

Development group of sorts began in 1887

The trouble with meetings called by agitated citizens was that when the local cast of characters was assembled, they had a tendency to appoint "ornamental committees," who didn't do anything. This curious insight can be found in an editorial in the *Bloomington Telephone* of June 24, 1887.

Not that the newspaper was entirely cynical about spontaneous "let's-get-something-done" type meetings. On the contrary, the editor entirely agreed that the world of financial prosperity and progress seemed to be passing the city by at an alarming rate.

Actually, the first gathering of the year called to give serious consideration to Bloomington's future took place on April 27 in the courthouse. Called a "Let's boom the town" meeting it had all the trappings of yet another group of leading citizens who wouldn't put their efforts where their mouths were. As usual, they began by electing officers.



Looking back

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Commented the *Telephone*, "Thus ready for business, the chairman called on Wm. P. Rogers to explain the object of the gathering. In doing this Mr. Rogers stated that its object was 'to do something for Bloomington,' and it had been called at the suggestion of several leading citizens, who alarmed at the amount of capital going out of Bloomington to other points, thought it a matter of necessity to take some steps towards stopping the tide and pointing out our own inducements."

The "leaders" had come with a plan, which could be called a forerunner of the Bloomington Development group of today. It was to

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