

An editor who left town in a hurry

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did not own — was also noted by the *Telephone*.

Nevertheless, the newspaper speculated that "cherchez la femme" was a more likely explanation (for Highet's sudden departure) than financial embarrassment. Gossiped the *Telephone*, "Who has caused the trouble, for it is alleged that a young lady up near his old

home was about to push him for claims he did not wish to recognize."

Highet wasn't in Monroe County long enough to earn a place in the indexes of the first two county histories. In fact, the *Daily Herald-Telephone's* sesquicentennial edition account of county newspapers suggests that the owner of the *Hawkeye* was John R. East, a prominent local attorney and staunch Democrat. A native of Indian Creek Township, East taught school at the

age of 17, served in the 59th Indiana Regiment during the Civil War and received a law degree from Indiana University in 1870, the same year he served as county clerk.

If indeed East was the financial backer of the *Hawkeye*, he must have been obliged to get into his buggy and visit in turn some of the newspaper's creditors. As for Highet, the *Telephone* suggested that if he returned to Bloomington, he might face charges for securing money under false pretenses.