



Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Reminiscences

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No. 9

This will be our sixth week of reminiscences and the third in which I've compiled a list of things from my own memory. Do you remember?

When every farm house had one or two large wooden barns behind it plus other out buildings?

When high school students dressed up to go to school with both boys and girls wearing black and white saddle shoes or penny loafers?

When all tires had tubes in them and people used tire chains for traction on snowy roads in the winter?

When you voted in a voting house actually located within the geographic confines of your election district before central polling places?

When kitchens were simply a room with a stove, refrigerator and sink, before they became the most expensive room in the house with exotic cabinetry and counters, etc.?

When the Medina Conservation Club had a large wooden crib for beginning swimmers, and Mrs. Isabel Krumm sat in the shady recesses with an ever watchful eye?

When father knew best and every family sat down nightly to the dinner table engaging in conversation?

When the Christmas season didn't start until after Thanksgiving and people didn't put up their trees with series lights until a week before the big day?

When high school boys during the late 1960s wore skin-tight blue jeans, so tight they couldn't possibly squeeze anything into a pocket?

When people had collapsible wooden lawn

furniture covered with bright colored striped canvas on the backs and seats?

When farm families actually traded their goods such as eggs at a grocery store for items they couldn't produce themselves?

When 'blue coal' was the best heat and the coal dealer wet it down just before delivery so it wouldn't make excessive dust as it rumbled down the coal shoot into the bin in your basement?

When families took Sunday afternoon rides and called on distant relatives or friends?

When farm trucks loaded with hampers of ripe tomatoes destined for Hunts Canning Factory waited in line on East Avenue all the way from Platt Street to Bullard Park?

When movies were shown for three days at a time in the Diana and Rialto theatres and the Orleans Drive-In captured their business?

When only men wore pants and women dressed up just to go grocery shopping?

When kerosene torches were used by highway departments at night as warning signals where road construction was taking place?

When high school boys took on the long hair look of The Beatles and every father of one had 17 fits?

When DeSotos, Edsels, Corvairs, Hudsons and Studebakers were running the roads and huge decorative fins were all the rage for several years?

When older cars were customized by removing the rear portion and replacing it with a deck, the vehicle then being known as a doodle-bug?

Our photo taken in 1948 shows such a homemade pick-up or doodle-bug.