

Spring rain ravaged Bloomington in 1913

"Every citizen of Bloomington has much to be thankful for in their lucky escape from the storms and floods which swept over the country, carrying people to death and devastating homes."

Bloomington Weekly Star,
March 28, 1913

Marcellus Knizely must have wondered how he had offended the great weatherman in the sky when the Bloomington resident watched his kitchen floating down Walnut Street.

The spring of 1913 was not particularly kind to Monroe County. Late March monsoons dumped nearly 10 inches of rain on the area within a week. Knizely's kitchen addition was, admittedly, an afterthought addition to his house, but he had



Looking back

By Rose
McIlveen

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reason to believe that it was built to last.

Spankers Branch, which ran through the center of Bloomington, was later tamed with drainage conduits. In the spring of 1913, it went on the rampage, carrying away such less-permanent conveniences as outhouses and chicken coops.

According to the *Star*, the storm hit Bloomington on the
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