

Justice wasn't blind to 'tiger'

"Testimony pro and con in the Wertz case to prove that Wm. Wertz did or did not operate a blind tiger at his home on west 7th street, was introduced yesterday afternoon before the jury." *Bloomington Telephone*, April 2, 1909.

The place was 931 W. Seventh St., and for some time the Bloomington police had suspected that the occupants were indeed operating a "blind tiger," or "speak-easy." So sure were the police about their suspicions of illegal alcohol sales, that they sent an amateur detective to the Vaudette to pick out a stranger to "set up" Wertz.

McIntyre was the name of the decoy, and he used the money



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By Rose
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provided by the police to buy two pint bottles of beer at the Wertz "home." At a discrete distance, McIntyre was relieved of the evidence.

Actually, the police had long suspected that the constant traffic in and out of the house in question was not due to the occupants' outstanding hospitality. During the subsequent raid, local author-

ities confiscated 77 bottles of beer.

Wertz was duly arrested and got his day in court on March 31. An interesting array of witnesses for the defendant and on behalf of the prosecutor paraded past a jury composed of W.H. Hancock, — Patton, Dell Hughes, Abe Skirvin, James Rogers and Nathan Smith, farmers; James Freeman, former proprietor of Merchants' Delivery System; James Fish and Fred Samson, clerks; Till Mefford, merchant; George McKnight, insurance agent, and C.N. Campbell, real estate agent.

Wertz was defended by "Attorney Miers," whose first line of defense was a request to quash

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