

Bloomington's last smoking ban was repealed in 1909

*"Tobacco is a nasty weed; I like it.
It satisfies no human need; I like
it.*

*It makes you fat, it makes you
lean;*

*It takes the hair right off your
bean;*

*It's the worst damn stuff I ever
seen; I like it."*

(Jingle of the 1930s.)

Lobbying for the Indiana anti-cigarette law of 1905 came from the religious, rather than the health sector of the state. The Indiana University alumnus, who prodded a state senator into introducing the bill, had seen anti-smoking cam-



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

paign buttons at a Sunday school conference in Chicago.

Another indication of where the objections to smoking were coming from can be seen in an article in the Bloomington *Evening World* of June 2, 1906. It reported that the general assembly of the United

Presbyterian Church had rejected a candidate for secretary of the Young People's Society on the grounds that he "used tobacco."

The cigarette ban began to have an effect on Indiana towns and cities, but meanwhile, those who did not appreciate the interference of the legislature began to attack it on the legal front. An Indianapolis attorney, William Lowry, was arrested for smoking in public a cigarette bought in Louisville, and a Marion County superior court judge dismissed the charges.

In another case, that of a man arrested in Anderson, a new point of

view entered the controversy. Said the *Evening World* on Aug. 16, 1905, "In effect, the brief alleges that the anti-cigarette law, under which the conviction was secured, is unconstitutional, in that it extends the police powers of the state to such an unwarranted degree that it amounts to an interference in the rights of personal liberty."

Bloomington's first arrest under the law took place in September of 1905. A laborer on the Indianapolis Southern Railroad construction crew had been caught smoking on the street in town. Identified only as H. Johnson, the man received a fine

of \$39.50 and spent time in jail because he couldn't or wouldn't pay. Commented the *Evening World*, "The police have been instructed to make arrests in every case and hereafter those who wish to smoke will have to 'hike' to the tall timber where they will not be under the observation of the 'cops.'"

Ironically, the second "offender" was a man by the name of John Law, who was a stone cutter at work on a local building. The newspaper related, "He came down street this morning with a 'coffin

see Smoking, page C4