

Extension courses spawned IU regional campuses

"Knowledge and learning, generally diffused through a community, being essential to the preservation of a free government, and spreading the opportunities and advantages of education through the various parts of the country being highly conducive to this end . . . It shall be the duty of the General Assembly . . . to provide by law for a general system of education . . ." Indiana Constitution

In the wake of the Civil War there was a growing interest in more than mere three Rs. Called by education historians the "Great Awakening," the movement found its way to Bloomington in 1891 after Indiana University history professor Albert J.

Looking back

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By Rose H. McIlveen

Woodburn had attended a convention in Philadelphia. The delegates had come from colleges and universities that were beginning to think beyond the boundaries of their respective campuses and earning the slogan, "Our campus is the State."

IU'S MODEST debut in the field of

"extension" courses began in the school year 1889-90, when Professor Richard Boone gave non-credit lectures to Bloomington school teachers. The following year an IU professor with the improbable name of Jeremiah Jenks took the train to Indianapolis each week "to explain away the mysteries of the dismal science" of economics. The university was not out of pocket for his series of lectures, since they were underwritten by the IU alumni of that city. Professor Jenks' programs are considered the first extension effort west of the Allegheney Mountains.

Despite the initial enthusiasm of volunteer extension professors, the

division didn't get any real encouragement until the administration of IU President William Lowe Bryan. In his inaugural address in 1902, he emphasized that the university should spread learning around and give the people of Indiana an education "second to none."

IN SPITE of Bryan's whole-hearted endorsement, the Extension Division didn't get off the ground until 1911, when Bryan recruited John J. Pettijohn, from the University of North Dakota. His new staff consisted of Walton Bittner, Harriet Bircholt, George Schlafer and Grace Thompson.

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