

Dinner dance fund-raiser was not as billed

The sum of \$700 was considered a lot of money in 1912, especially when that amount was a debt.

That was the cost of repairs and improvements made to Bloomington Hospital, and those responsible for it were the members of the Local Council of Women.

How did they set about repaying the money? It was idea time, and the council divided its organization members into four groups. The one made up of Tri Kappa, Theta Club, Kappa Club, Friday Musical, Psi Iota Xi and the Women's League decided to have a ball.

The fund-raising affair was announced in the March 27 edition of the *Bloomington Evening World*, and the planning committees listed in the article read like a local Who's Who. The steering committee was made up of Mesdames Herbert Beck, Sanford Teter, Charles Springer, Sherman Davis and Oscar Cravens and Miss Josephine Hall.

Other names in the subcommittees were



LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

well known in Bloomington — Showers, Batman, Buskirk, Freese, Loudon, Myers, Waldron, Lindley and Reed.

April 12 was the date chosen, and the place was the Student Building on the Indiana University campus.

Other details revealed in the March 27 article were the music — Trueblood, Hamilton and Davis, playing the piano, drum and saxophone — and the price of the tickets — \$2 per couple.

Boxes holding six persons were going to be sold for \$8. The number of tickets was to be limited to 250.

Four days before the ball the publicity committee reported that almost 200 tickets

had been sold.

Continued the *Evening World* article, "it is entirely probable that many more than the original number will be sold before Friday evening."

A Japanese theme was chosen by the decorations committee, using lanterns, umbrellas and cherry blossoms. Commented the newspaper, "That the dance will be one of the most brilliant social events of the season is evidenced by the large number of tickets that have already been disposed of."

Was the fact that the tickets really were not selling as well as the steering committee hoped the reason why the *Evening World* ran another article about the ball on the very day it was held? Perhaps.

Those who did not attend no doubt expected to read about it on April 13.

They did, but the little article must have been a surprise. "CHARITY BALL HAS SMALL ATTENDANCE" was the headline on a front page story.

It was obvious that the committee had overestimated the community's interest in the formal fund-raising event or the number of advance ticket sales had been deliberately inflated to attract more patrons.

Reported the newspaper, "There were approximately not more than 40 couples ... Most of the people were residents of Bloomington, and there were quite a number of faculty members and their wives present, and also a few students ... The cause of the Hospital would have fared much better had it not rained last night."

The low turnout must have been very disappointing to the committee members who worked so hard on the arrangements.

How much did the ball raise for the hospital? Over \$100, according to the *Evening World*.

One can only hope the Local Council's three other fund-raising committees had better luck.

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