

Kirkwood left rich legacy

(Continued from page 1)

competent assistant and henceforth teach only astronomy".

During the Civil War IU students and professors alike caught the military fever and drilled on the campus in case there was a second phase of the war. The Indiana Student stated confidently that Kirkwood and Andrew Wylie, too, would shoulder guns and take themselves off to an imaginary Antietam — safely after Apomatox, of course.

If Kirkwood had ambitions to become president of IU, he kept them to himself. He was cheerfully on the welcoming committee when Lemuel Moss was lured away from Baptist University of Chicago. It was Kirkwood, along with Theophilus Wylie and Richard Owen who met him at the Owen Station and escorted him to his temporary quarters at the Orchard House. At chapel the next day Kirkwood read a welcome to the new president.

The Clandestine and impudent campus newspaper, *The Dagger*, ruthlessly lampooned the faculty, but Kirkwood was spared the barbs. *The Dagger* called him a "man of wonderful reputation. The astronomer royal had crossed the Atlantic to see him".

If Kirkwood's amazing research intellect was underutilized in his early years here, his ability was not unappreciated. Then new President Joseph Swain in his inaugural address cited several professors for commendation: "The other to whom I refer is Daniel Kirkwood. The learning, the wisdom, the manhood, the unselfish devotion to an ideal in life as well in scholarship, of

this beloved and great man, now far advanced in years — these are a heritage of the institution, the magnificence and proportions of which words can merely suggest".

By 1865 Kirkwood had amassed enough money to invest in some property. In June of that year he, his wife, Sarah, and daughter, Agnes, moved into their home in the 200 block of South Walnut Street. (It is now a parking lot on the west side of the street.)

Humdrum mathematics teaching aside, Kirkwood had made known in 1849 what is known as "Kirkwood's Law", which gave him the reputation of the "Kepler of America". In 1867 he published *Meteoritic Astronomy; Comets and Meteors* followed in 1873. It is said that when the glass for the Lick telescope was being ground Kirkwood was quoted as saying to Professor Aley: "I shall die happier if I live long enough to get one peep through that great telescope". Unfortunately the only chance for his "peep" was a night too cloudy for visibility.

Honors poured in for Kirkwood toward the end of his life. When the new campus was moved to its present site from the foot of College Avenue, the main street from the courthouse was named after him. But the professor and students must have considered it a dubious distinction. A complaining student of that time said the new buildings were

3,000 feet from the Courthouse — "Well on the way to Brown County".

When Jordan was president the mud along Kirkwood Avenue was horrendous. A foot-dragging City Council had not provided for a sidewalk. The *Republican Progress* of November, 1885, stated that grading for two or three blocks along the street was proceeding. However, the editor also championed the cause of the 30 or 40 female students who found the street rough slogging after a rain.

At A June, 1886, IU Board meeting the President reported that Kirkwood and Wylie "have resigned their active duties and will henceforth honor our faculty with the title of emeritus".

It was after Kirkwood moved to California that the Board decided to name the new university building after him.

Bids were requested in May of 1894. At its dedication 3,000 visitors came by the wagon-loads, including the Mayor of Indianapolis, the President of Michigan University, the Governor, Secretary of State, 40 members of the Legislature, three ex-congressmen, companies of militiamen — in fact, everyone but Kirkwood himself was there.

Perhaps the highest tribute to the man was quoted by Professor Aley, "When I die, I want to go where Professor Kirkwood goes".

After Kirkwood's death in June of 1895 in California, his body was returned to Bloomington for burial near his three namesakes, the Avenue, the Hall, and the Observatory.

The Herald-Telephone

1900 S. Walnut Bloomington, Indiana 47401 P.O. Box 909

Telephone founded 1877, Evening World founded 1881, World and Telephone consolidated 1943, Herald established 1947, Herald-Telephone consolidated July 1, 1950

Members of Audit Bureau of Circulations, Inland Daily Press Assn., Hoosier Press Assn., United Press International, American Newspaper Publishers Assn. and the Newspaper Advertising Bureau.

National Representative: London Associates, Inc. New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Boston, Atlanta, Memphis, Los Angeles, San Francisco.

Published by The Herald-Telephone at Bloomington, Indiana. Telephone 332-4001.

Second-class postage paid at Bloomington, Indiana. 47401.

Published daily except Sunday at Bloomington, Indiana. All rights of reproduction reserved.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy 5 cents. Home Delivery rates. By Foot Carrier with the Sunday Herald-Times \$4.30 per month, by Motor Carrier with the Sunday Herald-Times \$4.75 per month. By Carrier Daily Only, Foot Carrier \$3.10 per month, by Motor Carrier \$3.50 per month. By mail, payable in advance, available within the counties (where other service is not available) of Monroe, Brown, Lawrence, Jackson, Greene, Owen and Morgan, \$56.00 a year. Beyond that district \$66.00 a year.

- CLIP AND SAVE -

miss your paper?

If you fail to receive the H-T on any publication day, call

your carrier — he or she will promptly deliver the missed copy. If your carrier is unavailable, call us at 336-4200.

Weekdays till 7:00 pm
Saturdays till 3:00 pm
Sundays till 11:00 am

The Herald-Telephone
1900 SOUTH WALNUT



New in your