

Bloodhounds lead mob on manhunt

Looking back, from page C1

the reporter described as lanky and armed with an old-style wooden-handled pistol. Another member of the party was carrying a cartridge belt along with his "big gun and holster."

The bloodhounds were given the weapon, a bloodstained sassafras club, to sniff. "Then," reported the *Star*, "as Bob held the chains, the two dogs put their noses to the ground and led the detective rapidly on the trail. He disappeared down a lane, appeared again in a

cornfield, and finally faded from view over a hill, followed by a hundred men."

The trail led the eager dogs through a neighbor's house, an intrusion that surely must have startled anyone who happened to be at home there. Tracking the scent to a nearby creek, the bloodhounds lost the trail and lay down, panting from their exertion.

Apparently, the reporter had done his homework regarding Owens, the professional detective. "Bob Owens first came into the limelight as a Hearst representative

from this district when William Randolph ran for President. In the last state legislature Bob lobbied a bill that went through, exempting thoroughbred bloodhounds from taxation, if they were used for tracking criminals," explained the *Star* article.

The price of his services was at least \$25, and in the Ellettsville case, he received \$40.

As to the outcome of the case, Riley Williams did recover, and his two alleged attackers were apprehended in Vallejo, Calif., a place considerably out of the range of Owens and his bloodhounds.