

# Railroad project not without controversy

On April 14, 1905, the Bloomington *Telephone* informed its readers that "Within the next week all the rights of way of farmers on the Indianapolis Southern line from Bloomington to the Greene County line will have been purchased, the transfers made and the cash paid."

Not every Monroe Countian was all that happy about the promise of prosperity of the new railroad line. In fact, the transfer of right of way did not go as smoothly as the *Telephone* claimed. A little item in the May 5, 1905, edition of the newspaper said, "Duncan & Batman, local attorneys for the Indianapolis and Southern Railroad, this morning filed seven condemnation suits against the owners of seven pieces of property in and near Bloomington."

No doubt there was an interesting story connected with each of the "hold outs" in the land acquisition process. The defendants were Flora Dillon Dyne and David Dyne. W.T. and Margaret Smiley, Jane I. and Wil-



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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liam I. Fee, W.J. and Elizabeth Mefford, G.L. and Mary Edwards and John Campbell. The seventh case was the most interesting one of all, but the *Telephone* did not elaborate — the Marcha Landers and D.H. Sherrick, auditor of state and trustee for the permanent endowment fund of Indiana University.

Apart from the attorneys involved, others in Bloomington had a lot to gain from the railroad construction. The *Telephone* of May 5, 1905, contains an article under the headline, "COAL DEAL CLOSED Bloomington Citizens Realize \$340,000 for Greene County Coal Inter-

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