

Horse-napper nabbed by friendly neighbor

For lack of another name, the incident could have been called a case of horse-and-buggy-napping. The unfortunate perpetrator may have thought that Hoosiers were a little slow on the draw, but he was mistaken.

The comic-drama began on Saturday, March 3, 1906, when a man without visible means of transportation decided to appropriate someone else's — or, more precisely, two someone else's. He staked out the Mason & Owens livery stable and selected a horse and a buggy to his liking.

According to the *Bloomington Telephone* of March 6, 1906, the thief got a long head start on the law. "... the theft was not noticed until (H.C.) Chisler was ready to leave and his buggy was gone. At this



Looking back

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4-22-1989

time, Mason discovered that (James) Harrah's horse was also missing."

What the thief did not reckon on was Alexander Graham Bell's invention. The word to be on the lookout for the stolen horse and buggy traveled faster by wire than the thief could as he headed westward across the county. The *Telephone* reported that the message went to Ellettsville, Whitehall and

see Looking back, page A2