

'Good old days' included fires, illness

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ty one family — that of John Shaw. — lost three of its members to typhoid fever. Dead were his wife, 2-year-old son and a 6-month-old daughter. The newspaper frequently reported that local residents had died of heart attacks and consumption, for which little could be done by local doctors.

It was in the spring of 1902 that there were two cases of smallpox reported in the county. One, Harvey Pryor, was treated at the home of his parents, quarantined by the local health officer. The other, an Indiana University student and a member of

the Kappa Sigma fraternity, was presumably banished to the "pest house" maintained by IU on the south edge of town.

IT WAS NO wonder, then, that in the spring of 1902 the Bloomington City Council was giving serious consideration to the installation of sewers. It had already been pointed out by the state health officer that the hollow spaces between strata of limestone provided excellent conduits between Bloomington's outdoor toilet accommodations and its wells.

In his little book of memoirs,

written in 1974, the late Fernandus Payne, who was dean of the IU Graduate School, recalled with nostalgia that horse-drawn buggies could be rented for an afternoon for

\$1.50. In the summer of his life, he remembered that they were a boon to courting couples, but he did not mention the number of accidents from runaways. One Bloomingtonian, as reported in the *Telephone*, was painfully injured on the foot and cut severely on the face when a couple of dogs started yapping at his horse.

Next week: More of the Good Old Days