

Salvation Army captain arrested in 1909 for services on the square

On a Saturday evening in July of 1909 Capt. Mitchell of the Salvation Army calmly began his usual service on the southwest corner of the square.

THE SERVICE attracted an unusually large crowd that evening, because there was a rumor going around that Mitchell was about to be arrested. In a front page story, the *Bloomington Telephone* reported that the curious audience — an fool and in buggies — filled the street.

The Salvation Army officer's helpers included his wife, Sgt. Cramer and a Rev. James Stevens. Capt. Mitchell officiated on the corner, and he tooted out music lustily to the north, east, south and west.

Mitchell, himself, knew that there was a possibility that he might be arrested. The Bloomington City Council had earlier decided that the services

Looking back

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By Rose H. McIlveen

would have to have a new location. The councilmen reasoned that the square was usually already crowded on Saturday night, and there was the potential of personal injury from runaway horses.

But there was also a rumor to the effect that some of the square's merchants had a hand in the council's decision. The *Telephone* commented, "When the army appeared on the streets with its

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