

Early revivals had 'show biz' overtones

Tucked away in a little newspaper column called "Star Twinkies" in the Bloomington *Sunday Star* of Oct. 17, 1915, was a little item which said, "A revival is no doubt needed, as many did not get enough religion at the last revival to hold them until the next one."

Presumably the editor, H.J. Feltus, was aware that Bloomington was about to be revived again. The comment in part reflected his reservations about the "show biz" aspects of revivals.

Looking back

By Rose H. McIlveen
First in a series

ONLY a month before Feltus's little comment, he had had the opportunity to observe the effect of the five-day engagement of the Community Chautauqua. The management of that road show had an "arrangement" which Feltus unabashedly printed for the benefit of his readers — "\$750 first money to the Chautauqua and 50 percent of the balance going to the hospital fund."

Theoretically, reflected the editor, the Chautauqua's program was supposed to have a "moral tone and gain the endorsement of the professed religious people," but he pointed out to his reading public, "The fact is, the musical part of the Sunday show was the same as a vaudeville act in this city at the Harris Grand theatre some time ago. Bloomington has about as much use for a chautauqua as it has for a Carnegie library." Besides, he wrote, the universi-

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