

False mustache no help in keeping man's secret

The story provided a little diversion for readers of the *Bloomington Evening World* on Dec. 28, 1900. Though the account came from the *Martinsville Reporter*, it certainly had its Monroe County connections.

It all began when the Martinsville police got a tip that there was a strange man standing on the square. Although there is nothing particularly unusual about visitors to county seat towns, this one had attracted attention.

His behavior could be considered somewhat unusual. He was seen ad-



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

justing a false mustache.

According to the *Reporter*, the police "shadowed" the man, and the trail led to the Faulkner House, a local hotel. Registering under the name of "W.C. Jane," the man list-

ed no address.

Recounted the *Reporter*, "He left a call for the FF&M train this morning and wore the mustache when he went to the train where he seated himself with his back to the aisle."

The Martinsville police officer had two choices — to get to the bottom of the man's need for a disguise or to shrug their shoulders and forget about it.

Since the train was about to leave, two Martinsville police officers boarded and demanded "Jane's" mustache. Without waiting for

a reply, the officers yanked it off.

Apparently, it was all they needed to do to recognize Joe Hadden, formerly of the Honey Creek neighborhood of Monroe County. The man claimed not to know either of the officers, but had encountered one of them frequently on stock-buying expeditions.

Continued the *Reporter*, "Hadden then begged the officers to say nothing of his presence here and this was on account of the cloud under which he left his home last fall."

For the benefit of those who had

never heard of Hadden, the newspaper explained. "Some years ago he married a widow Hubbard, who owned extensive land interests and a saw mill in Honey Creek Valley."

Some months ago — the previous fall, to be exact — Hadden's neighbors became suspicious. It seems that they had been kind enough to allow Hadden to use their names as sureties for loans.

The *Reporter* explained, "He and they (the neighbors) had some trou-

see Looking back, page C2