

Christmas in Bloomington in 1910

Looking back, from page A1

boys, cooking utensils, shotguns, rifles and hunting jackets, as well as cartridge belts and ammunition. Other business places touted by the *Telephone* were the Morris Studio (photographer) and the Greek Candy Kitchen and Tony Coyle's Restaurant.

Not all Monroe Countians had Christmas on their minds. The Dec. 23 edition of the newspaper also reported the sudden disappearance of a Sanders storekeeper, who had made an unusually large withdrawal from the bank.

The spirit of the season didn't deter the newspaper from revealing that the disappearance was not the only person whose face was missing from the county. Reported the *Telephone*, a widow, about 35 years of age, had recently completed a nice

home on South Henderson Street, in Bloomington. She disappeared at the same time as the Sanders storeowner, saying that she was planning to spend the winter with her sister in Crawfordsville. But the furniture was moved out of her house by a man who said he had bought it.

Left wondering what went wrong were the storeowner's wife, who was, however, able to take possession of the store, \$600 remaining in the bank, their home on South Walnut Street in Bloomington and a horse and buggy. The newspaper drolly noted, "His friends were shocked to learn that his social and business affairs had taken such a sudden turn for the worse."

But there were bright spots in Monroe County life in that winter of 1910. Readers of the *Telephone* learned, "All the quarries and mills

have been running full time, so the employees ought to have enough Christmas money to spare.

It was the family of Henry Burks who received the kind of Christmas present money can't buy. The *Telephone's* account of Dec. 23 about them ran as follows:

"A most joyous Christmas gift was bestowed upon the household of Mr. and Mrs. Burks, West Sixth Street, this city, when their 13-year-old daughter, Carrie, who has been an invalid nearly all her life, suddenly became able to walk again. The young girl seem to be afflicted with something like rheumatism, but her case has always mystified physicians, and it was not until last week that she was able to make use of her limbs. Mr. Burks is employed at the Showers Factory and upon returning home one evening was overjoyed to find that his daughter was no longer an invalid."