

Love's illness under scrutiny after 1904 murder

Part four in a series

In their search for the murderer of Sarah Schafer in Bedford in 1904, the authorities had followed the routine of accounting for all of her acquaintances. Even before the abortive trial of Jim McDonald in May, investigators had been in contact with the murdered woman's former roommate, Eva Love, also a Bedford school teacher.

Around the time of the murder Love had been ill and had left Bed-



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

ford, making a trip to Indianapolis and then going home to Seymour to recuperate. Her travels were to have long-range implications in the

case and her life.

Under a big headline which said, "SOCIETY WOMEN BEFORE GRAND JURY," the June 3 edition of the Bloomington *Evening World* explained that, "Prominent society women never yet suspected of having had the least knowledge of any facts that might have led up to the murder were yesterday examined by the grand jury."

Foremost among those subpoenaed was Love, described as "Sarah

Schafer's closest companion in Bedford." As early as Feb. 4, the *Evening World* had hinted at her importance by informing its readers, "It is known that the testimony of Miss Eva Love has not by any means been eliminated from the investigation."

Just why the grand jury wished to know more about the nature of Love's trip to Indianapolis is not clear, but as the story unfolded it was revealed that the purpose was

to consult a physician by the name of Emma Collop.

Upon emerging from a board of enquiry session in the mayor's office (the grand jury's time had expired) Love at first refused to talk to reporters. Commented the *Evening World* of June 6, "Miss Eva Love's declining to tell of her visit to Indianapolis is causing so much comment just now that even her dearest

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