

Boarding house raid news in 1909

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occupants caught on that something was amiss."

THE FORCE and their assignments were: Capt. Mitchell (of the Salvation Army) and Deputy Sheriff Route were on the third floor to block any exit by the roof or fire escape and Sgt. Cramer (also of the Salvation Army) was stationed at the front door to let patrons in, but not out. Loudon saved the best assignment for himself and Sheriff Ratliff - that of searching the boarding house rooms.

In the public interest the *Telephone* gave its readers an account of the room-by-room search. In one they found the landlady, two women, two men and several empty whiskey and beer bottles. An adjoining room yielded "a box of beer, a jug of liquor and about 10 quarts of whiskey."

As the drama unfolded, Loudon and the sheriff climbed the stairs to the third floor and knocked on the door of Room 6. Since there was no answer, they kicked in the door. (The *Telephone* did not report whether they first tried to turn the doorknob.) Their searchlight revealed (ah, ha!) a man in the bed and a woman under it. In the next room was "an old clothes man" deemed to be innocent and therefore not arrested.

"**MOTHER**" and 14 of her guests were assembled in the downstairs hallway and marched en masse to the jail. Thereupon the grandmotherly landlady "produced a roll of bills that staggered the officers and skinned off \$450 for bond money for herself and five friends, who were valued at \$50 per head."

Part II — Next week, the Trial of Mother.