



Bethinking of Old Orleans

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1912 Nominations

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The snapshot shown today was taken sometime in the fall of 1912, from the porch of the McMann Hotel looking down North Main Street in Albion. Political advertisements dominate the streetscape prior to the presidential election that year.

The banner most clearly visible states: "Democratic Nominations for President and Vice President Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey and Thomas R. Marshall of Indiana." An American eagle clutching a shield forms a center of interest with portraits of Wilson and Marshall on either side.

In the next block, similar banners stretched across Main Street hang from buildings on either side of Main. Here we can vaguely see support for the Republican nominees, William H. Taft for president and James Sherman for vice presi-

dent. Their portraits appear on either side of a large eagle with spread wings.

One of the buildings in this photo supports a sign stating "Progressive Headquarters." Nearby is a barber pole sticking out of a second floor window. Underneath another sign states: "Billiard and Pool Parlor." The political banners across the street appear to be mounted on some sort of netting.

Because of the number of men seen — and the fact that only men are seen on the sidewalks — it is logical to assume some sort of political event was to take place.

Note the decorative tower on the Swan block — now HSBC Bank — at the corner of Main and Bank streets.

My thanks to John Long for sharing this piece of visual history.