

Dancing, card playing denounced

Beneath an unusually large headline in the *Bloomington Telephone* on Jan. 27, 1905, appeared a social item which, by today's journalistic standards, is humorously unsophisticated.

THE ARTICLE describes the doings at a party of young people at the home of Miss Ressie Edwards on the west side of town. According to the *Telephone*: "The evening was enjoyed with games and conversation and a jolly time was had until almost midnight." Prizes — a cup and saucer and stationery — were awarded to Dessie Myers and Carl Layman as "the handsomest boy and girl."

Another popular form of social entertainment in those days was the

Looking back

By Rose H. McIlveen

spelling bee. The *Telephone* of Feb. 22, 1905, reported that at the Fort-nightly Club Professor Horace A. Hoffman outlasted John W. Cravens when the latter couldn't spell "sad-ducees." Earlier Judges Wilson and Reinhard had been eliminated by misspellings of "geranium" and "aniline," respectively.

As social events went in those days, the two kinds of entertainment were signs of the times. Parlor games, taffy pulls and spelling bees were considered wholesome entertainment for young people.

DANCING was not. Who said so? Well, most of the main-line denominations frowned upon dancing as well as card-playing and drinking alcoholic beverages. Should their members forget themselves, periodically visiting evangelists refreshed the public's memory.

For example, the "Brooks brothers" preached in Bloomington as long as the crowds and collections held out in January and February of (Page 13, col. 1, this sec.)