

# Bethinking of <sup>4-11-79</sup> Old Orleans

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## ELECTRIC LIGHT

This photograph taken in the 1890's shows the south east corner at the intersection of Main and Bank Streets in Albion. Let me draw your attention to the upper left portion of the picture where you can see one of Albion's first electric street lights suspended on wires. This peculiar design with cone-shaped hood and glass globe underneath was located in about the same position as the present traffic light.

The Orleans American newspaper ran an article about Albion's street lamps eighty-nine years ago on April 12, 1890. It is as follows: "On Monday evening last about 7:30 the electric lights were turned on by Miss Louise Hart, youngest daughter of Hon. E. Kirke Hart, and the Village of Albion was, for the first time in its history, lighted by electricity. The streets were crowded with people, and the general opinion seemed to be that the lights were a great success. Of course, more lamps would give more light, but a tour of the village shows us that there are few dark places left on our streets. As it is, we think the light given by the electric lamps is superior to gas, as gas is to candles and we regard this new motion as one of the greatest improvements and benefits that our village has ever know."

1979 marks the International Centennial of Light as Thomas Edison finally devised a light bulb that worked on Oct. 19, 1879.