



Community Notebook

Under the Bridge

A Tale of Troy, Part I

by [Amy Halloran](#), [Jim de Sève](#), October 29, 2007

In 2005, Amy Halloran set out to learn the history of a neighborhood destroyed by progress. The eight-lane Collar City Bridge was built in 1980 at the end of Hoosick Street in Troy, also known as Route 7. Whether a new span over the Hudson River was needed is still debated, but what the bridge did to the city and surrounding area—creating new patterns of travel and trade, opening up new suburbs, and eliminating several blocks of an inner-city neighborhood—is a matter of record. Aided by a New York State Council on the Arts ART\$ Grant and TRIP (the Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program), Halloran researched the history of the building project and interviewed former residents of the neighborhood that vanished “under the bridge.” She and filmmaker Jim de Sève completed Part I of Under the Bridge, their comic-book history of the event, in May; it debuted as a slide show at Troy’s RiverSpark Visitor Center, and appears here for the first time in print. Part II, commissioned by Chronogram, will be presented in our December issue.





WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TEAR DOWN THIS *WHOLE* STREET!



LATER THAT DAY . . .
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID!



ALL THE WAY UP TO MIDDLEBURGH STREET!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING AGAIN! WHERE ARE WE GOING TO MOVE NOW?



WE USED TO RENT DOWN BY THE RAILROAD TRACKS AND THEY TORE THAT DOWN FOR THE SENIOR APARTMENTS!



DIDN'T YOUR FAMILY BUILD THIS HOUSE?

THAT'S RIGHT! MY GRANDMOTHER WOULD ROLL IN HER GRAVE IF SHE KNEW ABOUT THIS!



WE GO WAY BACK IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD! MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER CAME FROM IRELAND AND LIVED IN A ROOMING HOUSE FOR WORKING GIRLS! IN THOSE DAYS RIVER STREET WAS LINED WITH SHIRT AND COLLAR FACTORIES!

TROY IS KNOWN AS THE COLLAR CITY BECAUSE OF ONE PRETTY CLEVER WOMAN!



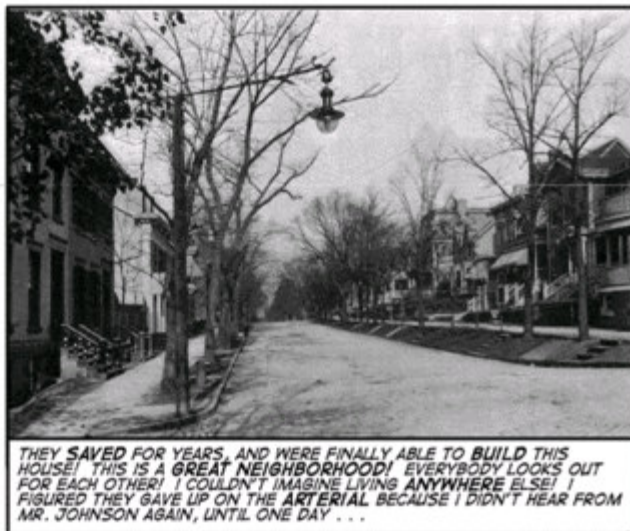
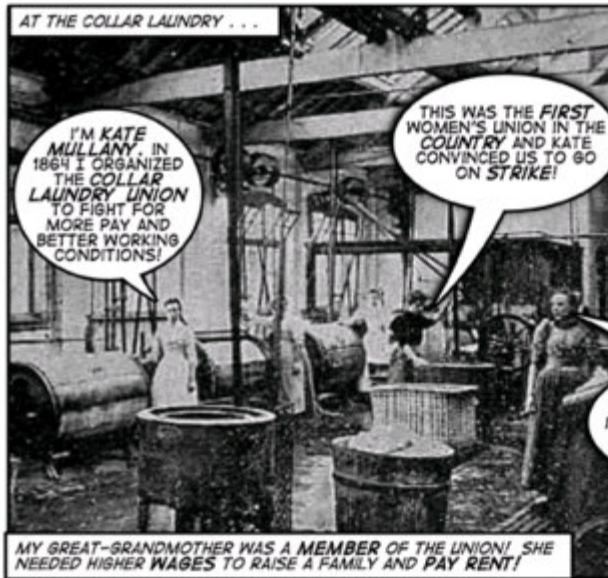
I'M HANNAH LORD MONTAGUE! IN 1827 I INVENTED THE DETACHABLE SHIRT COLLAR!

I WAS TIRED OF WASHING MY HUSBAND'S SHIRT WHEN ONLY THE COLLAR WAS DIRTY.



I'VE GOT TWENTY MORE SHIRTS TO GO!







THEY STARTED DEMOLITION FOR THE ARTERIAL AND ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A GIANT NEW BRIDGE! IN ALL THEY WANTED TO TAKE 700 BUILDINGS IN OUR AREA ALONE!



I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! EIGHTH STREET LOOKS LIKE A WAR ZONE!



I'LL TELL YOU, THEY AREN'T GOING TO TOUCH A BRICK ON MY HOUSE!



O.K. JOHNSON, DID YOU SEND THE BUYOUT PAPERS TO THIS ONE YET?

WILL THE STATE TAKE THE HOUSE? CHECK OUT THE CONCLUSION NEXT MONTH!