

Griffy Lake eased water problem

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Leonard Springs facility, inspired considerable laughter when he said: "They say that lake out there (Leonard's) leaks. I was out there a few days ago and walked across that lake bed from side to side, and you couldn't see a sign of a leak."

THE TAX BOARD ALSO got President Bryan's perspective on the problem. When he was questioned about the effect of the droughts on the university, he answered that in the one in 1922, 175 students withdrew from IU, and 450 followed suit the next term.

Ironically, seven days after the tax board hearing a Bloomington newspaper reported to its readers that it had not rained on the city for 90 days. Furthermore, the temperature that day — Sept. 8, 1922 — was 102 degrees. The following month a 42 percent increase in fire insurance rates was announced for Bloomington.

Obligated again to look after the welfare of students, the university administration took matters into its own hands. President Bryan told the trustees at their October meeting: "Water is taken daily in tanks to all houses where students room."

APART FROM SANITARY conditions, IU administrators had another reason to be concerned about the water shortage. Two disastrous fires had done irreparable damage to university buildings. Bryan and his colleagues knew that if another one occurred, it would be strictly a spectator event.

The controversy over the construction of the Griffy Creek reservoir raged on for two more years. During that time stubborn opponents filed petitions, and the State Tax Board did several flip-flops on its decisions.

Even as the *Bloomington Weekly Star* of Jan. 16, 1925, proudly announced the completion of the Griffy Creek water system, the weatherman was having the last laugh. An "unprecedented" drought was in progress, and there was no water to fill the new reservoir.