

Traffic long a problem

Ever since Monroe Countians figured out that using some kind of vehicle was preferable to walking, traffic has been a problem here.

Consider, for example an 1896 city ordinance which required that

each bicycle have a bell,

and that, "Be it unlawful

unless he sound his bell

not more than

40 feet or less than 20 feet

from the corner."

Looking back

By Rose H. McIlveen

The fine for failing to sound one's bell was \$10.

By 1923, *The Weekly Star* reported that there were real traffic problems, because of the 4,000 cars registered in the county. Bloomington had, declared State Police Officer Bradley, "the worst traffic conditions in Indiana."

ALARMED BECAUSE THERE had been three traffic deaths in the previous year (1922), Mayor John Harris called a meeting with Bloomington Police Chief Fred Campbell on April 12. On the following day the *Star* reported that the mayor had said, "The period of education in traffic performance is now at an end, and from now on officers will be instructed to bring in all violators with sufficient evidence against them, and fines will be promptly imposed."

The mayor also stated that new traffic regulations — particularly for the downtown area — would shortly be forthcoming.

As evidence of the rash of traffic problems, the *Star* reported that "Wednesday night two Fords crashed at the

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