

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Torn Up Street

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Anyone who thinks having our streets recently torn up in Holley, Albion or Medina is a nuisance should take a close look at our photo.

This picture, taken in 1908, shows the extensive excavation work undertaken on Main Street in Medina for the BL&R Trolley system. Here we see ties and track being laid down the center of the street with piles of dirt on both sides.

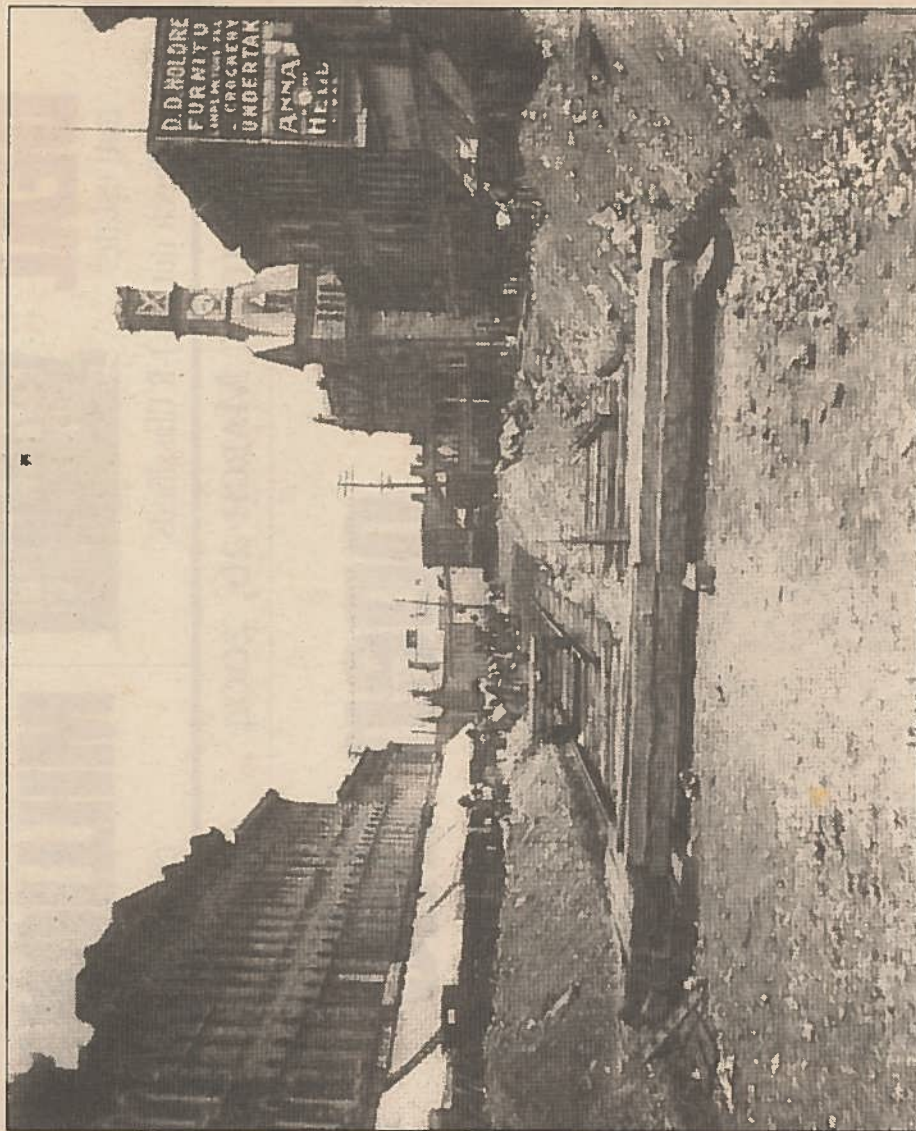
The notable landmark here is the seven-story tower of Whites Hotel in the distance. A clock occupying the sixth floor had an opaque glass dial originally illuminated from behind with gas jets at night.

At any rate, it seems every generation or so has to go through a major street overhaul.

Narrow lanes were used in 1908, on either side of the piles of dirt and rubble, for access to the stores that lined Main Street. Note the carriages near the awnings to the left and a horse hitched to a wagon on the east side of the street.

People living on West Center Street refused to let the tracks be laid on their street. This was a real glitch for the Railway Company.

Consequently, the roadbed entered Medina from the east down the middle of East Center



Street, but when it got to the four corners, the company was forced to make a right angle turn rather than go straight through. The tracks, therefore, ran north

on Main Street to Commercial Street, following the canal in back of residences to the village limits where it followed Salt Works Road and points west.

I guess people are not much different now than they were back then, because every time change occurs, there always are objections for better or worse.