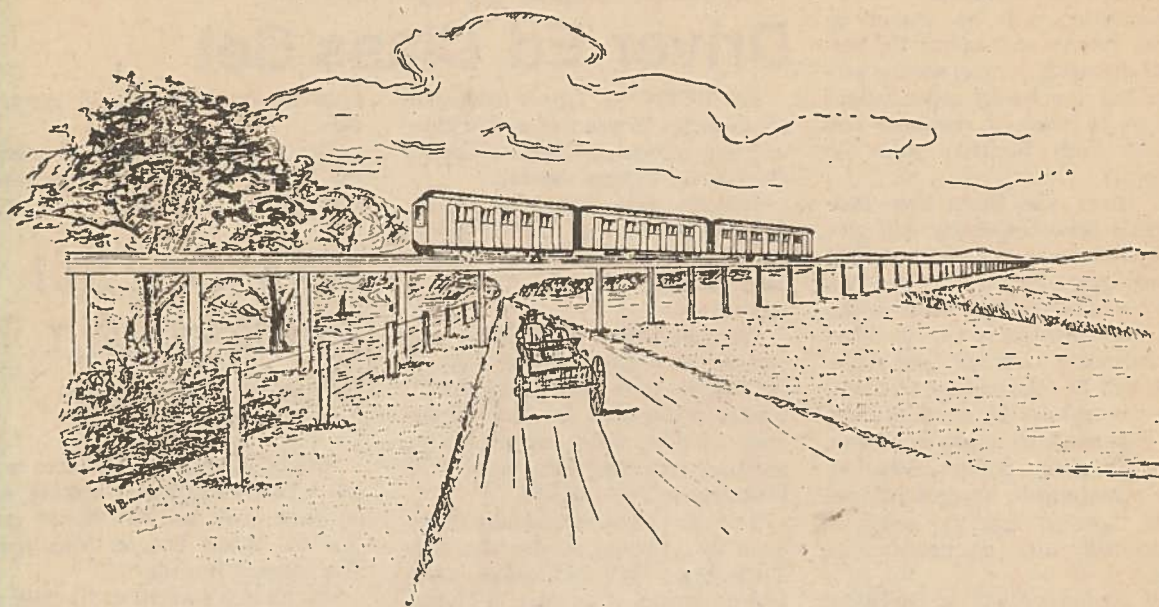


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



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**THE WATERPORT ELECTRIC
LIGHT AND POWER
AND RAILROAD COMPANY**

Around 1900 a company was organized, known as the Equipment Construction Company of Batavia, N.Y. to build an elevated rail system from the Oak Orchard-on-the-Lake to Batavia. Needless to say, this innovative plan never transpired. From a little booklet or Prospectus which was published to promote the idea we find the above illustration and following information:

Waterport....."making a waterpower which according to engineers and experts, when properly developed, will be second only to that of Niagara. This quiet little town, with its few hundred willing and industrious inhabitants, is destined to be a large manufacturing and business center.

"This company controls all the water power and three hundred acres of land on the north side of the Oak Orchard River, a most desirable location for factory sites and residence lots. The company will build a dam 40 feet high at this point, which will develop about 5,000 horsepower during the driest season. It will also build other dams above for storage. The company will furnish electric power for the operation of the railroad and for the lighting and heating of its cars; also power for the repair shops which are to be located here, as well as the general offices of the railroad company. This will give employment to a large number of men, who will have their residence at Waterport. The Equipment Construction Company have decided to build their factory for the manufacture of electrical apparatus, motors, cars and railway equipment at Waterport, which will give employment to about 50 men at the start. The headquarters of the Waterport Electric Light & Power & Railroad Company will also be located at this place. Three other manufacturing establishments have made arrangements to build here at once which will give employment to about 150 men. The W.E.L. & P. & R.R. will span the Oak Orchard at this point with an elegant steel bridge, which will serve for carriages as well as for the railroad. The railroad bridge will

be over the carriage driveway, and will be elevated about 72 feet above the water.....

"The Equipment Construction Company has taken the contract to build and equip this line for the stock and bonds of the company, and, having undertaken to float the bonds for cash and material, will ask the citizens along the line of the proposed route to take a portion of these securities. The company confidently believes that the profits of the road will largely exceed the interest on the bonds.....The depository for the payment of the interest on the bonds is one of the most reliable and conservative banking houses in Western New York, namely, The First National Bank of Batavia, N.Y.....

"The Beecher Single-Rail System with elevated track, will be used, and the cars will be propelled by electricity from a storage battery on each motor car. This system requires but one-tenth of the power needed by any other railroad for the same speed and load, at the same time it is absolutely safe, since it is impossible to derail the cars, spread the track, jump switches, or break frogs. Being out of the snow in winter and dust in the summer, with no grade crossings or possibility of running over anything, no cinders to burn buildings and fences, no dangerous trolley to get down and kill people and animals, this system can be operated for one-fifth the expense of any other line using electricity generated by steam. In this case, the electricity being generated by water power, brings the cost of operating to one-tenth the cost of any other road by electricity or steam. Having only about one-half of the capital invested that would be required to build and equip any other kind of a road which could do this business, it makes an investment that is safe and sure.....

"This road will give the people along the line a regular street-car service, as stations will be erected at all highway crossings and at all other places of importance along the route. Farmers and others are privileged to erect stations or platforms along the right-of-way, where cars will stop on signal for passengers or freight. This will make the accommodations the very best, giving the patrons of the road an opportunity readily to reach markets, schools and places of business or amusement from almost any point on the line."