

Flamboyant, controversial

Harris mayor for 3 terms

One of Bloomington's most flamboyant and controversial mayors was a man by the name of John G. Harris, who was elected to three non-consecutive terms — 1910-18 and 1922-25.

Harris was practically home-grown in the sense that he came to

Bloomington
f r o m
Louisville,
Ky., with family,
when he
was seven
years old. His
father was a
physician, who
practiced here

Looking Back

By Rose H. McIlveen

for many years and was an enthusiastic member of the Monroe County medical organization.

Young John Harris attended Bloomington public schools and graduated with a law degree from Indiana University in 1896. He seemed to be destined for a conventional local legal career, but a 10-year bout of ill health sent him to Oklahoma, where the climate was supposed to be better for his chronic asthma. Upon returning to Bloomington, Harris set up his legal practice and ran successfully for a two-year term in the state legislature (1909-10).

ENCOURAGED BY HIS political successes (he had also been three times elected police judge in

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