

Stroll in 1913 ends with coed's assault

"Certainty is the mother of repose; therefore the law aims at certainty" — Lord Hardwick

In its July 29, 1913, edition, the *Bloomington Telephone* called the attack on Indiana University coed Helen Murphy "the biggest sensation that has happened in Bloomington for a long time. The young woman was allegedly assaulted by a partner with whom she took an outdoor stroll during a dance in the Student Building on the campus."

The *Telephone* soberly commented: "She was not introduced to the young man as it is the general custom to do away with the formality of introductions at the summer school dances on account of the large crowds." The relaxation of the rule apparently caused the girl to assume Thomas Stineburg was a student.

After she was treated at the office of Dr. Homer Woolery, she was taken back to her room at the home of Harry Woods. Meanwhile, the Bloomington police



Looking back

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2-6-1988

were busily at work questioning witnesses who were at the dance. The investigation trail shortly led to the home of the Stineburg family in the University Courts section just north of Dunn Meadow. There the young man was yanked from his bed and taken to the Woods' home. By then Helen Murphy's eyes were swollen shut — so much so that one of the attending physicians had to hold them open for her. Her vision was too blurred for a positive identification.

According to the *Telephone*, young Stineburg, "said he had nothing to do with the attack and said it was an injustice to arrest him when there were any num-
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