

New year in '14 described

*"The hoodoo year '13 will soon be no more,
And we take off our hats to one-nine-one-four."*

The ragged, tongue-in-cheek verse was written by Bloomington's *Sunday Star* editor, H.J. Feltus, for the Dec. 28, 1913, edition. Headlined, "A New Year Fantasy 1913-1914, Things that Have Been Done, Will Be Done, and Ought to Be Done, Are Told in *The Star's* Annual New Year's Jingle," it was written in 63 uneven lines.

Touting Bloomington's claim to fame as the center of the U. S.

population, the lines also boasted of such modern features as brick streets, sewers, a motor fire truck and cluster (street) lights.

Looking Back

By Rose H. McIlveen

"The latter show off pretty maidens at night."

Was Feltus facetiously referring to "ladies of the night?" Perhaps, since he wrote that the new city council was expected to set up a professional Metropolitan Police Department.

"They must clean up all lawlessness, black vice and sin;

If they don't the 'good citizens' will surely 'butt in.' "

Other challenges ahead for the council, according to Feltus, were to cut city taxes in half, construction of a new city hall and a solution to Bloomington's chronic water shortage.

In a separate column the editor chided individuals for making resolutions they really had no intention of keeping and merchants who "print cards wishing you a happy new year, and then make life miserable for you by sending out duns."