

2 women contribute to Bloomington lore

For first-hand accounts of the early days of Monroe County two women — Mrs. Cornelius Perring, an English emigrant, and Margaret McCalla, whose family roots go back to the earliest days of this area — made substantial contributions.

CONTRARY TO THE sarcastic accounts of early Americans made by the Englishwoman, Mrs. Trollope, in her much-read book about her travels on this continent, Mrs. Perring found her Monroe County neighbors "sociable" as well as "genteel and respectable." In fact, in her letter to friends back home in England, her only complaint was about "servant problems," not unusual for an upper middle class Englishwoman accustomed to amenities.

There is a ring of genuine affection for her fellow Monroe Countians in her observation that "People are very neighborly

Looking back

5-16-1981

By Rose McIlveen

and in sickness make it a point of duty to render each other all possible assistance." Although she died at a relatively young age, Mrs. Perring wrote: "Should our health be continued to us I shall not regret coming to America . . ."

COUNTY HISTORIANS are further indebted to Margaret McCalla, for whom a near-downtown elementary school was

(Page 2, col 6, this sec.)