

Editor would be picketed today

Attitudes change with times

"A wife," wrote Marcus L. Deal, editor/publisher of the *Bloomington Post*, "should be like three things . . . a snail, always keep within her house . . . an echo, speak when spoken to . . . a town clock, always keep time and regularity."

THE LITTLE "filler," which appeared in the July 8, 1836, edition of the *Post*, probably didn't raise many eyebrows in its time. Nor is it likely that female pickets paraded in front of the *Post* office, which was next door to the office of Dr. David Maxwell, Bloomington physician and Indiana University trustee.

(The *Post* began its life as the *Gazette* under the owner/editorship of a Jesse Brandon. He turned it over to Deal, a silent partner, who had some decided opinions about the function of females in the world.)

Consider Deal's curious, lengthy editorial highly critical of "female exhibitions." It was, apparently the custom of the Bloomington

Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

Female Seminary on occasion to hold exercises which gave the students an opportunity to demonstrate their logic and speaking abilities.

DEAL'S OPENING salvo on the subject was: "The practice of teaching females to declaim in public, and before a mixed audience, is so frivolous in its object — if it may properly be said to have an object — and so vicious in its tendencies, that it might well give employment, for the lash of satire and ridicule."

Two other excerpts indicate the woman's

place is in the home flavor of the editor's sentiments. "Public exhibitions are in direct opposition to the nature of woman, and incompatible with any great perfection . . . True, there have been those (females) who have overcome the opposition of their nature and become eminent in those walks of life which men only are accustomed to tread. But how are they regarded by mankind?"

Another filler in the *Post* called the reader's attention to the fact that the practice of advertising for a wife had been revived. Offering to help, the item read, ". . . if there be any damsel disposed to take a husband in that way, we should be happy to aid her."

BEGINNING on Nov. 11 — and running for five weeks — was the plaintive advertisement of a man, who was either planning to divorce his runaway wife or just wanting to vent his

(Back page, col. 4, this sec.)