

Police pursue trail of alleged killer in 1910 to no avail

Since the phone wire between the Sanders community and Bloomington had been cut prior to the murder of Ben Coniel (or Cornici, or Carrinacci) in June 1910, the trail of the alleged killer, Nick Pelloni (or Palones), was cold. Nevertheless, the law enforcement officers did believe that Pelloni was hiding somewhere in the area.

Reported the Bloomington *Weekly Courier* on June 24, "Mr. Ratliff (the sheriff), with seven deputies, spent all day yesterday in scouring the country about Sanders and Smith-



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By Rose McIlveen

ville. The sheriff is in close touch with a number of parties in that neighborhood who have promised to phone the word in at once in case the Italian again shows his face."

The Bloomington *Telephone* referred to the victim as Ben Carrinacci and his alleged assailant as Nicola Palone and depicted the suspense of the residents of the Sanford area as "terror." Explained the newspaper, "Since the murder, Palone has been in different parts of the stone belt where there are Italians, but for the last two days he has been in the woods around Sanders or secreted in one of the Italian huts. It is certain that he is being provided with food by some of his countrymen, but no one will admit

having talked to the desperado, although several say they have seen him at a distance."

Meanwhile, a curious little article appeared in the *Courier*. It informed its readers that the only Italian lawyer in Indiana had arrived in Bloomington "to look after the trouble growing out of the murder last Saturday of Ben Cornici by Nick Pelloni. Richardi is a graduate of Yale and a Democrat."

In attempt to keep the story alive,

the *Telephone* dramatized the man-hunt. "Nicola Palone, murderer of Ben Carrinacci, is still in Monroe County and staying here with a 'mission,' the mission being to kill two and possibly three of his fellow countrymen with whom he is on unfriendly terms." A posse was formed, and although he was supposed to have been sighted, the men came up empty-handed.

Mrs. Sylvester Pelloni, wife of Nick's cousin, said Nick crept up

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