



## **Make hay while the sun shines!**

“Make hay while the sun shines” is a proverb which originated with English farmers in medieval times. Hay is dried wheat or grass used as food for farm animals. Centuries ago, without modern machinery, it would take several days for a farmer to cut, dry and collect the hay. Since hay gets destroyed if it becomes too wet, the farmers used to take the opportunity when the weather was hot and sunny to cut and gather the hay. Therefore, make hay while the sun shines began as a sensible and practical piece of farming advice. However, the idiom soon began to be used by the general public to emphasize that you should take advantage of good circumstances before the opportunity vanishes. With temperatures in the nineties, many area farmers were busy last weekend mowing, raking and baling hay. For some farmers it was their second cutting of hay. (Watson)

Today’s agriculture industry has seen a slight change in growth cycles. Instead of “knee-high by the Fourth of July” the saying, “The corn is as high as an elephant’s eye” seems to be more accurate. The new phrase was taken from a song in the 1943 musical Oklahoma! With new corn breeds and varieties available, there are noticeable differences in the way the crop grows. Farmers can plant earlier because of tougher breeds and new kinds of seeds. Earlier planting means taller corn on July 4th. The expectation is now corn should be chest-high or taller. Judging by Ivan Fassett’s cornfield, there will be plenty of early sweet corn available at his vegetable stand this summer. (Watson)



*From the Don Urtz Photo Collection...*



The photo shows the scene of the Druse murder which took place in December 1884 in the Town of Warren. Mrs. Wm. Druse shot her abusive husband while he was sitting at a table and then killed him with an ax. She then cut up his body and burned it in the stove. It was almost 3 weeks before it became known due to the Sheriff looking into the disappearance of the missing man. The murderess was convicted and hanged in Herkimer.



### **Canadarago Park - 1908**

Opened a few years earlier to soon become one of the most popular places of relaxation and entertainment in the area.