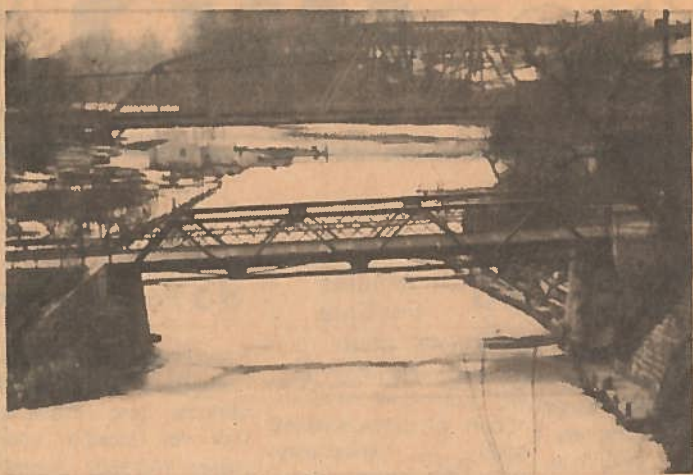


# Bethinking of

# Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



## A Bridges' Bridge

Vol. IX

7-28-87

No. 29

With the bridge on Route 18 which crosses Oak Orchard Creek being barred from traffic because of reconstruction of its floor, we are certainly more aware of the other two bridges at The Bridges. Our article this week concerns the east bridge or the one which crosses Marsh Creek at The Bridges in the Town of Carlton. The photo here by George Callard looks south showing the Marsh Creek bridge in the foreground with the 1937 Route 18 bridge in the distance.

Sixty-five years ago when this bridge was completed a dedication ceremony was held. Here follows an article from a local 1922 paper which describes the event taking place in August of that year.

"Last Saturday at the opening of the new bridge over Marsh Creek at Two Bridges, there was a large gathering. People from all over the country were there to celebrate the afternoon. It was stated that the bridge has been over two months in building. It is the same length as the old one, 68 feet, but four feet wider, 17 feet broadwise. It holds twenty tons dead weight; the floor is of concrete, with crushed stone and asphalt on top. The construction was under the supervision of town superintendent, L. W. Callard. The steel work was let to Mr. Morgan of Horseheads, N.Y.

"The parade, from Carlton Station to Point Breeze and back opened the celebration; was characterized by unusual costumes and originally decorated conveyances. An old fashioned open phaeton with the occupants dressed in the costume of fifty years ago, bearing a placard, 1861-1921, won much applause. Inasmuch as the old bridge saw many vehicles of this type, this one seemed particularly fitting to the day.

"The address was made by Bernard Ryan, of Albion, on the history of that locality. Two Bridges is one of the most historical points in Orleans County. The Oak Orchard road was the first highway, running north and south, to be opened in the county. It was cut through by the Holland Land company, who believed that Batavia would be the metropolis of Western New York, and Oak Orchard its lake port. at one time Aaron Burr owned all the land lying between the Bridges, and the lake on both sides of the creek.

"The wedding which had been advertised to take place on the bridge followed Mr. Ryan's speech. There was much curiosity expressed as to the identity of the bride and the groom and when little Margery and Gordon Garrett, appeared in conventional bridal dress, escorted by eight tiny ribbon girls, two brides maids, two flower girls and Leon Parsons, as minister, there was a hearty laugh from the crowd, followed by a burst of applause.

"The celebration came to a close with a baseball game between Kent and Waterport. Donatelli's band furnished music throughout the afternoon."