

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin
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L. Monacelli photo copy

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RUSSELL J. WALDO 1892-1959

"Brief were my days among you, and briefer still the words I have spoken. But should my voice fade in your ears, and my love vanish in your memory, then I will come again, and with a richer heart and lips more yielding to the spirit will I speak. Yes, I shall return with

the tide, and though death may hide me and the greater silence enfold me, yet again will I seek your understanding....."

Kahill Gibran

Russell J. Waldo was born into an old established family at West Barre, N.Y. to Albert H. Waldo and Ella Northrup Waldo. Following his education, he entered the newspaper field in 1908 as a field representative and assistant employee manager for the American Press Association with Butte, Montana as his headquarters. In 1913 he had personal dealings with Thomas Edison in the latter's copper mine at Butte. Beginning in 1914 until his death, he wrote for the technical and industrial press of the United States, Canada, England, Australia

and India. During a seventeen year period he covered 4,000,000 miles gathering data for the National Electric Light Association. He was a "contributing editor" to three large business magazines in the United States and a corresponding reporter for sixty-three trade and technical magazines. Mr. Waldo was recognized as an international trade journal writer. In 1921 he devised a trade test for the more accurate selection of highly skilled workers for the Studebaker Corporation. He also wrote "Medical Economics" and "Industry Picks the Stethoscope" which dealt with workers in industrial hospitals. Mr. Waldo was the medical correspondent for the Buffalo and Rochester newspapers as well as the Associated Press for the Herald Tribune. In fact, it was through Mr. Waldo's efforts that the A.P. WIRE PHOTO SERVICE WAS FIRST STARTED IN Medina. For twenty-five years he was on the staff of the Journal-Register covering the city hall news. He authored a column entitled the "Historian's Notebook" which appeared frequently in the Medina paper. As a freelance journalist Mr. Waldo accomplished all this without ever owning or driving a car or for that matter, graduating from high school. He married his first wife in Indianapolis, Indiana and they had two sons, Kenneth and Floyd. In 1927 he married the former Nancy Hellen Moore in the Universalist Church in Middleport and their five children are Majorie, Nancy, Dwight, Franklin and Wilda. Aside from Russell J. Waldo's journalistic accomplishments he is perhaps best remembered as a local historian. He was Village Historian for Medina from 1949-1959 and headed up the Old Home Week in 1956. He was the founder and president of the Medina Community Historical Association which later dissolved after his death. Through his immense interest in and research of Medina's history, much has been preserved for future generations. Appreciation is expressed to his daughter, Marjorie McCauley, for assistance in compiling this story.

In the weeks ahead this column will be most frequently devoted to a story each about our present day official municipal historians and what they are doing. As per state mandate, each township in Orleans County has a historian as does each incorporated village.