

Morality of 1926 carnival questioned

"Only 3 More Days — The Most Colossal Amusement Enterprise Ever Seen in This City," — L.J. Heth Shows advertisement, June 18, 1926, Bloomington newspapers.

The Heth Shows advertisement that appeared in Bloomington newspapers in mid-June 1926 certainly promised plenty of good, clean family amusement. The ad boasted that the company had "35 double-length circus cars, 16 wonderful shows, 5 riding devices and 3 concert bands."



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

6-6-1987

The show arrived in Bloomington at the Allen Street fairgrounds at a point in time when the city was blessed with plenty of entertainment. Not only were there several

movie houses and programs at Indiana University, but there were occasional live acts and amateur nights at the Harris Grand Theatre and automobile races at the Bloomington Speedway.

All of the entertainment competed for public attention within the context of a mood of moral reform. There were public discussions about the morality of the sale of alcoholic beverages, cigar store punchboards and the sanctity

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