

# Smithville saloon gets rude treatment

Monday, Aug. 29, 1898, was not a run-of-the-mill kind of day in Smithville. That was when the locals awoke to discover that in the near future, at least, they would have farther to go to "wet their whistles."

Chirped the *Bloomington Courier*, "The people of Smithville have a novel way of getting rid of saloons. At least it is a different way than is being used by the temperance people of this city who are remonstrating against the sale of liquor."

The newspaper primly explained that, "Smithville is not used to saloons." In fact, the liquor business that James May established in Smithville was still a novelty, being only two months old. He may have thought he was providing a much-needed service to the little community, but there were those who thought otherwise.

At approximately 1:30 a.m. — give or take a few minutes —



## Looking back

By Rose  
McIlveen

3-28-1937

persons residing in the vicinity of the saloon were awakened by a terrible commotion. Of those who had intentions of venturing outside, none actually did that, due to the advice of a gang of men armed with such formidable weapons as guns, axes and sledge hammers. For the intimidated ones, imagination had to suffice.

What was going on were some alterations at the local saloon — alterations that would cause May to reconsider the marketability of his product in the Smithville area. White-capper vigilantes wielding the hammers

see Saloon, Back page