

Buskirks gave school land.

Back at the turn of the century the city of Bloomington was expanding south and east of the new Indiana University campus. It was at that time that a somewhat eccentric Greek and Latin professor, Amzi Atwater, got the idea of "moonlighting" in land speculation.

IN 1900, SAY RECORDS in the Monroe County Courthouse, the professor set up "Atwater's Subdivision" of the University Township, which was later merged with Perry Township. Whether the professor's debut in the land speculation business was the result of an educated-guess or he had a more solid basis for risking his money, is a moot point.

Develop east and south of the university the city of Bloomington most certainly did, mainly

Looking Back

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because an ever-increasing group of merchant and professional people and faculty members needed places to build their homes. For the latter group, the land south of the old part of the present campus was a logical place to settle.

A LITTLE OVER 20 years after Atwater's

land venture, in April of 1924, a land development company called the Elm Heights Company gave the city school board the first of three parcels of land to be used for a school. The names on the first deed were Alice and Allen Buskirk, and the second one was signed on behalf of the company by Hays Buskirk.

In such cases it is the prerogative of the donor to attach some legal stipulations, if they wish, to the deed, and the Buskirks were no exception. The deeds they executed stated that the land be used for a school and for no other purpose, and that should the school board no longer use the land for that purpose, it (the land) would revert to the donors (the Buskirks) or their heirs.

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