

'Egyptian Malt' caused stir in 1909

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stood about the square and watched the officers."

According to the *Telephone*, the raid arose out of a controversy over whether Egyptian Malt was beer or near beer. Except for the 500 spectators, the news would be just another boys-will-be-boys story.

SINCE 500 people seldom congregate on the Bloomington square, the implication was that The *Telephone* and others had been tipped off by the mayor. The reporter was in his element when he wrote that the young men were feeling very cosmopolitan as they sat in Tim's Place and smoked their Egyptian cigarettes (made in Durham, N.C.) and sipped their Egyptian Malt (made in East Saint Louis).

According to the June 1 edition of the *Daily Student*, when the mayor and the officers arrived, the beverage was being chilled in a couple of tubs of ice. Timberlake, too, was arrested and later released under \$200 bond.

Though his lawyer, who might have advised him to say nothing to the press, was out of town, Timberlake told a *Telephone* reporter that the salesman had assured him that the beverage was being safely drunk in other dry areas of the state. Nevertheless, it could hardly be considered non-alcoholic. Each label on the bottles said, "3 83/100 percent alcohol. Intended for medicinal purposes and not as a beverage."

The *Telephone* reporter informed

his readers that the two tubs of bottles of Egyptian Malt were confiscated by the police and taken to the mayor's office so they could later be used as evidence in the case. The *Student* indicated that Timberlake — in selling the beverage — was in violation of the "Blind Tiger Law." On another occasion, when a private home was raided and the alcoholic beverages being sold were confiscated by the police and stored in the mayor's office, the liquid mysteriously disappeared before the trial.

Timberlake said that rumors that students were getting a "nice headlight" on at his place were simply not true. Initially he denied that Egyptian Malt had any alcohol in it. He also said that the salesman had offered to come to Bloomington to testify on his behalf.

In a statement bound to make his lawyer cringe when he got back to town, Timberlake added, "I do not think it was necessary to have the Mayor, Prosecutor, Chief of Police and two policemen to invade my place during the busiest hour of the evening, and thus adding publicity to the raid. The same results might have been attained by sending a sample of the extract to the University for analysis, and if the results showed the malt to be intoxicating, I would have discontinued its sale at once. I have no disposition to evade the law in any respect, but want to conduct my business in accordance with the law."