

## Born of controversy

# DePauw foster child of IU

Another "foster child" of Indiana University was DePauw University, although the connection was born of controversy and not very amiable in the beginning.

WHEN BRAND-NEW HOOSIERS set up their homesteads in Indiana, the exercise of their faith was interwoven in their pattern of living. Monroe County Hoosiers were no exception. The Covenanter Presbyterians came to this county because of a split in their denomination back in the Carolinas. Methodism, on the other hand, got a foothold in Indiana through the work of the circuit riders and Methodists moving west.

Indiana University's first president, Andrew Wylie, was a Presbyterian, as were four of the first seven faculty members. All had been trained at eastern schools for dual careers as ministers and teachers.

IU STUDENTS IN THOSE days were required to attend chapel services six days a

## Looking Back

By Rose H. McIlveen

week, and what they were hearing was coming out of the mouths of Presbyterians. All of the ingredients for a denominational advantage were there, and the Methodists started to get nervous about that advantage. IU historian James Woodburn wrote that he could later find no evidence to show that the Presbyterian clergyman who taught the school's first students took advantage of the captive audiences of students in the building on the old campus at the foot of College Avenue.

The first Indiana Methodist Conference was

organized in 1832, and only two years later, when the delegates got together, they were beginning to express concern about getting "equal time" for their denomination at the young college that later became Indiana University. After all, the school started out as Indiana Seminary, and that certainly had a sectarian ring to it.

IT WAS SAID DURING the 1834 meetings of the Indiana Methodist Conference, according to Woodburn, that "the youth of all our churches save the Presbyterian find the religion of their fathers only 'tolerated' not domiciled in that institution" (Indiana University).

The following year, therefore, Asbury College, a Methodist school, was founded, and the doors were opened for classes two years later. Nevertheless, the founding of that school to forward the interest of the Methodist denomination did not end the controversy.

(Page 2, col. 4, this sec.)