

Relocation of IU changed shape of the city in 1900

If Rip Van Winkle had fallen asleep in Bloomington in 1900 and awakened today, he would find himself in very strange territory indeed. Apart from the bewildering number of new streets, he would also find some familiar merchants and business missing from his 'new world.'

Gone would be Van Winkle's old friend, E.O. Miller, the carriage painter, whose shop was at the end of Fourth Street. In fact, all of the men who engaged in the horse transportation business in Bloomington would have disappeared. That would include N.B. Rogers' livery barn on West Fourth Street and his competitors, Thrasher & Tarkington (West Seventh Street), H.D. Orchard (West Seventh Street), Clay Beard (North Walnut Street), J.C. Worley (South Walnut Street), and B.M. Lingle, harness and saddle maker (on South Walnut Street).

The Bloomington of 1900 with its quaint professions of notions merchant, confectioner, paperhanger, and milliner was swept away in the rush of progress. But unforeseen events also played a part in the changing of the community from a town to a city.

On July 12, 1823, lightning had struck a relatively new building at the Indiana University cam-



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

pus at the lower end of College Avenue. The destruction of the building caused the Board of Trustees to re-think about where the institution should be.

Its location at College Avenue and Second Street had influenced the development of businesses and home-building. A quick look at the city directory for 1900 indicates the preponderance of settlement on the west side of Bloomington. The numbered streets sharply show the difference: First, four blocks east and 10 blocks west; Second, five blocks east and 10 blocks west; Third (about equally divided); Fourth, five blocks east and nine blocks west; Fifth, five blocks east and 11 blocks west; Sixth, five blocks east and 12 blocks west; Seventh, five blocks east and 11 blocks west; Eighth, six blocks east and 13 blocks west; and Ninth, no development east and 13 blocks west.

It is a safe conclusion that the relocation of the university to see 1900. Back page