

Police pursue alleged killer in 1910

Looking back, from page C1

behind her and said, "Be quiet, I will not hurt you. I want to speak to (Louie) Tosti." It is likely that he was looking for help in locating some other members of the Italian community.

Despite the *Courier's* assertion that the killing of Cornici was a Black Hand murder, the explana-

tion is probably far more commonplace. An examination of the Monroe County court records indicates that some readers of the Pelloni family were operating a Blind Tiger (a place where alcoholic beverages were being sold at a time when it was not legal to do so.) It is more likely that the bad blood between Cornici and Pelloni could have been a "turf war" involving the sale of alcohol. To be fair to the *Courier*, the June 21 edition also had suggested

that Cornici may have been a police informant, having turned in the names of the Pelloni family as violators of the law. In fact, on April 19, 1910, Nick Pelloni had been charged with running a Blind Tiger.

The Pellonis seemed to be having trouble adjusting to a culture far different from that of their homeland. Between 1910 and 1918, the name of Pelloni appeared on the Monroe County court docket in

nine different cases, ranging from operating a Blind Tiger to divorce.

The warrant for the arrest of Nick Pelloni on a charge of murder was continued on the court docket until April 1911, when it was probably decided that he was no longer in the area. Attorney Riccardi's trip to Bloomington was in vain. At least up to September of 1919, Pelloni had not been arrested in Monroe County.