

# Monroe authorities were suspicious

Early in 1930, when the Monroe County Grand Jury was looking into the unexplained deaths of several people, Homer Oliphant's was among them. On April 29, 1925, the former coal mine owner and bridge manufacturer was found seated in his Essex automobile along Stanford Road, a bullet through his brain.

His fingers were clenched around a revolver, and there was blood on his right shoulder, according to the



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

Bloomington *Evening World*. The car was parked a half-mile east of the Greene County Chapel.

Dr. W.C. Reed, Monroe County

coroner, wasn't all that sure it was a case of suicide. In fact, the newspaper commented, "Dr. Reed believes the gun may have been placed in Oliphant's hand by his assailants to cover up their act."

What made the authorities suspicious were the following factors: There were no powder burns around the wound behind his right ear; Oliphant's watch was missing and the chain broken; his wallet was on the floor of the car, and,

were suspicious