

Crime in Bloomington has had light moments

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mule, then doubt arose, because of the quality. Another test disclosed it must be corn whiskey, but the air being chilly the officers were still in doubt, and another taste was necessary. Anyway, a quart was brought to town as evidence.

Meanwhile, Bloomington was in the grip of a crime wave perpetrated by a gang of boy robbers. A break-in at the William Shaw Second Hand store netted the little culprits a couple of pistols. Reported the *World*, "The work was evidently that of 'kids,'" said Chief Campbell today. "The window through which they entered was large enough for only small boys."

If that deduction wasn't challenging enough, "the gang" struck again at the Havens Poultry farm. Their take that time was a dollar and six dressed chickens, which the thieves sold to get money for basketball game tickets.

Said the world, "The boys were traced up on police clues and were arrested by the police on Saturday, Feb. 26. They were forced to remain in the women's department in the jail until they were released to their parents Sunday afternoon." The

older of the chicken thieves got an opportunity to observe the athletic program at the state reformatory for boys.

While conducting their work the Bloomington police even resembled their Hollywood counterparts. In an effort to establish a truly professional force, Bloomington Mayor John Harris had introduced uniforms for the officers.

In a burst of sensational journalism, the *Star* of Dec. 19, 1924, reported dramatically, "University students, high school students, farmers, farmers' sons, sons of prominent Bloomington men, making 17 in all, were dragged into the criminal limelight by Bloomington police officials last night."

Now that introduction to the story undoubtedly got the attention of deans, church elders, socialites and rural residents alike, who read on with trepidation. Unfortunately, the *Star* article contains no

names, except that of the sheriff, Walter Peterson, and another man.

The article said, "The men who were still in jail, were put through a long grilling, lasting from early evening until late last night, according to the sheriff, who said he had a written confession from each of them. Sheriff Peterson said he expected soon to make arrests in connection with the auto stealing that would 'startle Bloomington people.'"

Apart from the fact that the number reported to be in the gang represented a sizeable percentage of the county's population, the local law enforcement officers, it seemed, needed the help of a professional to "crack the case." One James Farrar, a detective employed by the Auto Owners' Protective Agency, had spent some three weeks in Bloomington, tracing some of those arrested to a similar operation in Terre Haute.

Brashaber announces bid for second term

H-T Report

Monroe County Treasurer Dorval Brashaber has announced she will seek the Republican renomination to run for a second four-year