

Bloomington's third attempt at flight fizzled too

The scheduled flight of Professor Foster's plane was at 4 p.m. on Oct. 7, 1914. The place was Seventh Street in what was called the University Courts section of town.

According to the Bloomington *Telephone* "Six or seven thousand people" turned up at the site for what they hoped would be the town's first successful flight. Two earlier attempts had resulted in less than satisfactory exhibitions.

If the newspaper account is accu-



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rate, Foster certainly had a devil-may-care, if not downright foolhardy attitude about the whole affair. Reported the *Telephone*, "As Professor Foster started the machine he had a cigar in his mouth, and he

was still puffing away at it when picked out of the wreckage."

Yes, the third Bloomington airplane flight fizzled, just like its two predecessors. Commented the newspapers, "Professor Foster failed this afternoon to break Bloomington aviation hoodoo, and the hoodoo broke the professor—or rather his machine."

Bystanders observed that the fragile plan took one short hop into the air and ended in the Jordan River. Foster's account of the mishap was that his engine was not

working just right, he met some unexpected wind and that he had tried to take into the air without the necessary speed.

There was also the matter of an obstacle in his way — that of the backstop of a tennis court. Whatever the cause, the plan was, to say the least, inoperable. The incident had its comic side, according to the *Telephone*. "... the professor and the machine turned turtle. Another stampede, similar to that when Kearney fell, took place and hun-

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