

Bandstand stirred community pride

Several times in the life of a community are happy occasions, which give pleasure to the citizens and an opportunity for the mayor to brag about the community's status in the state.

Such occasion was in June of 1889, when Bloomingtonians gathered on the courthouse lawn to dedicate a brand new bandstand. The place was the southwest corner, to be exact.

On hand for the ceremony was the mayor, M.M. Dunlap, who was in a mood to extoll the virtues of his city. He began by saying that on that occasion,



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

8-8-1987

"more perhaps than at any time in my experience, I am at a loss to know how to express myself as becomes this occasion and this assemblage," and proceeded to speak for 15 minutes.

Modesty forced Dunlap to tell his listeners he was "embar-

assed by the thought that as the occasion is of such an extraordinary character I may be expected perhaps to say something extraordinary." But his audience, used to the flowery oratory style of the day, did not seem to take any particular notice of the customary preliminaries.

While the mayor owned that most any city has its assets, Bloomington was particularly blessed by the presence of the "State University." Having cited the city's most important feature,

see **Looking back**, page A2