
Looking back, from page C1

The history added that although the authorities had some suspects, "for years no convincing proof could be had. The counterfeiters had an underground system which could not be solved by the authorities, and so their trade went on uninterrupted."

Meanwhile, merchants in town were no doubt gnashing their teeth over the worthless money they had taken in for goods and services. In fact, Monroe County history suggested that there was some real talent among the counterfeiters, stating that "... counterfeit bills on the various State banks and bogus coin of fair appearance, color and weight

made their appearance in the county."

To read Growler's letter, you would never know that there was any kind of illegal activity going on in the township. "We are an industrious class of people down here in Polk. Crime does not exist except some few go fishing to big Salt

Creek, but they only go for the sport and to take a bath — they don't want the fish."

Polk Township's reputation for harboring illegal activity of one kind or another gained a new chapter in the 1920s, when stories about counterfeiters and white cappers gave way to rumors about stills back in its hills and "hollers."