

Series of burglaries had residents concerned in 1916

Residents of the near-north side of Bloomington were startled by a rash of burglaries along Walnut and Washington streets early in November of 1916. Impressed by the affluent look of the houses between eighth and 10th streets, the burglar probably expected to have a lucrative night's work.

Along Walnut Street, the midnight intruder entered the home of Sanford Teter, who had married into the Showers family and worked for the company. According to the *Bloomington Weekly Courier* of Nov. 2, 1915, the robber picked up something very practical during



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

that burglary.

"At the home of Mr. Teter, a scarf pin and a grip (suitcase) were stolen. Mr. Teter had just returned from a business trip, and luckily had removed the most valuable papers to the safe at the Showers factory office and all that remained in the grip were some papers of minor

importance."

John Hoadley lost a revolver, which had been kept on the first floor, and a watch and money taken from his pants pockets upstairs. That robbery provided the police with a possible clue. Explained the *Courier*, "Mrs. Hoadley said the robber reached over several valuable rings to get to a half-dollar on the dresser. For this reason, the man is supposed to be a local man, for he did not seem to want to run the risk of selling jewelry."

Another household that was a target for the burglar was the home of F.M. Allen. Fortunately for that family, the intruder changed his

mind. Chuckled the *Courier*. "He did not take anything and is supposed to have been frightened away by the barking of their dog. This is made all the more ludicrous by the fact that the dog is but a pup, being less than a year old."

Someone spotted the burglar on the back porch of the J.D. Showers house. Police believed that nothing was taken because the burglar saw that there were servants still working in the kitchen.

If the robber was a local man, he must not have had any respect for the clergy. Police theorized that his last stop was at the home of the Rev. J.M. Coleman on Washington

Street. There the intruder apparently gave vent to his frustration over the meager haul in his possession. Commented the *Courier*. "... he took to upsetting drawers and overturning furniture. The downstairs was littered with the contents of the buffet, two desks and a bureau. Papers from the desk were scattered over the floor and the drawers were pulled out and overturned."

One other robbery may or may not have been related to the others. The North Indiana Avenue home of Elmer Reader, who owned a clothing store, was also entered.

see **Looking back**, page C3