

Monroe's first commissioners kept busy

Back in the early days, when the ink wasn't even dry yet on the General Assembly bill that created Monroe County, a group of temporary county commissioners got the new government up and moving. Some of the things they did are recalled in a Dec. 30, 1927, issue of the *Bloomington Weekly Star*.

Knowing how essential transportation was, those first commissioners came up with a plan. According to the *Star*, "A temporary, rough seal of Monroe County was adopted on the following day (April 10, 1818).



Looking back

By Rose
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After a few preliminary moves, which included acceptance of a petition for a road from Bloomington to Scott's Ferry on Salt Creek and toward Lawrence County, business of sketching the city was be-

gun."

Much has been written about the free handouts of shots of whiskey during the auction of city lots — a measure designed to "loosen up" potential buyers. "Such items occur and recur in the records until the inevitable conclusion is reached that there must have been few arguments then as to the value of bourbon and rye in enhancing big business," related the *Star*.

Early court records indicate that Monroe County's early settlers frequently were charged with partici-

pating in an "affray." So the first commissioners appointed grand jurors to sort out charges and counter charges. The jury members were Dudley Carl, William Chambers, David Chambers, John Scott, John Mercer, Thomas Grimes, John Berry, William Nucomb, Jesse Targanton (Tarkington?), Solomon Green, Jonathan Nichols, George Sharp, William Milliken, George Parks, Cleman Puett, Eli See, William Hardin and Henry Wampler.

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