

Revivals full of fervor

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men only and women only meetings and special meetings for members of fraternities, high school "scholars" and the employees of Showers factory. According to the *Star's* editor, H.J. Feltus, the latter group turned out in force with company president W.N. Showers "at the head as they marched to the Tabernacle."

Commenting that the high school boys indulged themselves in "class yells," Feltus wrote that the university boys would yell, too. "It may be dependent upon that when the IU boys turn out there will be a yell of a time."

One Thursday evening was designated as "children's night," and apparently they, too, yelled. According to Feltus, they chanted, "Down with booze. We want stocking and shoes!"

The *Star's* editor not too subtly pointed out that a majority of the participants were already church members, who presumably had already made some kind of religious commitment.

FOR THAT REASON, most of the "converts" were children. So pointed were some of Feltus' remarks about the revival that it is a wonder that his newspaper office wasn't besieged by angry sponsors of the revival.

For instance, the editor reported that home prayer meetings were a peripheral revival activity. Wrote Feltus, "A story is told of a certain woman asking her husband's permission to hold a prayer meeting at their home. His reply was: 'Go ahead, but whatever you do be sure and keep the people off of the back porch where the refrigerator is.'"

Another thing that amused the editor was the "compelling" method of collection taking. The ushers passed tin plates, and commented Feltus, silver dollars made more noise in the plates than nickels and dimes. "There is no doubt, however, but what all obligations will be met before the close, as the town could not afford to allow the evangelist and his party to go away with the opinion that the promoters of Bloomington's religious resurrection were a lot of cheap skates."

DID THE TOWN survive its revival? Indeed it did, but just barely, according to Feltus. He reported that, "The great spectacular parade was the beginning of the whirlwind finish of the tabernacle meetings." He also commented that there was considerable criticism of the whole spectacle by outsiders, "who did not seem to realize that anything in the name of religion goes now-a-days."

Despite the apparent enthusiasm of the participants, the collections did not take care of the evangelist's company expenses, and the sponsoring churches and businessmen were obliged to make up the difference. The editor attributed the shortfall to the fact that the same persons attended almost every night and doled out their contributions in nickels and dimes.

In a "wrap-up" article about the revival Feltus commented that while a few persons he talked to were outspoken about the benefit of such meetings, the majority refused to comment. "It may safely be said, however, that it will be a long time before there are any more tabernacle meetings held in this city."