**Closing Down the Houses in Laramie, 1954**

*The following article was published in the student newspaper, the Branding Iron, March 5, 1954, p. 1, c. 3:*

“Laramie Red Lights Go Out”

“Laramie red lights have gone out—probably for good.

“The closing of Laramie’s five houses of prostitution came as a result of an accumulation of factors, according to information gathered by the *B*I.

“Among these are the building up of resentment on the part of Laramie citizens, the BI articles which followed the *Redbook* article, action by the University’s board of trustees who met in a closed executive session and other factors.

“Police Chief Barney Deti said he acted under orders of the city and closed the houses last Friday night.

“Mayor O. C. Hammond would not comment on the closing of the houses.

The Rev. John McConnell, pastor of the Union Presbyterian Church, has as his Sunday, Feb. 28 sermon topic, “Good Samaritans are Not Enough.’ During the course of his sermon, he stressed the need to approach a problem by combating the causes, instead of concentrating on the effects. In this connection, he announced that Laramie’s five houses had been closed and said that “we must not sit by and do nothing while organized syndicated vice is present in Laramie. We must give the city officials and the police our support to make sure these houses stay closed.”

“Most of the houses’ girls have left town, according to reports received by the *BI*, and most sources say the houses will remain closed.”