

Barter substituted for money in past era

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banking system. Since paper money was scarce, Monroe County businessmen Tarkington and Atkins issued "shimplasters" in the denominations of 50 cents and a dollar in 1855. Another merchant, J.M. Howe, soon followed suit.

Only a temporary measure, the home-made money began to depreciate in value, and according to an account in Pop Hall's *Historic Treasures, Bloom-*

ington businessmen ganged up on the dubious money changers by running the following ad in a local newspaper:

"Shimplasters"

We, the undersigned citizens of Bloomington, Indiana, pledge our word and honor that we will not take any "shimplaster" currency after the 1st day of February for more than ninety cents on the dollar; and that we will not circulate any more after that date — nor any other paper

currency not regularly chartered according to law.

January 28, 1855

Signed — William O. Foa, Thomas Mulliken, A.W. & Faria, P. Henoch, A.S. Mercer, E.E. Shaw, B.S. Cowgill, J.S. Tibbets, A. Halton & Co., M.L. McCullough, A. Adams, Dunn & Co., E. Johnson, B.J. Wade, J.C. McCullough.

In the *History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana*, Amos Atwater, IU professor wrote "The bank of Atkins and Tarkington having ceased in war times to do business, there was no bank in Bloomington forty years ago. People had to obtain their bank drafts as best they could. A little later, Smith Hunter, brother of Gen. M.C. Smith, started a kind of banker's office in a building where Campbell's dry goods store is now. Through his hands the professors received their salaries and cash on their drafts."

By 1857 a bona fide Bloomington Bank was established, backed by \$20,000 in capital. A few years later another private bank started doing

Five arrested in Bloomington indicted

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Johnson, 51, Newburgh, on the same counts.

William V. Knaralan, 41, Evansville, was charged with the others in eight counts of passing the bills and aiding and abetting.

William Knarlan was released on his own recognizance. The others were jailed in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

The Knarlan brothers were arrested April 20 in

LSD to a federal undercover agent. Agents searched Koestner's residence April and seized another 71,000 units of LSD and \$154,000 cash, the indictment said.

A six-month investigation by Indianapolis Police, the Indiana State Police and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department led to the April 20 arrests.

Undercover agents made eight "buys" totaling \$100,000 for the LSD ranging