

Suspect nabbed after thrilling chase

In the 1930s, Bloomingtonians were accustomed to reading about high-speed automobile chases and gun battles on the streets of Chicago or New York City. Such things hadn't happened in small Indiana towns since the days of John Dillinger.

Lloyd Mantell, suspected of stealing local cars and holding up a northside service station operator, had almost been taken by Policeman Nate Hall at the post office. But Mantell pulled out a gun, fled across the crowded square and finally headed northward. Of that stage of his flight, the Bloomington *Evening World* of May 20, 1939, related, "He turned up an alley to Sixth Street with Hall still in hot pursuit. By this time, a string of cars and pedestrians attracted by the chase, was following the two



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runners."

When Mantell appropriated a getaway car, Hall found assistance from Helen Siscoe. (It should be noted that Bloomington's police chief, John Rawlins, and one of the captains were on the south side of town, doing escort duty at the head of a funeral procession. Hearing of the emergency on the northside, the chief changed direction and went to Hall's assistance. The newspaper did not report whether the officers got caught in the traffic jam in the

wake of the chase.)

Readers of the *Evening World* certainly got the details they were looking for in the newspaper's account of the event. Hall and Siscoe followed the cloud of dust left by Mantell's car. "A highway truck operated by a WPA road crew forced Mantell to slow down as he passed it. As Mrs. Siscoe's car sped past the Cascades golf course clubhouse, Hall climbed out on the running board. The presence of the WPA workers along the road had prevented him from firing, but he found an opening a little farther north and fired three times, each of the bullets striking the rear of the fleeing car. On the third shot, Mrs. Siscoe said Mantell looked around and appeared to be reaching for his

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