

Deaths of dog, master left a blander city

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account of the case in the *Martinsville Gazette* led Judge Cyrus McNutt to request his court reporting services in a famous murder case. The *Courier* described what happened:

"At the time of his appointment he was painting at a woolen mill near the court house, and when notified of his good luck, he hesitated about going, as he did not have confidence in himself. The court sent the sheriff with a command to come at once. He went to the courtroom with his paint clothes on, and entered upon his duties as described above. Since that time he has reported cases in over half the counties in Indiana and in many other states."

His second career as a newspaper reporter took him into the offices of

the *Martinsville Republican*, *Indianapolis Sentinel and Journal*, *Chicago*, *St. Louis* and *Cincinnati* newspapers, as well as the *Martinsville Gazette*. Several of his trial reports were reprinted in pamphlet form.

In 1878, the public became excited about the mind-reading presentations of Professor J. Randolph Brown. According to the *Courier*, "Spencer successfully duplicated in public the entertainment given by Brown. He gave a large number of entertainments in Indiana, Kentucky and other states, and his audiences were always highly entertained. By the use of his mind-reading powers he located some money that had been stolen from an old lady in the western part of the county, and this feat caused the *New York Herald* to send its most famous correspondent, Jerome B. Stillson here, who interviewed Mr. Spencer and sent his paper a three

column report, which was reproduced in many other leading papers of the country."

The departures of both Old Tramp and Spencer from the Bloomington scene left the city a blander place. Gone was the old dog from the court room, and there were no more phone "conversations" between them.

Memory is a kind of immortality, and dog and master remain part of Monroe County lore.