

# Mayor loses when council approves Griffy waterworks

(Continued from page 1)  
a meeting of the board in Bloomington, Roy O. Pike, a local businessman, told its members that they had better have the "backbone" to settle the long agony of Bloomington's water fight.

When the State Tax Board signified their intention of approving an \$150,000 bond issue for the waterworks, it looked as if the issue had finally been resolved. According to Myers, who called Harris's friends his "wrecking crew," they threatened to take the case to the Supreme Court of Indiana, if necessary.

There followed more legal maneuvering. Myers wrote that the Local Council of Women got into the fight, too, by circulating a petition favoring the new waterworks. Within 10 hours they had 1,900 signatures.

That Mayor Harris had lost touch with the reality of overwhelming public opinion in favor of the Griffy Creek project, is evident in his petulant statement that appeared in the March 15, 1924, edition of the *Telephone*. "If they build their waterworks, they cannot run their pipe lines in Bloomington without the consent of the Administration."

Griffy Creek water facility, Pike, cashier of the Citizens Loan and Trust Co.; Edward Showers, Showers Bros. Savings Co.; Charles S. Small, vice president of the First National Bank, and C.L. Rawles, cashier of the Monroe County State Bank, loaned the water company enough money to get the work under way.

Mayor Harris's last stubborn gesture was his refusal to sign the water-

works bonds. When Judge Cyrus Davis of Bloomfield ordered Harris to sign the bonds, he not only still declined, but also failed to appear in court at Spencer to answer contempt of court charges.

Harris did have the last word, in a sense. The following March, he died at his home at 108 E. Second St., of heart trouble complicated by his life-long bout with asthma.

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