

# Cause of woman's death a mystery

After the headless body of Anna Seamon, had been found by the railroad track south of Bloomington, in the fall of 1883, Jacob Artman, her brother who lived in Chicago, telegraphed, asking for the remains. Unfortunately, she had already been buried.

Interring Mrs. Seamon was the least of the worries of the authorities in Bloomington. Her husband was puzzlingly vague about the details of her disappearance while he was intoxicated. On the night of her death, Seamon acknowledged that they had been quarreling, but he also told Bloomington Attorney Joseph E. Henley other details that did not jibe very well.

He said he had been in transit from New Albany to Chicago aboard a freight train; "that he had taken a walk a mile out and saw a woman lying close to the road, near the time the officers were after him, that when he was



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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arrested his wife gave officers money to release him ... " He admitted that he had been drinking, but denied that he was drunk.

Exclaimed the Bloomington *Telephone* in print, "The opinion seems to prevail, and we think reasonably, that some one knows more about the death of the woman than has been revealed." Yet, until Seamon's garbled recollections, there had been no implication that anyone else knew anything about how she met her death.

The *Telephone* further confused

the readers by stating that after Seamon sobered up, he told an entirely different version of the matter. He then said he had left his seat on the train, and she had followed him out onto the platform. From that point on he had no recollection of what became of her.

Commented the *Telephone*, "The man was so drunk he couldn't tell just how his wife slipped from the car platform; she followed him to guard probably against his falling off, and so met her death by accident."

The quote was obviously added after the rest of the story had been set in type. The *Telephone*, in the interests of accuracy, printed the coroner's verdict. In the absence of the coroner, W.W. Harrold, justice of the peace, ruled that Anna Seamon had fallen from the train by accident see *Mystery*, Back page