

# Bloomington was wary of Halloween tricks in 1910

In 1910, trick-or-treating on Halloween hadn't been thought of yet, but apparently in the past there had been those who thought about taking advantage of the holiday to indulge themselves in some "tricking."

On Nov. 1, the *Bloomington Daily Telephone* happily reported that such behavior had been headed off by local authorities. "Bloomington witnessed a very quiet Halloween night. The fact that there was no wanton destruction of property was probably due to the well organized police patrol. Under Chief Hensley there were 12 extra policemen



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By Rose McIlveen

whose duty it was to disband any disorderly crowd."

One group in particular was apprehensive about potential vandalism. Explained the *Telephone*, "The street contractors feared that some of their lights might be carried

away by the mischievous ones and so employed four of the extra policemen to watch their property. A few crossings were torn up, and a few vehicles run out from their accustomed place, but no damage has been reported."

Some Bloomingtonians had come up with other ways to mark the holiday. According to the newspaper, at 8 o'clock the clerks of Wicks department store donned costumes and masks and marched around the square. They couldn't resist doing a little advertising, as well. "Each carried a pumpkin with a face car-

ved on one side and Wicks Co. in large letters and the other side."

Marching around the square was not the extent of their celebration. After a time, they walked "out on north pike" and made camp. Continued the *Telephone*, "A roaring fire was built and before long all sat down to a supper consisting of roasted chicken, toasted marshmallows, baked apples and popcorn. The evening was enjoyed with appropriate pastimes and some good music was furnished by the talented ones."

Newspaper editors in those days

believed that old journalistic maxim, "Names make news," and so the account of the holiday seemed to take in a big part of the population of Bloomington.

Reported the *Telephone*, "Misses Maggie Lanum and Helen East entertained a number of friends for Halloween at Rose Cottage, the country home of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. East, just west of town. The party was given as a masquerade and many spooky costumes were worn."

The guests, who were treated to

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