

Fourth of July not always wild

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and you will miss a good thing if you fail to attend." As an inducement, said the committee, the railroad (the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Co.) was planning to run a special train from as far away as Greencastle.

It was a simpler time, and Ellettsvillians and their visitors engaged in such unsophisticated fun as a baby contest (prizes for the smallest, largest and best looking under the age of one), concerts by the Band of Hope and Shay Band with cornet, baritone and tuba solos, and a "grand plug ugly" display consisting of 100 persons. Of the latter the newspaper suggested "It will pay anyone to come 20 miles to witness this."

There was, of course, the usual parade made up of Sunday schools, the Band of Hope, soldiers and citizens. At Worley's Grove, it was announced by the 4th of July committee, there would

be "an abundance of good water on the ground..."

The July 7th edition of the *Citizen* reported that threatening weather cut down on the expected crowd of 10,000, but the event was "a great success, and all pronounce it the grandest thing of the kind ever held in the town." The Rev. H.V. Givler (of Bloomington) "held the audience for near two hours."

Having survived a two-hour oration, the holiday celebrants were treated to a "greased pig march around" (whatever that was), fireworks and a brief balloon ascension.

The *Citizen* also noted that the celebration in Ellettsville was attended by about 1,000 persons from Bloomington, which may account for the *Telephone's* 1888 comment that Bloomington "was near depopulated" on the holiday. Ellettsville apparently tried harder.