

The train arrives in Bloomington

"Some people journey to the far away and remote corners of the world seeking, time and again, for that peculiar sensation — the first hour in a new land." Bloomington people may now have that pleasure without a trip overseas or thousands of miles by rail by taking the new Indianapolis Southern and going to Indianapolis." *Bloomington Telephone*, April 26, 1906.

Knowing that Indianapolis is hardly a substitute for such exotic faraway places as Japan, Africa or London, some of the more sophisticated readers of the *Telephone* must have snickered at the provincialism of the opening paragraph of the newspaper's article about the railroad line's first train into Bloomington. Still, there was a great production made of that first train into town from Indianapolis — a trip that took over four hours.

According to the *Telephone*,



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

1-11-1986

"An hour before starting, time passengers began to arrive at the station. Editor Cravens, of the *World*, was the first to put in an appearance, and the *Telephone* scribe was at his side, but as they were able to dead head their way, Charles H. Hays of Bloomington had the honor of purchasing the first ticket from Indianapolis to Bloomington."

Part of the reason for the four hours and 20 minutes it took the train to arrive in Bloomington was the frequency of stops — 10 in all. They were, believe it or not,

Gravel Pit, Glens Valley, Bangersville, Providence, Amity (?), Morgantown, Doubling Track, Helmsburg, Trevlac, Unionville and Bloomington.

Not so sophisticated after all were the travelers who kept asking the conductor when they would cross the Brown County line. Commented the *Telephone* reporter: "Most people regard Brown as a second Darkest Africa, or a place where one can mine gold or hunt wolves or do all sorts of uncivilized things, but such are not the facts . . . When the train passed through the 'old hills and hollows' this morning the Men and boys in the field stopped their work and one and all, throwing their hats in the air, shouted a welcome to the new road!"

According to the *Telephone*, Colonel Calvert of Trevlac had

see **Looking back**, Back page