

# In 1911, the war between the sexes could be complicated

*"Police chief Hensley and officer Dudley arrested an Indianapolis married couple in a room together at the Faulkner house at 4 o'clock this morning after a phone message had been received from Indianapolis last evening giving a description of the parties." Bloomington Weekly Courier, Oct. 10, 1911.*

It must have been a rude awakening for the "married couple" when officers of the law burst into the room. The problem was that the two who were arrested were not married to each other.

The news item, which had a very commonplace beginning, turned out to be a trifle bizarre. And though the police were enforcing the law at that time, they may have felt that they had been manipulated by one of the principals.

The story actually began several weeks prior to Oct. 11 in Indianapo-



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

lis. Myer Frankel, a merchant of that city, had had several dates on the sly with Maggie Huddleston, age 35, married and the mother of several children.

Frankel, who was also married, had been having a problem in his extramarital relationship with Huddleston. She was unwilling to give him exclusive rights to her "spare" time.

According to the *Courier*, at least one of Frankel's rivals had a distinctive advantage. He was believed to be a millionaire (name unspeci-

fied in the article).

Apparently Frankel despaired of persuading Huddleston not to see her affluent suitor any more, but considerable reflection suggested another way. Why not give the millionaire ample reason not to spend any more time with her?

Explained the *Courier*, "She (Huddleston) said that he (Frankel) was a smooth talker, and that he told her he was coming to Bloomington on a business trip, and that if she would accompany him for only one day he would buy her a fine dress and some other presents . . . she left home yesterday evening telling her husband who is an employee of Swift & Co., that she was going to a show."

Meanwhile, Frankel had arranged for an Indianapolis friend to call the Bloomington police with a tip about an unmarried couple staying in a particular hotel. The sud-

den appearance of the police at 4 in the morning may have been an embarrassing surprise to Huddleston, but was certainly expected by Frankel.

The *Courier* enlightened its readers about Frankel's reasoning. He said that "in order to win her away from the rich man he wanted all the Indianapolis papers to publish the news of her arrest."

The final outcome of Frankel's strategy is not entirely clear, but the newspaper added that after he had paid a \$5 fine, he and Huddleston returned to Indianapolis on the 12:40 train.

Earlier in the week, a 14-year-old Indianapolis girl had been lured to Bloomington by a newspaper ad. The ad specified, "Girls wanted to join chorus. Must be good looking. No experience necessary."

The girl's new "employer" met

her at the railway station and put her up for the first night in the Tourner Hotel. Thereafter she was boarded with a family in a private home.

The problem was that after several days had gone by and there were no rehearsals, the girl became uneasy. Her employer's answer was that "he had a disagreement with his partner, but the company would start from here the last of this week and open at Oolitic."

The employer eventually showed her a handbill he and his partner had had printed up, and that may have pacified her for a time. But when her father, an employee of Van Camp Packing Company, arrived from Indianapolis to take her home, she was glad to go with him. The father's parting shot was that he would prosecute the two men to the limit of the law.