

News of The Day – From the Distant Past

From the *Martin County Sentinel*: Local News & Letters to The Editor

- Feb. 7, 1879: “There are about a dozen young boys who spend their evenings on the streets of Fairmont making night hideous, indulging in profane language and conducting themselves in a disgraceful and boisterous manner generally. Parents should look after these lads. They are forming characters which they will never outlive and which will tend to make them anything but honorable, industrious and worthy men.”
- Feb. 21, 1879: “We are pained to announce the aberration and total loss of reason of the wife of our worthy townsman, Mr. R. W. Thomas. The disease was first noticed about ten days ago, and was of a mild type, but it has since gradually increased in violence till it has transformed a woman who has heretofore been noted for her modest, quiet manners and amiable temperament into a raving maniac, almost beyond the control of human beings.” “She will probably have to be taken to the asylum.”
- Feb. 28, 1879: “*A Whack at the Saloons*” To the Editor of The Sentinel: “There was a bright light in the saloon on the west side of North Avenue, Sunday night, and various parties were seen to enter the back door of the aforesaid rum hole during the day. Is there no way to put a stop to the infamous desecration of the holy Sabbath? You said the new Council were in favor of enforcing the ordinances and keeping the saloons within the bounds of law. How is this? Signed: Yours, LAW AND ORDER
- Feb. 28, 1879: - The *Sentinel* tells of a woman in Martin County who is crazy on religion. No danger of the senior editor of the *Sentinel* in that respect, is there? Signed: Frank, *Estherville Vindicator* Editor’s Response: About as much “danger” as there is of the *Vindicator* man becoming sane on the subject.
- March 7, 1879: “A live rattlesnake, about four feet long, four and one-half inches in circumference, and having seven rattles, is on exhibition at the Pioneer Drug Store. It has not eaten or drank anything since its capture (over eight months ago) and is as vivacious and venomous as ever, darting its poisonous tongue at every visitor and lashing its musical tail against the sides of the cage.”
- April 18, 1879: “In the raffle for James Wherland’s boat last Monday night, Phil Carrol, an employee of Ward & Cadwell, was a lucky man in holding ticket No. 31. Thirty-five tickets were sold, and thirty-four holders wish they hadn’t invested.”
- May 16, 1879: “One of our prominent Englishmen contributed \$10.00 to the Martin County school fund, last Saturday, for the glorious privilege of bloodying a Center Creek man’s nozzle. He did the job up in good shape, but considered it a rather expensive luxury.”