

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sow's Ear Studio Features Exhibit of Historic Photos of Upper Union Street, Schenectady.

SCHENECTADY, NY -6-6-2009--- “**The Way We Were**,” an exhibit of historic photos and newspaper clipping of the Upper Union Street area of Schenectady has been installed at **Sow's Ear Studio**, 1597 Upper Union Street. The exhibit will remain throughout the month of June. Studio hours are 11am – 4pm Monday – Saturday.

The exhibit includes several collages and individual photographs including a 1949 photo of the Rivoli Theatre at 1615 Union Street. The showcase windows tout “Flamingo Road” starring Joan Crawford and a star studded “Little Women” as the “double features.” An undated shot shows a sign at the eastern entrance to the city commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce. The welcome sign, one of four that once graced the north, south, east & west entrances to the City of Schenectady depicts a horse-drawn stage coach. Only one sign from this series remains in the City of Schenectady. It is on State Street near Schenectady County Community College.

In other photos we see a leaf canopied Union Street with cobble stone paved street, model T's and trolley tracks back when St. Helen's Church was at 1620 Union St. A later view of St. Helen's shows a spiffy two door sedan c. 1950 pulling away from the curb. Cars and clothing styles offer clues to help date some of the photos.

The exhibit features a fascinating tale of a two story house being moved atop the flat roofed Empire Market using horses and pulleys. The move ingeniously created an 8 flat apartment building on top of a retail business and created a parking lot where the house had been. Residential properties figure significantly into Upper Union Street's history Such tales chronicle ingenuity of early Schenectadians. Business owners often took two family houses, turned the first floor into a store front for their stores and shops and raised their families in the upstairs apartment. The photos invite the viewer to looking at rooflines in the photos and compare them with the same sites today. In many cases there are very few changes above the street level.

The historic initiative on Upper Union Street is the first effort to collect the history of the business district in quite some time. The Upper Union Street BID is interested in talking to people about what they remember about the district's history and eager to collect photos and stories for an eventual self-guided tour brochurs. The Upper Union Street web site is www.upperunionbid.org. Contact may be made through info@Upperunionbid.org.

“**The Way We Were**” historic photo exhibit is presented in cooperation with the **Upper Union Street, Schenectady BID, Schenectady County's Bicentennial**, and the BID's participation in the **City of Schenectady's Explore NY 400** initiative in celebration of Dutch discovery and exploration 400 years ago.

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