

Water shortage

Griffy Lake one solution

Bloomington has been chosen as the site of the State Seminary because of its healthful location. The fact that it was sitting on a watershed between the two forks of White River meant exactly that. Despite seasonal rains, the water was always "shedding" as fast as it could go toward the river forks.

The wells and cisterns that supplied Indiana University

w e r e
temporary
measures in
recurring shortages
that
were like re-
runs of a bad
movie. Among
the expedients
were two additional
campus

Looking Back

By Rose H. McIlveen

wells and the construction of a new cistern west of the Student Building. The better one of the wells yielded all of six barrels of water per hour.

Serious water shortages caused shutdowns of the old Leonard Springs waterworks in 1899, 1901, 1904, 1908 and 1913. Part of nearly every IU trustees' meeting was taken up with discussion of Bloomington's inadequate water supply and its effect on the university.

IN 1915, TWO SEPARATE proposals to remove IU from the city were presented to the State Legislature. Alarmed and exasperated, President William Lowe Bryan wrote to Bloomington Mayor John Harris: "The University has been greatly injured three times by water famines. Last fall (1919) the University could not have opened at all except for the fact that the University had provided a supply of water for its own use, which, however, did not make provision for the students at their places of residence."

The trouble was, the mayor and a narrow majority of the city council had another band-aid solution in mind — the expansion of the Leonard Springs reservoir. Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce board of directors, consisting of George Talbot, Dr. G.F. Holland, Professor U.S. Hanna, Oscar H. Cravens, William Graham, B.G. Hoadley, I.W. Hughes, Wood Wiles, the Rev. William Burroughs, IU Dean H.L. Smith, Dr. A.M. Snyder and Dr. J.E.P. Holland, went on record as favoring an "adequate" solution to the water problem.

OVER THE OPPOSITION of the mayor, the Bloomington Water Company was chartered and Griffy Creek Valley was selected as the site of the new reservoir. Stubborn remonstrants turned up en masse at a State Tax Board hearing to determine whether the city could support a new reservoir.

At that hearing comments from two different quarters are worthy of note. A man, who favored expansion of the