

# *Harris was mayor for 3 terms*

(Continued from page 1)

~~Oklahoma~~, he got involved in the local Democratic Party organization and served as secretary and chairman of the central committee.

In a campaign statement published prior to his election as mayor for the third time, Harris said that he had been motivated to run for mayor the first time by a desire to do something about the deplorable condition of the city.

Though the city was predominantly Republican (by about 1,000 votes), some of them were presumably turned off, too, by the dirt, mud and darkness. Harris upset his Republican opponent, A.L. Donaldson, by a whopping 19 votes. In his bid for a second term (1914-18), Harris defeated two opponents, James G. Browning, Republican, and S.C. Freese, Progressive.

During his first two terms of office Mayor Harris made good on most of his campaign promises. He later boasted of building 100 streets "mostly all of which were of modern street material . . . 125 blocks of sidewalks . . . and bricked eight of the alleys in the business section." Two other pet projects of Harris's were the professionalizing and uniforming of the police department.

During Harris's first two administrations and the one between, Bloomington's population increased from 8,500 to 12,000, and the community changed in nature from a town to a small city.