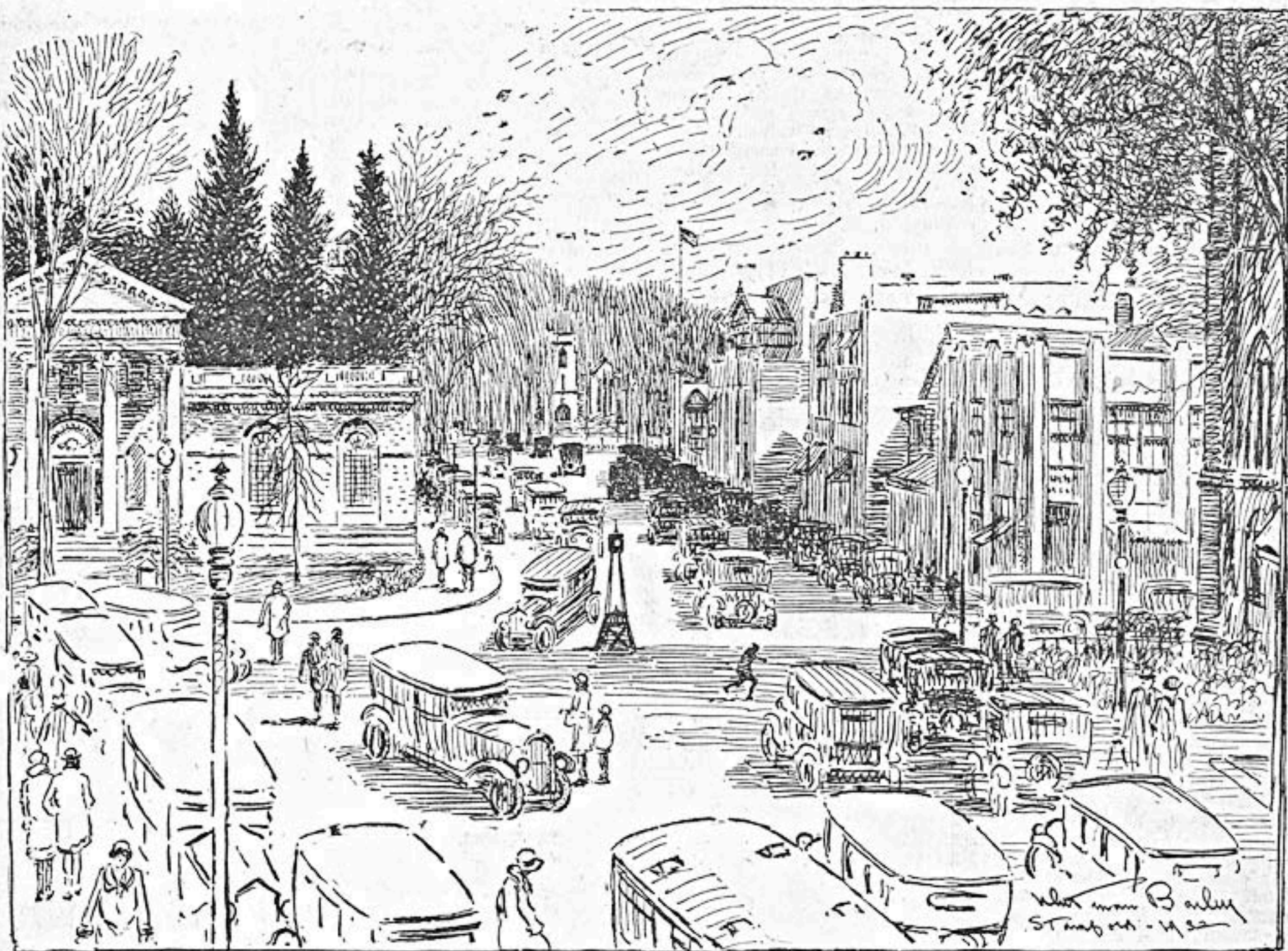


ARTIST'S VIEW OF LOWER BEDFORD STREET



Probably there is no other street in Stamford that can show more of the rapid growth of our city in the past few years than old Bedford Street. Originally a quiet residential highway of beautiful homes and stately shade trees, the lower portion of Bedford Street has now become a bustling thoroughfare, that is devoted to business life. Not so very long ago, one could still ramble along under the shadows of great elms in this immediate section and could still

catch glimpses of small homes set rigidly behind box hedges, that vividly recalled the Bedford Street of earlier years, when spans of horses in Summer or sleigh bells in Winter indicated happy gatherings somewhere along the avenue.

However, one did not always spend his spare time in watching the horses as they pranced merrily by, for on walking up Bedford Street not far from where the Ferguson Library stands, one could enjoy in season a hunt for chest-

nuts and return home with brimming pockets. It was on these hilarious occasions, that one often met merry groups of girls from the fashionable school that was then run by Miss Catherine Aiken. The school building stood on the same spot as the present First Congregational Church. "And they were the prettiest girls," said one old native to the writer, "to be found anywhere in the town." Miss Aiken, who originally came from Cape Cod, must have had the rare

gift of friendliness, for she was one of the most beloved teachers in the community.

Today old Bedford Street has seemed to take on a new lease of life. Hundreds of automobiles now skim along this once quiet highway; a great apartment house rises from it to penetrate the mist, while various shops line its sides with brightly trimmed windows, all foretelling of a better and a larger Stamford.

Whitman Bailey.