

Annexation always a hot topic for city

It was called "extending the city limits" in 1907, but some Bloomingtonians didn't like it any better then that their grandchildren do today. As the Bloomington *Weekly Courier* of Feb. 8 put it a headline, "Many Citizens Do Not Wish to Live in Town and Help Pay for Sewerage System, Water Works and Other Expenses."

In case anyone missed the pertinent meeting, the newspaper explained, "There were more citizens in attendance at the city council meeting last night than at any time in the past six months. The majority of those present came to see what action the council would take in regard to extending the city's corporation limits, and nearly every man present, at least most of the ones who expressed themselves, were decidedly against the proposition."

To begin with, the people in the area of South Park definitely did not want to be in the city, stating that the new higher taxes would pay for service for others, but would not benefit the South Parkians. Wallace



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

Pauley told the council members that he and his relatives would like to have the strip left out below the Grimes' homestead, since it would take in part of the Pauley farm.

The remonstrators did not come alone. The South Park residents' attorney said that it would be placing extra burdens on them and they would get comparatively little in the way of benefits.

As the newspaper explained, "Mr. Lee (the South Park attorney) stated that he also represented L.P. Hopewell, whose land west of town would be brought into town if the new ordinance is accepted. Mr. Lee said

that Mr. Hopewell could not be benefitted with fire protection and he had located on the outskirts of the city on purpose to escape the heavy taxes."

Actually, the attorney had at last gotten to the bottom line in the matter, saying: as the city is already greatly in debt, the city cannot give city benefits to these people and to take them in would be taxation without representation. He was followed by W.W. Spangler, who requested that the proposed ordinance be deferred for the present so he could do a little research on his own.

Thomas Alexander, who lived in University Park, requested that his property be left out of any city annexation plans, and George Walker asked for the same exception in the case of his property. Another man who was not happy about the proposal was William Reinhard.

There was one of the audience at the meeting in favor of annexation. According to the *Weekly Courier*, "Fred Fess was the only man who expressed himself in favor of

the extension. His views were that all the new additions should be annexed, as the city had made it possible to sell the lots."

Not all of the Bloomington City Council favored annexation. The newspaper reported that two out of the five opposed it. A delaying tactic got the proposal off the agenda, at least temporarily. Explained the *Weekly Courier*, "Some amendments were offered, and in order to get them in writing and agree upon them, it was decided to hold a special meeting next Tuesday night for that purpose."

Meanwhile, some of Bloomington's most prominent merchants had other plans for the town. Ironically, on the same page with the article about the city council meeting was another which announced that Bloomington's retail merchants had formed an association to attract new industries. They were planning to launch their new organization with a banquet that would include R.B. Clark, president of the Indiana Merchants' Association as the main speaker.

H-T 4/26/93