

Residents fight losing battle against annexation

"There were more citizens in attendance at the city council meeting last night than at any time in the past six months."

— *Bloomington Courier*, Feb. 8, 1907.

What had attracted so many people to the meeting was a particular item on the agenda — annexation. And most of the participants were opposed to it.

They did not come unprepared. The *Courier* informed its readers that "A remonstrance was filed by the residents of South Park near the Monon yards against the proposed extension of the corporate limits. They declared in their remonstrance that if they were taken in, they would have to help pay for the sewerage system, which would not benefit them, and would have to help support the waterworks and electric light systems, and that they do not now share in any of these benefits."



LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

That wasn't all they had to say. There was real concern that the Monon Railroad officials would decide to move their roundhouse away.

Another objector, Wallace Pauley, said the Pauley heirs would like to have a strip of land below the Grimes' homestead left out because it would take in part of the Pauley farm. Attorney Henry Lee represented the residents of South Park, who would be burdened with additional taxes and no benefits.

Lee also represented a Mr. Hopewell, a farmer on the western side of Bloomington, who would suddenly find himself farming inside the city limits. Lee told the council that Hopewell would not

receive the fire protection.

Furthermore, Hopewell had explained that he had deliberately located outside the city "to escape the heavy taxes." It was Lee who revealed a deeper concern of those about to be annexed. The *Courier* explained. "As the city is already greatly in debt, Mr. Lee does not think the city can afford to give city benefits to these people, and to take them would be taxation without representation."

Another citizen, W.W. Spangler, suggested that the council defer their decision until another time, since there were several aspects of the action he wanted to investigate. Thomas Alexander of University Park and George Walker also wanted their property left outside the new boundary.

Other objectors were Mr. Gourley and William Reinhard. In fact, Fred Fess was the only person in favor of annexation. His point of view was also in the front page arti-

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

The council, itself, was divided. Men by the name of Mills, Sears and Neill were in favor of the annexation ordinance, while Blair and Dodd were opposed. Finally, it was agreed that some amendments were in order, and a special meeting was to be held to put them in writing.

The council moved on to other business: Moses Dunn and the Sigma Chi fraternity were opposed to the improvement of Indiana Avenue from Seventh Street to 14th. On the other hand, residents along Hunter Avenue wanted that street improved from Henderson Street to Sluss (later renamed Woodlawn Avenue).

Several citizens wanted the course of Spanker's Branch changed, beginning at Walnut Street. The council members ap-

proved an appropriation of \$300 to pay for the city school board election.

The issue of annexation did not resurface on the City Council agenda until May 30. On the 31st, the *Courier* informed its readers, "By a unanimous vote the city council in adjourned session last night agreed to extend the corporation limits in each direction. The new lines as established on paper last night are to be as follows: On the north to Faris lane; on the east to the Fee lane ... on the south to the section line, just north of the Monon yards; on the west to Adams street, east of the Waterman addition."

Added the newspaper, the final ordinance was a compromise. "The property to come into the city by the change will not be assessed for city taxation until next year and payment of city taxes will not be made by the new residents until 1909."

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