

Old news stories reflect a different approach to life

Little vignettes of what life was like in the history of Bloomington and Monroe County can be found in the local newspapers. Here are three.

The Daily Telephone of Nov. 2, 1916, reported, "Yesterday while the great Republican meeting was on, a crowd of boys stationed on the top of a building across the street from the speaker's stand and directed by an ex-brewery agent, attempted to 'heckle' Judge Hughes and as far as possible disturb the meeting."

The disturbance consisted of yelling insults at the speakers and slogans supporting the Democratic Party. Apparently, the ruckus continued throughout the meeting.

The *Telephone* didn't mince words about the responsible person. "The boys were prompted and urged on by an ex-peddler of beer who has always been a strong and important cog in the Democratic machine."

It seems that the man who recruited the boys was a representative of the Crawford



LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

Fairbanks brewery. The *Telephone* deplored the fact that one of the speakers being heckled was "a man who heads a great political organization, a man who has been Governor of New York and a member of the supreme bench of the United States ..."

The newspaper suggested that there were Democrats in the crowd who were disgusted with the behavior of the boys. "The thousands of people on the streets — Democrats as well as Republicans — were much worked up, and if the crowd could have gotten to the youths there would likely have been several badly spanked boys and a tarred-and-feathered-brewery agent on the run in a short time."

Apparently, the boys put up an "obnox-

ious" banner across the street, but it was ordered that it be taken down by the owners of the buildings to which it was attached.

Highway robbery

Then there was the front-page story of the lone robber who held up a man on the "waterworks pike" at midnight on Jan. 14, 1921. The victim was George Shigley of the Graham Motor Sales Company.

The man had been visiting William Welmer and returning home when a man suddenly appeared in the middle of the road, waving for Shigley to stop. He decided not to, but the unknown man pulled out a gun and fired a shot. Shigley changed his mind.

With a revolver pointed at his head, Shigley gave the robber all the money he had. The amount was 55 cents.

Gambling fever

Through the years efforts to stamp out gambling in the county have not been all that

successful. That didn't stop local law enforcement from trying.

Perhaps having one's name on the front page of the *Bloomington Evening World* would have been a deterrent to some. Anyway, 16 men were arrested at Tandy & Croy's restaurant at the Monon yards.

The police had found two poker tables and \$63 in cash. Some of the men quickly pleaded guilty to gambling and paid a \$15 fine.

Those arrested were J.A. Kibler, W.W. Mickler, John Brownfield, Ed Green, Tom McLaughlin, Willie Ham, Roy Scales, J. Matthews, Ellis Shaw, Jerry Ayres, Arthur Bates, Louis Smith, Bill Pless, Clem Newton, Francis Koepf and Iven Tincher.

No squad car rides to the police station for them. *The Evening World* reported that the men were walked up the railroad track to city hall, where they were obliged to post bond.

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