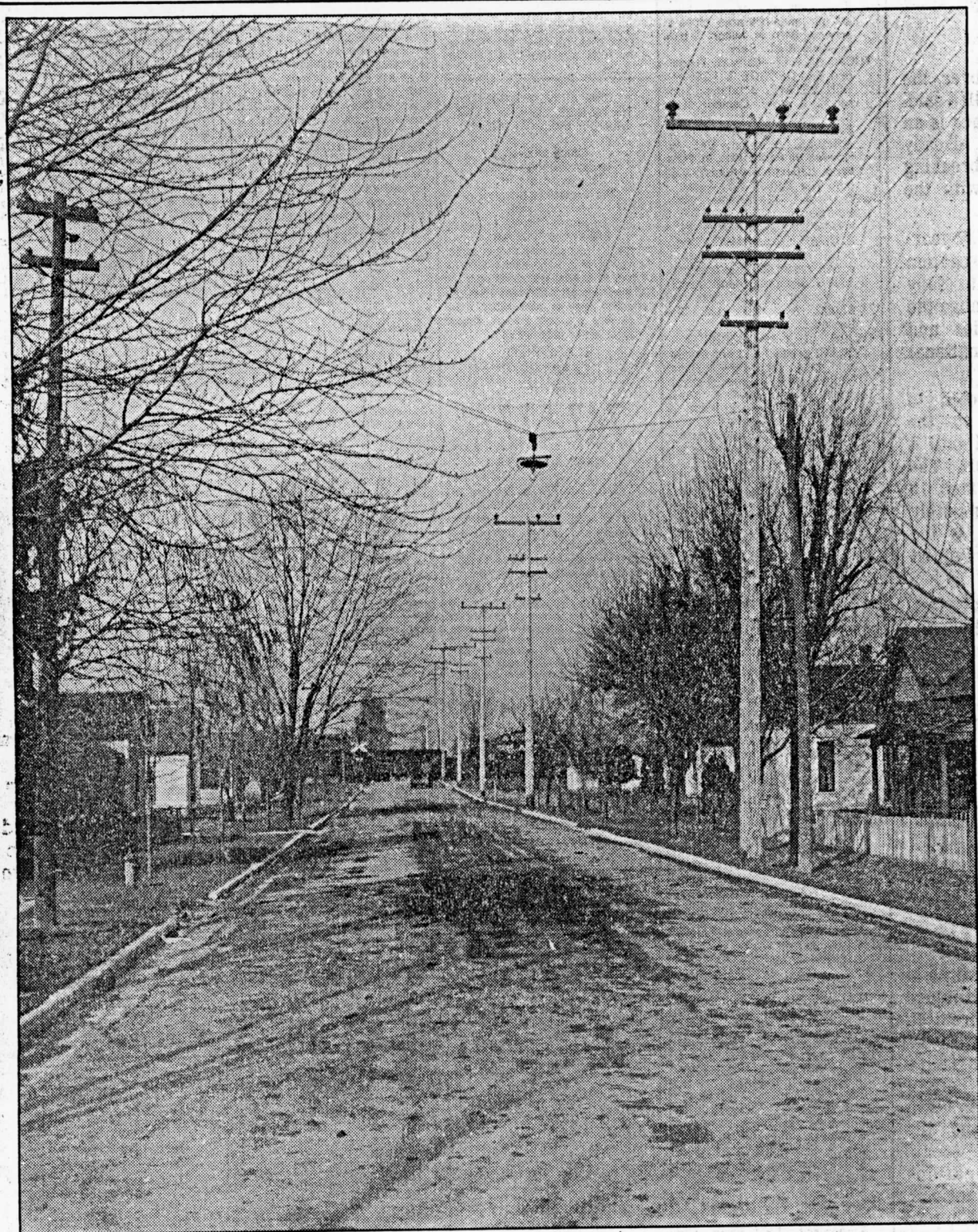


Album of Yesteryear

Muncie STAR 7/15/90



Early 20th century Muncie commercial photographer Otto Sellers frequently worked in other East Central Indiana communities, and in one of those he recorded this street scene perhaps 70 or more years ago. What is the location? North Water Street in Albany. The fire hydrant at left was the first clue. The Album's staff then consulted longtime Albany resident Everett Barber, and he identified the building at right in the background as the

Mercer & Ayers lumber yard, the largest of three in the town. Elmer J. Shank has more recently operated a sheet metal business in the structure. The railroad is the Lake Erie and Western, later the Nickel Plate Road and now Norfolk & Western Railway. Note the horse-drawn vehicle waiting for the train to pass, and the bare-bulb-plus-reflector street light, a style in common use as late as the 1950s and '60s in many communities.