

Dancing, card playing denounced

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1906. Their temporary stand was the Christian Church.

One of the brothers — the *Telephone* neglected to print his first name — singled out dancing as the topic of a special sermon. No two ways about it, it was downright immoral. Brooks' oratorical gimmick was to first address the church members in his audience. He said, "All who think Christians had better not dance, stand up." According to the *Telephone*, three quarters of the audience responded by getting on their feet.

WHEN BROOKS posed the same question for non-members, he got

some additional standers. Wrote the *Telephone* editor, "Mr. Brooks did not make an appeal to non-Christians to quit the dance, as they were not in a position to care about what the effects might be. . . ."

The evangelist reminded his audience that dancing "broke and ruined health, destroyed the confidence and caused one to forget duty. It also causes many misunderstandings between husbands and wives, and the very position of the persons in the round dance condemns it."

Lest there be any backsliders in his audience, Brooks delivered the clincher. " . . . from testimony gathered by a chief of police of New York city, 95 percent of the fallen

women of that city attributed their fate to the dance." Thereafter what respectable Bloomington female wanted to be identified with a prostitute — surely a fate worse than death? Taffy pulls must have seemed a lot safer.

HAVING ROUTED that particular vice, on another night Brooks went after another — card playing. In a sermon entitled "A Wedding and a Riddle," the evangelist reminded his audience of the Biblical story of Sampson, who gambled.

Good Christians, Brooks explained, could easily fall into that same trap by playing euchre for prizes. Had not the U.S. Supreme Court defined such practices as illegal?

The *Telephone* did not report what the Brooks brothers had to say about tobacco. Fortunately, Hoosiers had already been "saved" by the state legislature. On March 3, 1905, the newspaper contained the text of a new law banning the sale, possession and consumption of cigarettes.

Nearby on the same page, was a little item which read: "What will be the effect of the new cigarette law?" was asked a druggist today. "It will stop the sale of cigarettes and increase the demand for cheap cigars and smoking tobacco. The profits in retail tobacco business will not decrease."

Union counselors honored

H-T Report

Twelve members of four labor union locals have completed their training as union counselors for community services and were graduated Thursday night during a banquet at Holiday Inn.

The event was sponsored by the White River Central Labor Council. George Duncan, the council's community services chairman, was master of ceremonies.

Speaking during the evening were Don Hedges, council president; Steve

Lawson, Carol Weddle, Mary Quick and John Feathers;

IBEW Local 2249, General Electric Co. — Jerry Bock, Marvanna McFarland and Jackie Yenna.

International Association of Theater Stage Electricians Local 618, College Mall Cinemas — Joseph J. Gardner.

Lewis, the principal speaker of the evening, talked about the need to help people with problems, noting this involves the entire community and not just members of unions.