

Oyster supper holiday highlight in 1889

It was a holiday season without cars or television or plastic toys for children. The year was 1889, and like Charles Dickens' Scrooge after his conversion, Monroe Countians knew how to "keep" Christmas.

The flavor of that particular yuletide can best be seen in a potpourri of events as reported in the Bloomington *Telephone* between Dec. 24 and 27. The newspaper carried regular columns with items of interest from all of the communities of the county.

At Harrodsburg the Knights of



Looking back

By Rose
McIveen

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Pythias were planning to celebrate the season by giving an oyster supper for their "lady friends." About 50 couples were expected.

Residents of the Dolan area were

looking forward to their annual Christmas Day fox drive. (William F. Blair, the county auditor, had advertised a 50-cent bounty for fox "scalps.") The Dolan community got a special present from Uncle Sam — a postmaster. Reported the *Telephone*, "The boys can now get their letters without going to town for them."

For those who ventured downtown in Bloomington, there was a

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