

The Fourth of July celebrations of past lively and patriotic

As Fourth of July celebrations go, the one in Bloomington in 1886 was as lively and patriotic as any could be. In that particular year the special activities were on July 3, because the Fourth was on Sunday.

Reported the Bloomington *Telephone*, "The Fourth (or rather the 3rd) was duly celebrated. A very large crowd from all sections of the county came to enjoy the day, and everything went off pleasantly."

According to the newspaper, the weather was "cool and agreeable." The day included band music, a choral group, a reading of the Declaration of Independence and three "orations."

The speeches were handled by



Looking back

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locally prominent Morey M. Dunlap, John R. East and Joseph E. Henley, all of whom probably took the customary 45 minutes to an hour to express their thoughts about Independence Day. The program was followed by "a display of the Fire Department on College

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