

Bethinking of Old Orleans

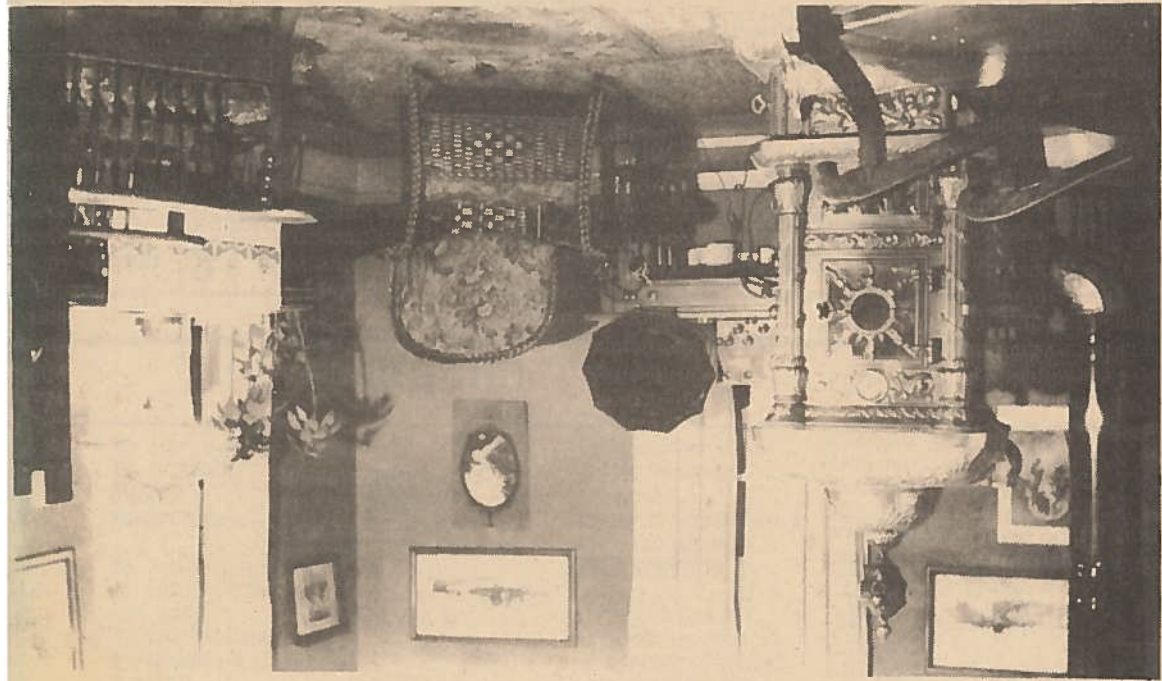
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Pictures like this, I think, are wonderful because they tell us so much about the life and times of people. The negative from which this picture was made is dated Feb. 23, 1924. I believe the picture was taken by the late Fred Holt which shows the Holt family living room as it appeared in their home on South Clinton Street at Hazard Parkway in Albion.

First, let me point out that older interior shots are harder to come by simply because of inadequate lighting for the photographer. Remember, even the flash cube had not yet been invented, when this picture was taken. Secondly, I point out that this photo shows an average middle class home of the times. In fact, that's what I especially like about this picture. It is indeed, representative of what many homes looked like in the 1920's. The furniture is not all new except perhaps the wicker chair. The other pieces are turn-of-the-century in vintage. The arm chair to the far right, which is cut off in the picture, is probably a Morris chair. Notice the electric table lamp with either carmel or green slag glass shade and base. I think it's one where the base also lights up. It probably cost under \$15.00 when purchased new. I'm not an appraiser, but such a piece today, in a quality antique shop would no doubt, have a price tag of over \$450.00. We notice also what might be called a parlor stove which seems to dominate the whole living room. Note the bright new shining stove pipe which tells us that they did not have central heating Dead center, on a table, is a very early crystal set radio. Notice the two head phones hanging on the drawer pulls and the large horn used on old phonographs. They may have used this with an ear phone to enhance the sound for more people to hear.

Wall hangings include prints, water colors and calendar. A poinsettia, left over from Christmas sits in a wicker plant stand. The walls are painted and otherwise plain. The floor has an area rug with flooring shown around the edge. It is obviously not a rich person's home, yet typifies the ambience found in many American homes over sixty years ago.