

Crowded sidewalks a problem in 1883

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Saturday shopping trip. *Indiana, A Guide to the Hoosier State* says that, "until 1936 local grocery and fruit stores stretched awnings over outdoor counters and conducted many sales on the sidewalks. A city ordinance has since restricted this pleasant custom to an occasional sidewalk display of sweet potatoes, sorghum or watermelon."

It should be noted that when the *Progress* was deploring the congestion of the sidewalks on Saturday, there was little, if any, mention of the square's shortcomings. The controversy over the hitchrack around the courthouse was yet to come.

By 1909 citizens were agitating for street improvement. Under a headline which said, "MERRY STREET WAR," the *Bloomington Telephone* took delight in describing the controversy over whether

Kirkwood Avenue should be paved.

Concluded the *Telephone*, "The outcome of the matter is being watched with general interest over town as it is thought that if the council orders the improvement of Kirkwood, it will be only a short time until the public square, College Avenue and Walnut Street are also improved."

Next week: The War of Kirkwood Avenue.