

Grand jury indicts city marshal in 1895

"A lawyer in a court room may call a man a liar, scoundrel, villain or thief and no one makes a complaint when court adjourns. If a newspaper prints such reflections on any man's character there is a libel suit or a dead editor. Can it be that everyone believes the newspaper and no one believes the lawyer," Columbus Herald, 1895.

At stake in the hearings of the Law and Order League in January, 1895 was the professional reputation of Bloomington's marshal, George Owens. As a whole procession of local men testified at the extra-legal hearing, the *Telephone* capitalized on the testimony by devoting a generous amount of space to it.

"The legal contest will be a battle royal," the newspaper commented.

Meanwhile, Marshal Owens claimed that the league was fronting for persons who had attempted to defeat him at the last election. He added that public morality was not



Looking back

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5-21-89 88

the prime motivation for the to-do over his conduct of office.

"There is some trouble as to the attorneys," the *Telephone* reported. "Both sides are claiming that they have employed East & Miller and also Fulk & Corr, as in both cases the committee made an engagement with one partner while Mr. Owens retained the other . . . As the controversy has arisen, East & Miller state that unless it can be settled satisfactorily to all parties, they will not take part in the case."

Perhaps fearing that the testimony might not move the grand jury to indict Owens, the league

see **Looking back**, Back page