

# Indian graves article left a mystery

Among the local articles that appeared in the Bloomington *Progress* in 1867 was one that links Monroe County with the distant past and leaves the reader with a tantalizing mystery about the years before settlers began arriving here.

According to the *Progress*, in June of 1867, "A relic of the aborigines of this county was discovered, on Monday last, on a farm in Polk Township, while some of the workmen were excavating a cellar, in the shape of a beautifully formed tomahawk." The above had been in-



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

tended as a little news item, but before the newspaper went to press, the editor received more information about the site.

Apparently the workmen thought

they had merely dug into a ledge of stone — not the least bit unusual in limestone country — but while they were taking a break, one of the men began scratching at what looked like a "fissure" in the rock. That fissure suddenly opened up when the block of stone dropped down into a big cavity.

The workmen discovered to their amazement that they had stumbled upon a man-made chamber made of limestone "neatly sealed." The  
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