

Becton's Life Reads Like Best Seller

Greatest Success of Evangelist Came in This City at Tindley Temple

Always Packed Them In

Rev. G. Wilson Becton has been a stormy petrel in church circles for a good many years.

The evangelist was born in Wilson, Texas, 43 years ago and graduated from Wilberforce University in 1918.

In 1920 he was appointed to a small charge in Xenia, Ohio, and remained there for 8 months. After leaving there he began his evangelistic work. His first big success came when he was in Birmingham, Alabama in 1923.

With this success the minister launched on the stormy sea of trouble. It is alleged he was accused of being too friendly with a woman there and an attempt was made to run him out of town. However, the matter was ironed out and he remained there for quite some time before moving north into New York City and national prominence.

In 1925 he married Josephine Buford, from whom he later separated because she claimed that he preferred the company of the men in his troupe. He came forth, however, with counter-charges, saying he didn't approve of her work as a spiritualist.

Came Here in 1930

It was in 1930 that he first came to Tindley Temple, Broad and Fitzwater sts., where Rev. Charles A. Tindley is pastor. For eight long months there was scarcely breathing space in this church as people from near and far crowded their way into the church to listen to Becton's jazz orchestra, hear his shrill whistle and see his dance-like antics in conducting his religious services.

He finally left, but it was rumored that church officials had attempted to have him leave long before he did. In 1932 he returned to the same church for a short stay and left at the end of a three-months' stand. According to Bishop Ernest C. Richardson, of the

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Methodist Episcopal Church, D. W. Henry, district superintendent, objected to Becton's carrying on his revivals at Tindley Temple and for this reason they were brought to an abrupt close. According to the church laws, the district superintendent must give his consent for evangelistic services to be carried on. Henry turned thumbs down on Becton.

Failure Last Time In City

About six months ago, Becton moved into the Varick Memorial A. M. E. Z. Church, 19th and Catharine sts., but his Gospel Party left after two weeks there. The followers seemed to lose interest in the man who had created such a furore when he first came to the City of Brotherly Love.

On May 9th of this year he moved into the Broadway A. C., from where he was coming the night he was shot. At the cost of \$2,000 he had installed in the arena an electric Wohler organ. It was rumored that no religious body was backing him at the Broadway Arena but that outsiders had interest in his nightly gospel feast party.

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