

Politics apparent in aftermath of trial

Considering its frequent and blatant partisanship in local and national issues, the *Bloomington Telephone* was refreshingly restrained in its reporting of the political affiliations of the principals in the Miller/Mallott/Hadley malfeasance cases. In fact, throughout all of the accounts of the testimony at the trial there were few, if any, references to politics.

The ink was barely dry on the judge's verdict and Mayor Claude Malott's exoneration when the political overtones of the trial became apparent. On May 9, 1905, the *Telephone*, a Republican newspaper, ran an article topped with the headline: "NO GUILTY MAN ESCAPES — That's What Mayor and Council Say to Police." The article stated in part: "It is no secret that there is to be a rigid enforcement of law in Bloomington from this day on, and in making this statement the *Telephone* is by no means saying that the laws have not been well enforced . . . If any back-door business or gambling has been going on, the wise ones will cut it all out, or there is trouble ahead."

Part of the reason for the trial



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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against County Prosecutor Robert G. Miller, Mayor Claude Malott and City Attorney Arthur Hadley became more and more apparent as the months passed. In November Rufus East, Democrat, one of the prosecutors of Malott, became the Republican mayor's opponent in his (Malott's) bid for re-election.

Unable to discredit his future opponent in the trial, East continued to charge that city officials were guilty of graft, that lawlessness reigned, and that Bloomington was a place of corruption. Furthermore, East said, the community was crying for reform.

On the eve of the election, the *Telephone*, which was backing Malott, stated: "Those who believe that all men are thieves, and that Bloom-

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