

Guide reflects '30s life

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young men and women seen on the streets."

The first-floor courthouse lobby and the west side of the square were described as "meeting places for farm folk who come to Bloomington in large numbers, particularly on Saturdays. Among the square habitues were "a legless pencil salesman, a Townsendite selling old age pension magazines, or an itinerant peddler demonstrating knives, glass cutters or china cement."

Monroe Countians' way of talking came in for its share of comment by the WPA writers, who were hired and supervised by the Department of Public Relations of the Indiana State Teachers College at Terre Haute. "The twang of Hoosier dialect is heard in curbstone conversations. It is in Monroe County that the language of the common folk begins to shade off into the Southern Indiana hill country speech. 'Swimmy-headed' means dizzy, cream gets 'blinky' during a thunderstorm, and 'hep get shet of' means to help get rid of."

The description noted that prior to 1936 grocery and fruit stores around the square had awnings that stretched over the sidewalk, and wares were sold from outdoor counters. "A city ordinance has since restricted this pleasant custom to an occasional sidewalk display of sweet potatoes, sorghum, or watermelons."

The area west of the square was depicted as part of the business district, but referred to by the natives as "the levee." It was, according to the WPA writers, a place of low-price grocery stores, taverns, second-hand furniture showrooms, wholesale houses, flour mills, creameries and small factories.

The description of the IU campus was longer than that of the city. It was suggested that visitors might want to see the large collection of fishes, reptiles and other zoological specimens.

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