

Theatrical troupe stranded in Bloomington in 1909

June 13, 1909, turned out to be a very unlucky day for a theatrical troupe who had just finished an engagement in Bloomington.

Early on that Sunday morning they were assembled with all of their baggage in the lobby of the Tournier Hotel, because their manager had told them they would be leaving at 8 o'clock on the Indianapolis Southern Railroad - Monon Central for their

Looking back

By Rose H. McIlveen

next stop The Bloomington Telephone at Tuesday, June 15

reported that everyone was ready to leave except their manager.

Unfortunately, he had already left town on the Saturday midnight Chicago Flyer, a Monon train. The previous night, according to the Telephone. After everyone had left the theater, he secured a dray wagon, had the company's equipment taken to the Monon station and blew out of town. Before going the manager

paid all the hotel bills and left each member of the company a few dollars.

The Telephone speculated that the company, called The Herald Square Opera Company, had not been prospering for some time. The latest financial blow had resulted from, of all things, a streetcar strike in Evansville. That had caused the
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