

Freshmen-sophomore 'scrap' usually close shave

As the Labor Day holiday approached in 1922, noticeable for its absence was any news item in the *Bloomington Telephone* regarding any holiday festivities.

In fact, glancing at issues of the newspaper leading up to the holiday, one would have thought it was being ignored, except for a little item which reminded the readers that there would be no issue of the *Telephone* on Sept. 4 "on account of Labor Day."

THE ABSENCE of any celebration can probably be explained in part by the fact that the railroad workers' union was on

Looking back

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strike. The *Telephone* did take note of the strike by running — in the early days of September — daily accounts of progress in the negotiations.

Another annual fall event, according to

the newspaper, was about to get under way on the east side of town — the freshman-sophomore "scrap."

For Bloomingtonians too young to remember, the scrap was an event that caused Indiana University administrators and faculty to have temporary cause of insomnia. At the turn of the century it had been the tradition for sophomores in mid-winter to build a bonfire and burn "Dear Horace." In his history of IU, Thomas D. Clark wrote that in the 1902 scrap 65 sophomores took on 110 freshmen, who were "pummeling them to a bloody pulp," while some 3,000 spectators watched.

SOMEHOW the confrontation between freshmen and sophomores became moved on the calendar to fall, when luckless freshmen were dragged from their boarding houses so sophomores could "initiate" them by means of a head-shearing. It is no wonder that the freshmen retaliated, and Clark cites the incident of 1903 when sophomore Karl Wellhausen "held 50 freshmen at bay with a shotgun when they attempted to enter his room on Atwater Avenue." His somewhat drastic measure was the result of his hav-

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