

In pursuit of local criminal Floyd Mantell in 1939

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Jack Bruner. According to the *Bloomington Telephone*, luck ran out on May 19 when he was stopped as a "suspicious character" in the post office. To the surprise of Policemen Nate Hall and Odus Mitchell, Mantell pointed a gun at them and fled. Commented the newspa-

per, "The officers had their choice of opening fire in a block where scores of people were on the street and in the stores, and they very wisely did not shoot."

Taking advantage of the officers' caution, Mantell ran west, circled the Menon Station and dodged bullets fired by Hall at the intersection of Fifth and Rogers streets. (Mitchell had remained behind at the post

office to take into custody Mantell's two companions.)

The *Telephone* informed its readers, "... the pursuit slowed as Mantell dodged in and out of alleys and from the rear of one building to another in an attempt to throw the officer (Hall) off his trail."

Caught up in the drama of the chase, excited bystanders spotted Mantell heading up Rogers Street.

At the basket factory at Eleventh and Rogers, Hall stopped long enough to re-load his service revolver.

Nearby the fugitive tried to commandeer a commercial truck being driven by an out-of-towner. But when the driver refused to re-start the truck and his assistant threatened Mantell with a club, the latter jumped into a Ford belonging to

Carl Baynes and headed north.

Hall resourcefully jumped onto the running board of a seven-passenger Buick. Behind the wheel was Mrs. Helen Siscoe, a local driver for the Bloomington-Greencastle bus line. Game to assist in the capture, Siscoe sped north on Kaiser Pike after the fleeing Mantell.

Next week: Golf course rendezvous.