

Water supply once critically short

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system in the Griffey Creek area, while water had to be shipped into Bloomington in Illinois Central tank cars and relayed to the University by specially constructed pipe line.

In 1908 flamboyant newspaper editor Oscar Cravens pulled an elaborate April Fools' Day hoax on gullible local housewives. His March 31 edition of the *Evening World* advised them to fill every available container with water because formaldehyde was being flushed through the mains to clear out lime deposits. In fact, he admonished that good water would not be available for three days. Water Superintendent Dave Helfich referred all complaints to the *World*. The hoax cost the paper a number of subscribers.

By the 1913 shortage the pressure had switched to the ci-

ty fathers themselves. Tempers flared as the temperature rose.irate Bloomingtonians and even state representatives themselves ganged up on the mayor and council. The addition of the Leonard Springs project was only a stop-gap measure. An \$800,000 new addition was proposed, but voters in 1921 elected John Harris who opposed it. However, during his administration funds were appropriated to remodel the antiquated system.

The 1922 water drought again prompted rationing. Gertrude Huntington recalls that IU students were permitted one bath a week in two inches of water.

Milestones in the history of Bloomington's water systems were the additions of Griffey Creek, Lake Lemon, and the Monroe Reservoir Plant.