

Battles rage on in telephone war

On Feb. 4, 1908, the *Bloomington Telephone* printed on its front page a list of those Bloomingtonians who had voluntarily disconnected their phones in protest of a rate hike. The names were in alphabetical order ranging from the Adamses (of the Bloomington National Bank) to Joseph Woodward.

Meanwhile, an enterprising person who signed his letter to the *Telephone* as J.W. Beede, had an interesting suggestion — one that was designed to offset the inconvenience of not being able to call businesses and have goods and groceries delivered. Wrote Beede, "(Post) cards taken up by the carriers on their morning round will be delivered in season for the goods to go out in the afternoon wagons and frequently, those collected by the carriers on the after-dinner delivery, will frequently reach five o'clock delivery of the same day ... The cost of a telephone at \$1.25 per month is over four cents per day and at \$1.50 is five cents per day. This will certainly pay for all



Looking back

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the post cards necessary to secure the ordinary materials needed without going to business part of the city more often than usual."

Help for the protesters came from students in the Indiana University Law School. Reported the *Bloomington Evening World* on Feb. 5, "The telephone war is on among the students of the university ... Representatives of the clubs and Greek letter organizations of the university met at the Sigma Chi house yesterday to determine what they should do in the matter of taking out their phones." Their resolution supporting the strike was signed by representatives of Beta Theta Pi, Sigma Nu, Emanon, Sigma Chi, Kappa Alpha Theta,

Delta Gamma, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Kappa Sigma and Independents.

To help the cause along, too, an anonymous poet supplied the following lyrics, which appeared on the front page of the *World's* Feb. 5 edition:

"We are coming brother citizens,
Twice five hundred strong;
We are coming, we are coming,
Just to pass the fight along.
Where yesterday the phones were ringing,

Now you hear the people singing,
"We are coming, brother citizens
Twice five hundred strong.
We'll not yield for taunts or jeering,

In our hearts no room for fearing,
We are coming brother citizens,
And the line's a thousand strong."

In two meetings at the Harris Grand Theater Bloomingtonians heard pleas from the secretary and vice president of the Home Tele-

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