

# Gunfire Leads to \$500 reward offer

In spite of the active imagination of the editor of the Bloomington *Progress*, some local news did creep into the newspaper. A case in point is what must have been one of the longest classified ads in 1860s.

The headline said simply, "\$500 Reward." Beneath it ran a 10½-inch column that described a recent incident that proved to have some interesting sidelights in Monroe County history.

Local resident James Hughes related in the ad that on the previous evening — Oct. 10, 1868 — he and his son were walking home about midnight "after a serenade." They had just passed the Methodist Church and were opposite McGinnis' blacksmith shop, when, "some persons who were lying in wait near the shop, fired at me a number of shots, more than one person being



## Looking back

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engaged in firing, at the same time."

According to Hughes, after returning a couple of shots at random to keep the assailants at bay, he and his son sought refuge at the home of a Mr. Drysdale. Though Hughes' son knocked on the man's door and identified himself, Drysdale not only refused to open the door, but in his confusion fired out the window or door at Hughes and son.

It is not known exactly where  
see **Gunfire**, Back page