

Fire prompts IU's move to the east

The fire that gutted one of the major buildings on the original campus of Indiana University was a factor that affected the direction of Bloomington's growth toward the east.

The accident of the fire prompted the IU Board of Trustees to assess the Seminary Square campus with an eye to the future. Bloomington had developed south and west of the square sufficiently to seriously hamper the future expansion of the campus. Another factor in their deliberation was the proximity of the railroad. Noisy engines sometimes halted lectures and recitations in the classroom buildings.

Once the decision had been made to relocate the university, the trustees had to consider a variety of parcels of land available for sale. One of them was



Looking back

By Rose
McIlveen

18-1-1923

located at the west edge of Bloomington and was owned by the Clair family. Had the trustees chosen that parcel, no doubt the westward expansion of the city would have gained momentum.

But it was the more expensive Dunn property on the east side of Bloomington that the trustees chose. The possibility of capitalizing upon the move occurred to one of the faculty of the university, a man whose alternate proposal was to see IU move. Back page