

Lack of paving created muddy mess

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piled around where it had been shoveled by workmen. In time board walks were constructed over the most traveled paths.

WE GET ANOTHER glimpse of the mischief caused by mud in a 1909 article in the *Indiana Daily Student*. Theophilus Wylie's widow recalled that, "One of the Professors had gone to a party and as there were no roads and a good deal of mud, had left his shoes together with his cane outside his host's door. (The shoes were borrowed by some prankish students, who later gave them back in exchange for some of the "refreshment" served at the party. They were subsequently permanently excused from classes, but were escorted all the way to Gosport by their fellow students.)

The shocking condition of the Bloomington streets didn't improve soon enough for the females of the town, whose skirt hems were forever soiled by either dust or mud. As late as 1885, after the university had moved to Dunn's Woods, the *Bloomington Republican Progress* deplored the condition of Kirkwood Avenue.

Historian Clark wrote that the editor of the paper felt it was beneath the dignity of the town to invite ladies to come from other parts of the state and then compel them to wade through almost impossible swamps of mud. He continued, "If anybody thought this 'a strong statement let them attempt to walk to the new college buildings after the next rain."