

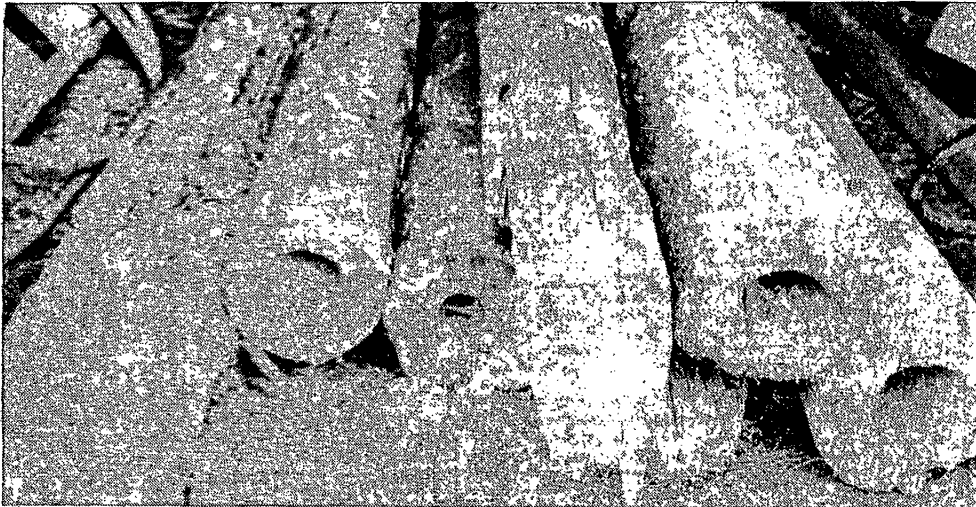
# Altamont Enterprise

And ALBANY COUNTY POST

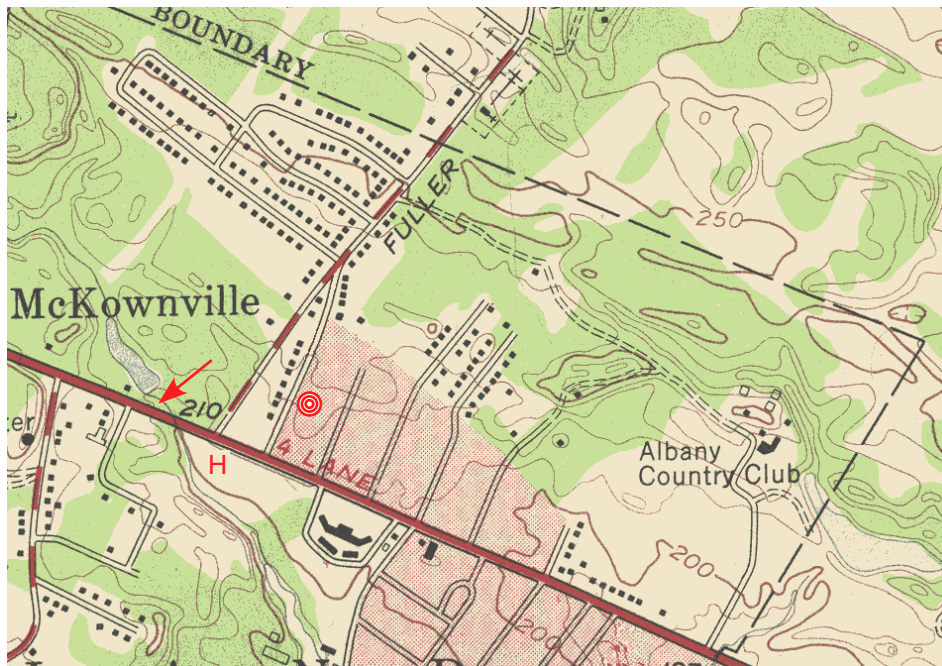
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(26 PAGES)



**WATER RAN THROUGH THEM** — The photo above shows a pile of old wooden water pipes that were part of a water distribution system installed in the McKownville area between 1800 and 1820. They have presumably been in the ground more than 150 years. This will be an exhibit in the area of the Farm Museum and the antique farm machinery exhibit at the Altamont Fair next week. See these water pipes at the south end of the Fairgrounds. (Photo by Edward C. Brandow)



from USGS Albany quadrangle map of 1953. Red arrow points to place where these pipes were found. Red H is the site of McKown's hotel and tavern. Red circles symbol is where in 1932 a similar pipe was found in excavation for the basement of 9 Elmwood St; water flowed from this until it was plugged.

## Old Wooden Water Pipes In Fair Exhibit

At the Altamont Fair next week, there will be on exhibit several wooden water pipes, which date back about 150 years. This should be an interesting exhibit, especially to oldtimers, who can remember when many municipalities were equipping their water systems with this form of piping.

The exhibit will be located in the area of the farm museum and antique farm machinery exhibit, at the south end of the Fairgrounds.

These specimens of wooden water pipe were taken from the ground beside the McKownville water filtration plant in 1966. They were part of an ingenious water distribution system installed by William McKown between 1800 and 1820, and have been in the ground presumably more than 150 years.

In 1793 William McKown, who leased a tavern called the Five Mile House on the original Schenectady Path or King's Highway, foresaw the coming of the Great Western Turnpike and purchased a large tract of land along the Kromme Kill (now called Krum-Kill), and erected a large frame tavern and hotel on the site of what is now King's Shell Station, at the end of Fuller Road on Rt. 20. Later Witbeck's Tavern, it burned in 1917.

In 1799 William McKown leased land to the Great Western Turnpike company for the road, and the tavern of "Billy" McKown became a well known stopover for settlers bound for the west and cattle drovers bound east for market.

Mr. McKown erected cattle pens and stables to provide for the animals. The water conduits provided water for these installations. Some have been found as far away as Elmwood St.

At Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts (circa 1790-1830), the period in which these pipes were installed, is an exhibit of how such pipes were made by holding a straight pine log in a rigid frame and boring with a large guided hand auger. They were apparently common to the period.

William McKown died in 1843, and his remains rest in Prospect Hill cemetery where the family was moved from the private burial plot in McKownville.