Four professors fired in 'Faculty War' of 1839 John H. Harney had the distinction of be the end of the Revolutionary War. A set what would have made him comman

Looking back

By Rose H. McIlveen

professor to be fired by the trustees. He had made the unfortunate mistake of jumpling on the wrong side in what Indiana University historian James A. Woodburn called "The Faculty War" of 1839. It was a period when the college was suffering growing pains, complicated by jealousies and honest differences of opinion about teaching methods.

college. There was not room enough for

both of them in the fledgling school.

ing the first Indiana College (University)

IN THOSE DAYS was no such thing as tenure to give professors a measure of job security. The trustees had reasoned that the disagreement between President Andrew Wylie and Harney was harming the

Dodds.

Parks was born in Connecticut before

the end of the Revolutionary War. A graduate of Dartmouth University, he had practiced law for 10 years before moving west to establish a Greek and Latin

curriculum school in Madison.

Prior to Park's appointment to the faculty of the Indiana Seminary in 1831, he had been named a member of the school's Board of Visitors. A former student, Matthew Elder, wrote in later years of the professor, "Professor Parks was a good old man but had no dignity. He has the nicestiron gray hair on his head I ever saw. His prayers were very earnest and sensible and he manifested a peculiar intimacy.

with the throne of the Eternal. He was very

friendly and I sincerely regretted he lack-

ed what would have made him command respect."

THE SECOND professor dismissed was Ruter. He was a Philadelphian, the son of a minister. After graduation with two degrees from Augusta College in Kentucky, he got some teaching experience before his appointment to the college coulty in 1826. His enhigits were Greek.

before his appointment to the college faculty in 1836. His subjects were Greek and French.

After his dismissal from the faculty. Ruter founded a female seminary and studied law. He compiled a concordance of the laws of Pennsylvania, and after mov-

ing to Texas to find a better climate to

combat tuberculosis, he was appointed

(Dagge on a tree