

Fun-loving IU editor had vivid imagination

Ambrose Wilkins, class of '07, reported a story in the spring, 1906, edition of the *Indiana University Student*, had attended the White House wedding of Alice Roosevelt and Nicholas Longworth.

ACCORDING TO THE newspaper, Wilkins was a popular student who took an active interest in campus political affairs. A *bon vivant*, he was witty and readily available for interviews.

So delighted was the editor of the *Student* with the urbane Ambrose Wilkins that he, the editor, went so far as to write that the admirable and flamboyant fellow relieved the "dullness of the paper otherwise." Unfortunately that was the only truth connected with the Wilkins stories. The young student existed only in the imagination of editor Robert Thompson.

IT SHOULD BE explained that in those

Looking Back

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days the *Student* was published by a corporation made up of shares that could be bought and sold at will. The going rate per share was 50 cents, and it was not uncommon for an aspiring editor to get fraternity brothers and friends out hustling enough shares to get himself appointed to the top editorial position.

It could be said that Thompson's creative energies belonged elsewhere — say the English department. Having tired

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