

Courthouse has had earlier facelifts

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as Female Seminary Principal Cornelius Pering wrote, "a man can get drunk as Chloe for twopence."

DUE TO THE PRESENCE of the state university, Bloomington was an oasis of knowledge in the midst of a half-literate frontier state. Wylie's painting depicts the contrast between the casual attire of laborers and the more formal clothing of teachers and professional citizens.

It should be remembered that the very first courthouse was made of logs on land purchased from the Rogers family. In fact, the sale of town lots and construction of a courthouse were the earliest tasks of the first commissioners.

A SECOND PICTURE of the courthouse square — taken before the turn of the century — lent the university town the dignity it deserved. Closer examination with a magnify-

ing glass shows that though the courthouse, itself, looked respectable enough, the commissioners had gotten lax about its setting.

Outside the wrought-iron fence, a holdover from the days when residents allowed their farm animals to roam at will — were large pieces of paper. Beside the fence several horses, patiently waiting for their owners, were hitched to buggies and

wagons loaded with sacks of grain. One owner had kindly covered his horse with a blanket to ward off the winter wind.

ACTUALLY, THE unknown photographer had caught the courthouse property at a more fortunate moment. Of the area Indiana University's seventh president, David Starr Jordan wrote: "The central square of town was marked by the courthouse, then a shabby building surrounded on Saturdays by the saddle horses and teams of the neighboring farmers — all Monroe County, after the fashion of the rural South, aiming to spend Saturday afternoon at the county seat."

IU historian, James A. Woodburn, admittedly prejudiced in favor of his boyhood home, was less charitable. "The streets were unkempt, with dirt and scraps of paper lying about, and watermelon rinds in summer littered the courthouse yard and the spaces around the fence and hitching rack."

In time to come, the presence of hitching rack became an emotional issue that threatened to split the Monroe County community.

Next week: the controversial hitching rack.

'The Talk of the Town' at IU Sept. 29

H-T Report

Two bands, three other performing groups, seven restaurants and 20 organizations planning information tables have been signed up so far for "The Talk of the Town" at Dunn Meadow on Sept. 29, Eric Schneller said.

SCHNELLER IS director of the Off-Campus Student Union (OCSU), which will sponsor the second annual event from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. OCSU is organized under the Indiana University Students Association (IUSA).

with the Blue Bird. Other groups that will be performing are the Windfall Dancers, Tai-Chi-Chuan (martial arts) and the Society for Creative Anachronism.

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS will be Rudi's, The Penguin, Noble Roman's, Godfather's Pizza, Hinkle's Hamburgers, Orange Julius and White Mountain.

Organizations that have signed up so far to set up information tables and booths at Dunn Meadow are the Indiana Public Interest Research

System, Police Department, Volunteer Action Bureau, Indiana Bell Telephone, Blast Off Balloons, Elf Lore Family, Childbirth Education, United Way, OCSU and IUSA.

SCHNELLER SAID other organizations wanting to participate may phone him at 335-IUSA.

Challen Camp, an IU junior, has designed a new logo for OCSU, and this will appear on "The Talk of the Town" posters to be put up throughout the community. The logo also will appear on flyers to be distributed.