

Smithville saloon gets rude treatment

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and axes shattered doors and windows first and proceeded to the interior attractions. Attacking a mute, \$150 refrigerator containing cold beer, the men returned the liquid to the earth from which it came. In fact, every bottle containing an alcoholic beverage received the same treatment.

The *Bloomington Telephone* reported that the group numbered 10 or 12, who arrived on horseback from the east. Continued the newspaper, "They had evidently come for business, and in little time whiskey and beer were soaking the ground." Nor did the tables and chairs escape destruction. They were said to be worth \$300.

Speculated the *Telephone* as to why May was put out of busi-

ness, "For some time there has been talk in the community that men both old and young had been spending too much money for liquor, when their families were going without the necessities of life." That might have been said of some Bloomingtonians, but the temperance movement in the city took a more rational approach, trying to persuade people to vote "dry" in the periodic referenda during the years of local option.

There was speculation that the gang of men were self-styled Regulators, an extra-legal force that had been known to resort to bodily harm to get their point across. The instances of taking the law into the average citizens' hands was not a Monroe County phenomenon, and in later years the excesses prompted the governor of Indiana to take drastic action.