

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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BACK TO SCHOOL



At this time of the year we frequently hear the phrase "back to school." It certainly applies to first graders through at least Juniors in college. This wonderful vintage photo zeros in on school life at the college level. Shown here is Lynn M. Burrows (1884-1944) in his abode while a student at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, N.Y. Whether this is a dormitory, "frat" house or an apartment, we'll probably never know. Mr. Burrows graduated from RPI in 1907 so we can assume the photo must have been taken prior to that time. Although the interior is somewhat dated in its appearance, its general ambiance is not at all unlike a college student's dwelling place of today or for that matter many teenagers bedrooms in the 1990's.

Mr. Burrows appears to be reclining on a cot holding a mandolin and smoking a pipe. Around him is an assortment of clutter including banners of his alma mater, photographs of family and friends, gee gaws, a girlie picture and advertising posters. How often we have seen our teenagers and college students grab on to various sorts of advertising for hanging up in their rooms. We note here advertising for "Bud" cigars. To the far left, we

notice a large heating stove which is rather ostentatious in appearance and to the right, a spindle-back rocker. Notice the very decorative wallpaper border at the ceiling level and the inter-twining drapes around the recess in which Mr. Burrows poses. Obviously the room was not decorated by a master mind of interior design any more than most contemporary kids' bedrooms.

If in college when it's "back to school" you're on your own as far as personal taste and choice of surroundings. Lynn Burrows, like his peers of their day, did their own thing. All in all, times haven't changed much, not even clutter.

Lynn Moore Burrows grew up in Albion in a family home which is now the Cornell Cooperative Extension. He and his wife, Beatrice Signor Burrows later lived there. After receiving a degree of Civil Engineering from RPI, his first project was overseeing sewer construction in the Village of Medina. He later worked on large sections of the Barge Canal when it was last widened and deepened. He also was involved in drainage of the fertile muck lands in the southern part of our country. Throughout his life he was active in many community affairs and was an avid yachtsman.