

Rabies scare of 1909 made headlines

"The mad dog excitement here is causing general excitement over the state, and telegrams have been coming in from different towns to learn if (Indiana University) students from those places were among the bitten," reported the *Bloomington Telephone* on April 27, 1908.

The discovery that IU English Professor H.T. Thompson's collie had rabies made headlines and sent the professor to Cincinnati for Pasteur treatments. When a county commissioner's son came in contact with a rabid cow, genuine alarm spread through Bloomington. The mayor decided that every dog was suspect, and the police were ordered to round up all unmuzzled dogs.

Looking back

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By Rose H. McIlveen

Quaintly the *Telephone* described the situation at the end of April, "... a blue-coated cop dragging an unwilling dog at the end of a rope is a familiar sight. If the dogs cannot be captured, they are then shot, and yesterday two Fidoes were sent to dog-heaven after the police had vainly tried to put salt on their tails. A

dead dog, however, is a dead loss and cartridges cost money, while a live dog is worth from 25 to 75 cents at the university, there being a big slump in price because of the over-stocked condition of the market."

Despite the efforts of the police, the 10-year-old daughter of Michael Thornton of South Madison Street was bitten by a rabid dog that "ran amuck" in the neighborhood. Though the bites on her arm and hand were "little more than scratches," Dr. C.E. Harris recommended that she take Pasteur treatments "so as to be on the safe side."

Another person affected by the rabies scare was Thomas Elgar, who
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