

Railroad spurred Bloomington's era of growth

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railroad was the butt of jokes because of its toy-like qualities. The trains had to stop periodically to take on wood and water. The latter was often pulled by the bucketful from creeks and ponds along the tracks. It was the practice of refilling the boiler with buckets that gave the New Albany and Salem Railroad the name of the "jerk water" road.

On July 4, 1854, the railroad was declared completed throughout the county.

Undercapitalized from the beginning, the New Albany and Salem Railroad went into receivership in October of 1859. Reorganized that same year, its name was changed to the Louisville, New Albany, and Chicago Railroad.

In 1897, the railroad changed hands again. It was renamed the Monon and headquartered in Chicago.