

# Cops and robbers in '09

The case of Enos Bingham, a visitor to Bloomington from Terre Haute in the spring of 1909, gave the reporters of both local newspapers an opportunity to write with tongue in cheek.

Bingham was surely up to no good in town and amply demonstrated it when he skipped out of Julia Storms' boarding house at 1114 W. Eighth St., without paying his bill. The landlady chose to take Bingham's departure unkindly and caused a warrant to be sworn out for his arrest.

The fugitive probably had sense enough to try to leave town, but was apprehended by a local policeman, only to escape again and disappear into Maple Heights on the northwest side of Bloomington. Meanwhile, self-styled private detective Charles "China" Harris was playing a different game. Having assisted the police in closing the Wertz "blind tiger" on West Seventh Street, he may have considered himself a trifle more sophisticated than the average Bloomingtonian. Harris dropped by the residence of a woman of the demimode and thereby, himself,



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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became the subject of a warrant. He, at least, had no trouble finding Bingham, and having done so, Harris was apparently trying to decide how to use his find to the best advantage. According to the *Telephone* the "detective" called deputy prosecutor William Loudon and offered to turn in Bingham if there was a reward.

Bingham and Harris were still hiding out in Maple Heights when an unrelated event proved to be their downfall. After someone threw a rock through a window of an Indianapolis Southern train, two of the local police were questioning some boys in the neighborhood of Mrs. Storm's boardinghouse. She happened to be present at the questioning and spotted Bingham and see **Looking back, Back page**