

Newspapers dramatize suicide attempt

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and heart filled to overflowing with woe."

The Bloomington *Telephone's* Nov. 19 version of her name was "Decil Maner." The discrepancy in names was not the only one pointed up by the two newspaper accounts. The *World* reporter had, perhaps, padded his story with details that had little or no basis in fact. Whatever her name, the young woman apparently bought the arsenic at Bowles Drug Store and returned to her place of employment, the Keck Hotel, a boarding house on South Morton Street.

Related the *World*, "She apprised no one of her intentions, but about 4 o'clock in the seclusion of her room swallowed the entire amount of

poison she had purchased." The *Telephone* reporter wrote another script to the drama. "Only for the watchfulness of Mrs. Keck, she would have succeeded. The girl had told her that she was going to kill herself, and opened a small package. Mrs. Keck attempted to secure the package, but before she could do so, the girl had poured some of the contents in her hand and swallowed them."

Fortunately, eventually the two newspapers' accounts merged into a semblance of what happened next. Removed to the jail, the girl exhibited such unusual behavior that the turnkey called Dr. Frank Tourner. An emetic brought up whatever arsenic had not already been absorbed by her stomach lining, but her case was "touch and go" for some hours.

By Nov. 18, the *World* reporter had changed his mind about the young woman's name, which was reported as "Doshia Raynor." "She indignantly denies the report that she was ever married and refuses absolutely to converse with anyone concerning her rash act, other than to say she was tired of living." The *Telephone* account says, "The girl states that she became despondent because she has no friends, was fired of life and did not realize what she was trying to do."

The newspaper added a sad little postscript to the story. "She has a father living in Brown County and two sisters, one at Edinburg and one at Indianapolis. As yet nothing has been heard from her people. The girl is still at the jail, and it is thought she will be well again within two weeks."