

1920-era service clubs enjoyed old-fashioned fun

A "Gala Occasion" was part of the headline over an article about a gathering of Bloomington and Bedford Kiwanis Club members on June 28, 1921. The article was in the June 29 edition of the *Bloomington Evening World*.

Could life in 1921 have been less sophisticated than ours today? The program for the evening seems to indicate that.

According to the newspaper "Some sixty-five leading business and professional men of the Stone City made up the invading party which was met at the high school campus by the Bloomington Club. After a parade about some of the principal streets of the city, the stop was made at the church where the banquet was held."

Members of Bedford Kiwanis brought noise-makers with them, creating a din that must have sounded strange in the community room of the First Christian Church. Each of the Bedford men was placed next to a Bloomington one at the table.

A fine was announced. Anyone wearing a jacket was to be assessed 10 cents, and the *Evening World* reported that "these en-



LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

cumbrances were quickly peeled off."

Apparently each group was expected to put on a stunt. Bedford's main one was a telegram signed by Sen. James E. Watson. It said that he had been asked to name a man to act as oil inspector for Oklahoma at a salary of \$15,000. The appointee was to come from either Lawrence or Monroe county. A man by the name of Major W.H. McCormick of Bedford announced that he thought it would be a good idea to cede the appointment to Monroe County.

Will Karsell and George Talbott were suggested as possible candidates and were about to draw straws for the post when a second telegram arrived. It said that the Oklahoma position had been abolished.

The crowd of clubmen thought that was very funny.

There were songs. They were "It's a Hard Thing to Beat Kiwanians," the "Kiwanis Luncheon Song," "Pack Up Your Troubles" and "Long, Long Trail."

The last song was particularly amusing. It was called "The Old Family Toothbrush" and sung to the tune of "The Old Oaken Buckle:"

"The old family toothbrush, the old family toothbrush,

The old family toothbrush we all loved so well.

At first it was mother's, and then it was brother's,

And then it was sister's, and now it is mine.

The old family toothbrush, the bone-handled toothbrush,

The bald-headed toothbrush that hangs by the SINK"

During the socializing no titles were allowed. Explained the *Evening World*, "No end of amusement was caused by enforcement during the evening of the Kiwanis Club rule that no man must be called Mr., Dr., Prof., or by any title except his given name

during the meeting."

The banquet speaker was introduced by Bloomington Kiwanis President J.A. Woodburn. He was Dr. Ambrose Dunkle, pastor of the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis and a fellow Kiwanian.

Among his other remarks was one that could have been said recently. "The day is coming when Kiwanians will say to our men at Washington, give us constructive legislation and less politics."

Bedford Kiwanians were given paper hats to wear. The menu was fruit cocktail, fried chicken, snowflake mashed potatoes, chicken giblet gravy, green beans, corn pudding, cottage cheese, hot rolls, jelly, ice cream, cake, iced tea and cigars.

Some additional entertainment was provided by quartets from Bloomington and Bedford. Bloomington singers were Dr. Glenn McDaniel, Prof. J.M. Van Hook, Stacy Harrell and Charles Springer. J.B. Andrews, Eddie Welsch, Herman Kasch and "Doc" Jackson were the members of the Bedford quartet.

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