

1897 political argument was won by a nose

Looking back, from page A1

older brother, Fred, who was arguing with Hartman. "The latter boy (Hartman) started home and was overtaken by Robert who was riding a horse. When Baugh came up to Hartman, he leaped from his horse to the ground and jerking an ugly-looking razor from his pocket, began the task of dissecting Hartman. The first slash took off the end

of Hartman's nasal organ, and he continued to use the weapon with serious effect."

In regard to the medical emergency, the *Bloomington Telephone* reported primly, "Physicians refitted the organ to its proper place." The physicians who performed that rather unusual service were Drs. W.W. and O.K. Harris of Ellettsville.

Cutting off someone's nose is considered anti-social behavior, and

Baugh was duly indicted by the grand jury for malicious mayhem. Hartman was also inclined to sue for the insult of the thing and to recover medical expenses.

What is a nose worth? The *Telephone* of April 1897, mentioned \$3,000 and \$5,000 as possibilities.

If either party expected speedy justice, that was not forthcoming. It would be several years before the case was resolved.

Next week: The outcome.