

Dec. 7, 1941 began innocently enough in area

The "war to end all wars" didn't get the job done, and Monroe Countians, who had so happily and noisily celebrated the end of World War I, were rudely jolted on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941.

THE DAY STARTED innocently enough. When people in the Bloomington area got out of bed that morning they were greeted by clear skies and a brisk temperature in the 20's — not unusual for December in Indiana.

On that morning some citizens prepared as usual to go to Sunday school and/or church. Others were sleeping in or giving some thought to their Christmas gift lists.

After the ritual of Sunday dinner, Bloomington children who could talk their parents into letting them go to the movies on the

Looking back

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By Rose McIlveen

"Lord's Day," began lining up in front of the theaters. Another must was a stop at Nickas' candy store next to the Indiana Theater for the agonizing choice of what candy to buy for the movie.

BLOOMINGTON CHILDREN had their choice of Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine in

Suspicion; Greta Garbo and Melvin Douglas in *Two-Faced Woman*; Sonja Henie and John Payne in *Sun Valley Serenade*; and Abbott and Costello in *In the Navy*, ironically enough.

Since there was no television in those days, word of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor reached Bloomington by way of the newspaper wire services and the radio.

Unlike the occasion of the Armistice in 1918, there was no great outpouring of people downtown around the square. Instead, they were huddled around their radios to hear the latest bulletin or they called friends about the news.

DOWNTOWN A FEW PEOPLE did gather around the front of the Telephone office on

College Avenue. Staff members at the newspaper, which was located where the First National Bank is today, used to print bulletins on large sheets of newsprint and hang them up in the big front windows for passersby to see.

Within the county there were some families for whom the long-distance war was too close for comfort. Local men in the Pacific area when the attack took place, according to a report in the *Telephone* on Dec. 8, included Capt. William Summers, son of Maj. and Mrs. Owen Summers, stationed at Honolulu; Joseph B. Rush, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Rush, with the Army Signal Corps at Pearl Harbor; James Hyndman on military police duty in the Hawaiian Islands; Carl R. Gross,

son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gross, stationed at Hickam Field; and Earl Douglas, stationed somewhere in the South Pacific.

ALSO, RUFUS WEINLAND, stationed at Tripler General Hospital in Honolulu; Robert Mitchell with the 77th Bomber Squadron; and Robert Weatherwax, son of Prof. and Mrs. Paul Weatherwax, who was a student at the University of Honolulu. At home in Bloomington on leave, Sgt. Ernest Nikirk made some hasty plans to return to his unit at Camp Shelby, Miss.

It was also reported in the *Telephone* on Dec. 8 that Chief of Police John Rawlins said investigation of suspected

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