

A PECULIAR CASE OF SUICIDE TOXIC CHEMICAL WIDELY POPULAR BUT DEADLY

By Susan Evans McCrobie, HCHS Member

Last week, while looking through old newspapers from the first decade of the twentieth century in search of pharmaceutical advertising for the museum's newest exhibit, I ran across a very interesting story on the front page regarding a local suicide.

During that time period it was not unusual to read about suicides in the news. Folks often ended their lives by hanging and with guns. William Brown took his life by taking Paris Green.

I had never heard of Paris Green previous to this story so I did a check on the alleged killer. It has a long and fascinating deadly history.

Paris Green is an inorganic compound, aka copper acetroarsenite. Highly fitting that this notorious killer, joins the ranks of the two legged species with its own alais.

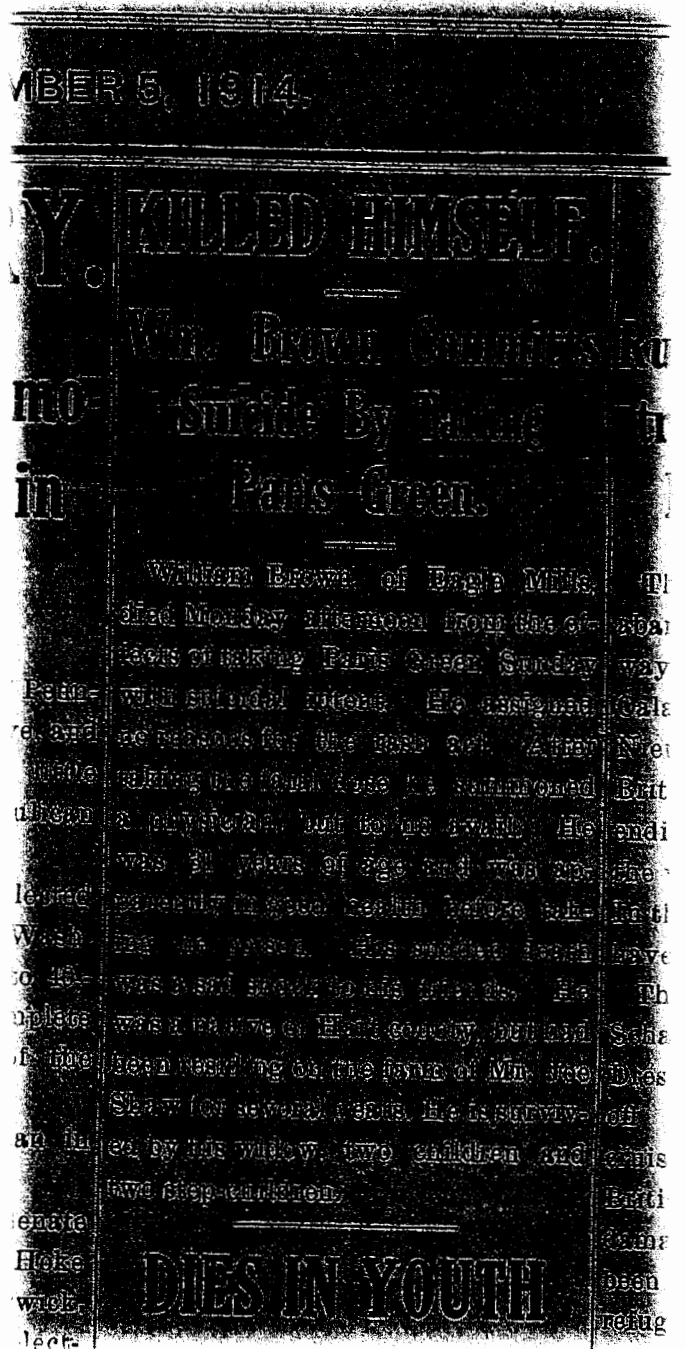
No matter what handle it goes by, the subject of this article is a highly toxic emerald-green crystalline powder that has been used as a rodenticide to kill the rates in the sewers of Paris, hence its name, as well as the ingredient in orchard sprays used to kill beetles that threatened produce, a spray used in the control of pesky carriers of malaria and also as a popular pigment used in artists' paints.

I suspect that our William Brown, farmhand by trade, may have used Paris Green as rodenticide or insecticide before ingesting the deadly powders by choice and dying rather painfully and quickly.

Alas, a seemingly short story and end of Mr. Brown if one ended the tale here.

Photo Courtesy of Hardin County History Museum Archives

In 1914, *The Mirror* masthead ran the slug line "Largest Circulation of Any Paper Ever Printed in Hardin County." The Thursday, November 6, 1914 news about William Brown was prominently seated at the top of the 8 page weekly publication published by C.M. Yates for a yearly subscription rate of fifty cents.



It is Paris Green's use as a pigment and its silent but deadly theft of health and life that makes for a really long and fascinating story...

Once upon a time, a highly, fashionable green fabric dye literally killed people.

This deadly colour, Paris Green, making its debut in the Regency era was an intense hue of emerald green made with copper arsenite.

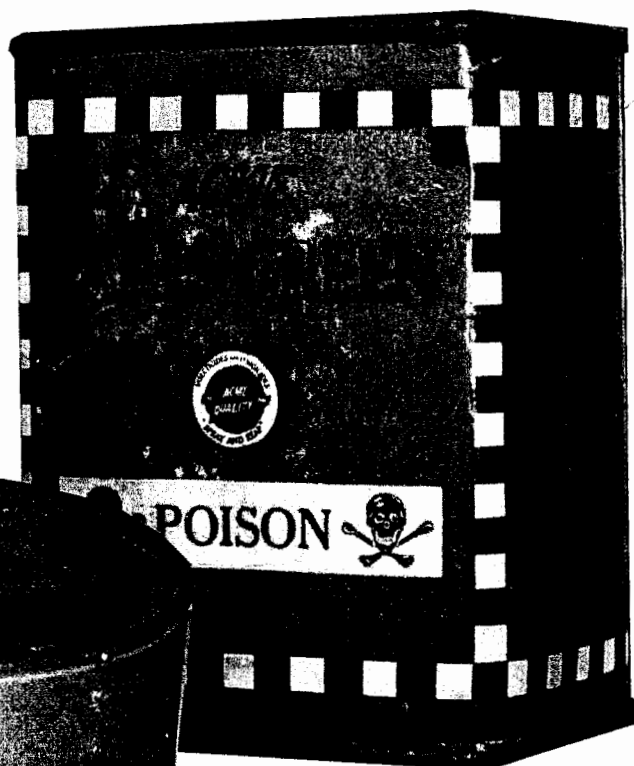
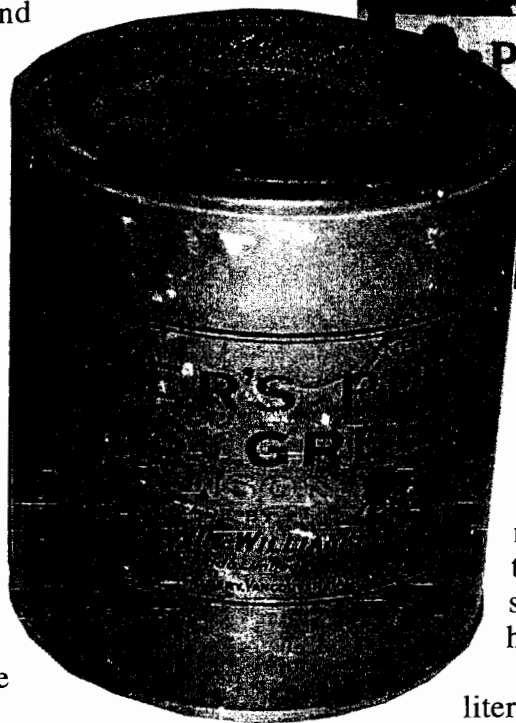
The strikingly beautiful, vibrant green hue became an instant favorite with most 19th century painters, wallpaper designers and fabric dyers as it was in high demand by the most discriminating of clients.

Its appeal spread to use in other industries of the time such as candy making, elaborate cake decorations, fine soaps, and toys.

And then there was its use as a highly effective rat poison.

Now not to get too far from our story, because it was so cheap to manufacture, the Paris Green pigment was used not only as a fabric dye and as an artist paint, but also as a household paint and in numerous wallpaper patterns of the extremely popular English designer William Morris. The widespread use of the color made damp rooms death traps.

The problem is, when the air is damp, mold can grow on the lovely Paris Green walls and convert its arsenic component into arsine gas, which slowly poisons anyone in the room. Yes, people noticed that they tended to get weak and sickly during the damp



winter months, and if they moved to a drier climate they got better quickly. They blamed their symptoms on the weather.

Actually the change in location, not the weather, is what improved the health for those who used the silent killer when decorating their homes in high fashion.

The moral of this story is: You can literally love something to death, even if it is just a color.

* * *

Even with scientific evidence of its highly toxic nature, production of Paris Green paint was not banned in the United States until the 1960s.

what do you think?

When Napoleon died in 1821 on the island of Saint Helena, his prison for 5 years, the official cause of death recorded by his physician was stomach cancer; however, trace amounts of arsenic were found in Napoleon's hair when tested in the 1960s. Was this arsenic absorbed naturally or was the emperor poisoned? Towards the end of his life, Napoleon spent increasing amounts of time indoors, where his home was fashionably decorated with Paris Green wallpaper.

SIMPLY TO DIE FOR?

The French painter Paul Cezanne had an affinity for using Paris Green pigments in his oil paintings, and it might have been no coincidence that he suffered from severe health problems. It is reported that he died from Pneumonia.

And in the case of Van Gogh, why cut off your ear after working with Paris Green pigment? Was it's toxic clutches the underlying cause of his psychotic episodes? Beautiful, yet deadly, this omnipresent arsenical pigment found everywhere throughout Victorian society.

Politics and Other Items Discussed in Local Paper of 1851

A newspaper known as "The Kentucky Register," was published weekly in Elizabethtown previous to the Civil War, founded in 1838. It was a single sheet edition, printed on both sides. Two copies of this paper, one dated September 9, 1851, and the other, November 30, 1852, were brought to the Enterprise office, several days ago by Samuel Thomas, of this city.

Many interesting items are contained in the papers including the following. The rates charged for subscription were \$2.00 per year, if paid on reception of the first number; \$2.50 if paid within the year, and \$3.00 if not paid until the year expired. No subscription could be discontinued until all arrearages were paid.

The publishers, T.H. Genry & Co., announced that "We will take most kinds of country produce, if delivered to us within the year, for subscriptions to this paper."

The issue of September 9, 1851, announced the retirement of Governor Helm and the inauguration of Governor Powell and Lieutenant Governor J.B. Thompson, in an article taken from the "Louisville Democrat."

Another article quoted from the "Louisville Journal," concerning a former well-known resident here, entitled, "Gov. Helm and the Nashville Railroad," states "Sometime since, in quoting an extract from a speech made by Gov. Helm, in the Legislature, fifteen or eighteen years ago, upon the subject of a system of railroads for Kentucky, we took occasion to say that he was the original suggester of a road from this city to Nashville. Not only was this so, but he likewise drew the original charter incorporating a company to construct it. And, on yesterday, upon the opening of the books by the commissioners in this city for the subscription of stock, he was the first person to subscribe and pay an installment upon his subscription.

"Governor Helm returns to private life, after filling the post of Chief Executive of the Commonwealth, with honor to himself and to the profit of the State, with a willingness to continue his usefulness,

devoting his time and talents to such extent as may be necessary and as justice to his private affairs will admit of, toward advancing the interest of this important work. Impressed in the highest degree with its prospective advantages to the citizens of that portion of Kentucky through which the road will pass, and moved by the liveliest enthusiasm in its favor, any efforts he may make must result in great benefit to the enterprise.

"With such men thus warmly enlisted, the work must go forward most rapidly and efficiently."

The same issue also announced the election of Mr. Thomas' father, Dr. J.I. Thomas, Whig, from Breckinridge county, to the State Legislature. Two Whigs from Hardin county, C.G. Wintersmith and W.T. Samuels, were also elected to the Kentucky House. That year twenty Whigs and eighteen Democrats were sent to the State Senate and fifty-five Whigs and forty-five Democrats to the House of Representatives. The official vote showed a total of 1,887 votes cast in Hardin, 1,045 for the Whigs and 842 for the Democrats.

The November 20, 1852 issue of the "Register" showed the Kentucky ballot in the presidential election of that year, in which the Whig candidate, Franklin Pierce, defeated his Democratic opponent, Scott, by 213 electoral votes. Kentucky in this election was one of the four states casting their electoral votes for Scott, the others being Tennessee, Massachusetts, and Vermont, Scott receiving only 43 votes in the electoral college. Hardin county also went Democratic, giving Scott 1,007 votes to Pierce's 619.

Very few advertisements appeared in the "Register," and they were printed in the single column, small type, similar to the modern newspaper's classified columns. Of especial interest today were the following "Wanted to purchase, a young negro girl or woman from the age of 15 to 20 years. Cash or a fair price will be paid by making application at this office," and another, "Wanted, at this office, an apprentice to learn the printing business. A lad from 13 to 15 years old can find a good situation by making immediate application."

Stephen Elliot began printing *The Kentucky Register* in 1834. Samuel Haycraft, in his 1870 *History of Elizabethtown*, speaks of housing Elliot's old Stansberry patent printing press.

*Ben Hardin was admitted to the bar at Elizabethtown in July, 1806.
He resided in Elizabethtown for almost two years before moving to Bardstown and continuing his law practice.*



A REMARKABLE CONVICTION OF A HARDIN COUNTY MURDERER ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

Old Ben Hardin, of whom much has been written, was one of the most original and powerful lawyers that ever pleaded a case; he was phenomenally successful, it the rarest thing for his client to be defeated. An account of the famous criminal trials alone in which he figured would fill a volume. He was quick to seize upon the stong points of his case and after bringing all the resources of a thorough knowledge of law and a remarkable fund of common sense to bear upon the question he would enliven the subject with a sarcasm keen and relentless and a humor original and irresistible. Tom Marshall once said of Hardin that "he was a good judge of bad men." While not confined to this partiular case, he seemed to possess a kind of instinct in tracing and proving the guilt of criminals, to whom his name was a terror.

One of the most remarkable cases of conviction on circumstantial evidence was the Spencer murder case, tried in the Hardin County Circuit Court. Spencer had been indicted by the grand jury on very slight evidence for the murder of his stepson.

The general facts of the case were related by Owensboro, KY Circuit Court Judge, Lucius P. Little in his book, **Ben Hardin: His Times and Contemporaires, with Selections from His Speeches** published in 1887 at Louisville, KY by the Courier-Journal Job Printing Co. The following excerpt on the celebrated trial has been printed in its entirety.

SPENCER'S CASE – MURDER.

The case presently to be mentioned finely illustrates some of Mr. Hardin's most interesting and marked characteristics as a lawyer. No one had greater powers of intuition, and his confidence in knowledge and conclusions attained in that way was absolute. It was a find of knowledge that he felt more strongly than he could support by reasons. The naturalist from the femur bone or even a tusk will reconstruct the skeleton of the megatherium of the antediluvian era with the unerring accuracy of science. So Mr. Hardin,

from an apparently inconclusive link, would construct a chain of guilt that could not be broken. The case illustrates (better than the account of it will show) his power to fit and bind together a number of facts—seemingly insignificant and accidental taken separately—yet in combination irresistible in their convincing force. In no State of the Union has public sentiment ever been more potential in the jury box than in Kentucky, yet I will here be seen that he not only defied its power but actually changed its course in the period of a single speech.

In 1842, one Spencer was indicted in the Hardin Circuit Court for murder of a boy—his step-son. Mr Hardin assisted in the prosecution. It was a case of circumstantial evidence entirely and the trial lasted a week. Spencer was a farmer, living in the Level Woods, whose family consisted of himself, a wife, and her son by a former husband. The boy had been sent a short distance on an errand, on horseback, to a neighbor's house. Not only afterward the horse returned riderless. The mother, alarmed at her son's absence, was starting to search for him but her husband forbade her.

Shortly the body was found dead in the public road with a fracture of the skull. Spencer was arrested, charged with the murder, and indicted by the grand jury. The theory of the defense was that death had resulted from being thrown from the horse., and this was accepted by the public generally as true. So probable was the theory made as to convince Mr. Riley, the prosecuting attorney, of Spencer's innocence. Mr. Hardin had not been employed to prosecute, and while he sat by and attentively listened to the evidence he took no part until its conclusion. The fate of the murdered boy and the atrocity of the deed very greatly affected him, and caused him to volunteer to aid in bringing the murderer to justice. He insisted that he knew the prisoner to be guilty, and based that faith on the latter's refusal to let the mother go in search of her son. The facts in evidence on which he relied to convict were these: The boy's skull was fractured by falling on some hard substance

or by a blow. In the vicinity where the body was found and presumably fell, if it had fallen from the horse, there was no hard substance by contact with which the wound could have been produced. So it was argued that the fracture wound could have been produced. So it was argued that the fracture was not from a fall, but from a blow. The next question was as to who inflicted the blow? In that inquiry the first step was to learn who had a motive to do the deed. Spencer and his wife lived together unhappily. The boy was the source of difficulty, and had been mistreated by Spencer, who had not concealed his dislike. Here was a motive. Motive could be traced to no other. Not far from the body a hickory sapling or shrub had been recently cut down, as evidenced by the fresh appearance of the stump, and a few feet of the sapling gone, of size and length to make a dangerous and deadly cudgel convenient for handling. That cudgel was not to be found, but he size as indicated by the stump showed that it could have produced the identical wound on the boy's head. A strong inference (amounting to a fact) was that the person who did the killing evidently knew the road the boy would travel and the time he would arrive at the scene of the killing, as it was the only point on the route where the killing could have been done without discovery. Still another point against the prisoner was that about the time the murder occurred he could not account for his whereabouts. He made some effort to show that when from home that day he had been a direction entirely different from the place where the body was found. A few minutes before the horse reached home Spencer arrived with his ax on his shoulder. Tracks identified as his were found entering a field of flax from the direction of the killing. He had freshly ground his ax that morning and had failed to grind out the gaps. The hickory shrub near the body had been cut with a freshly ground ax, as the stump showed, that had gaps in it. On comparison the gaps exactly corresponded with those in the ax of the prisoner. The prisoner's ax had evidently cut the sapling, and the hand that held the ax had grasped the club that killed the boy. Such was the argument. All this the defense simply denied.

Notwithstanding this corroboration of guilt, Mr. Riley was not converted to his associate's theory, and persisted that the jury would not convict on such uncertain evidence, and that he could not conscientiously ask them to do so. Mr. Hardin told him if he would make some plausible excuse and leave the county, so as not to appear to have abandoned the case, he would certainly convict the prisoner. This Mr. Riley did, and left his colleague to conclude the prosecution alone. The counsel for defense were entirely confident of the prisoner's

acquittal. Public sentiment endorsed such a verdict in advance. Mr. Hardin realized the situation, but at the same time, had the unshaken and abiding conviction of the prisoner's guilt, and a keen sense of the atrocity of his crime. It is needless to say that, in the closing argument, all the powers that were in him, and all the arts of which he was master, were brought into requisition. Every circumstance was arrayed, vivified, and focalized. The defense had rested entirely on its theory of accidental killing. If the jury concluded it was intentional, the prisoner offered no hypothesis as to who did it. Mr. Hardin reduced the case to this simple question: Was the boy killed accidentally or intentionally, then he, and no one but he, could be guilty. The cruel step-father, the long-suffering boy, the anguish-stricken and distracted mother, the cowardly killing, were topics that were handled to effective purpose. The speech prepared both the public and the jury for the verdict. Spencer was convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

Preceding and subsequent to his trial and conviction, he was extremely discreet. He had enjoyed a fair character in his neighborhood, which had remained unshaken by the charge against him. He persistently maintained his innocence, and his deportment confirmed to his professions. Mr. Hardin himself was not a little surprised that he so strongly held out. While convinced of his guilt to a moral certainty, yet he realized that there was a physical possibility of innocence. Growing restless about the case, he resolved to attend the execution. He was to hear the prisoner's last utterances on the subject. Said a gentleman present on that tragical occasion: "Mr. Hardin, myself, Mr. Poston, the sheriff, and a minister of the Gospel, by invitation, rode in the wagon with the prisoner to that place of execution. One of the party suggested to Spencer that, if he was guilty, 'it was needless to speak untruly about it any longer, and that he ought not to leave the world with a lie on his lips.' The condemned man responded that the witnesses who had testified in the case had told the truth, that Mr. Hardin, in his speech, related exactly how the murder was committed, except he was mistaken as to the time. He had 'killed the boy half an hour sooner than Mr. Hardin had asserted,' and insisted that some one must have informed the latter as to the details of the killing."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Attorney Riley, cited in Little's writing, was Thomas W Riley. Attorney Riley was Hardin's son-in-law.

At this time, there has been no documentation found as to Mr. Spencer's given name or the name of the victim in this tragic event.

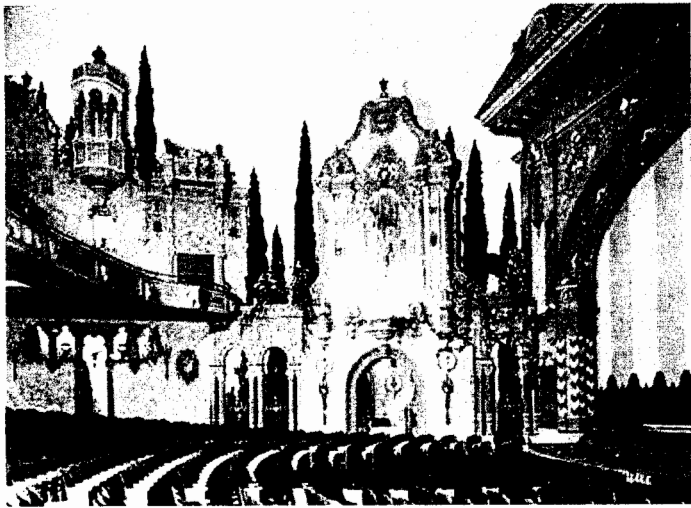


Photo Courtesy of the University of Louisville Digital Library

Above: Loews Theater with one of the castle-like side walls. This side view of seats, left theater wall and left half of stage and balcony shows the ornate edifices rising above the level of the balcony; among the upper forms of the edifice are tall, narrow evergreens. Vines and flowers are draped here and there on the edifice, a life-like contrast to the painted blue sky.

Below: A June 19th, 1930 *Hardin County Enterprise* advertisement announcing a new concept to local motion pictures - sound.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT CITY ALL EYES AND EARS WITH THE NEWS

By Susan Evans McCrobie, HCHS Member

The front page of the *Hardin County Enterprise* carried an intriguing headline, buried below the fold, on Thursday, April 3, 1930, **PLANS FOR NEW 'MOVIE' EXPECTED HERE FRIDAY.**

While we have had our share of film and television stars hail from Elizabethtown this headline alluded to big names in film, directors and production schedules in action about town. The real story perhaps impacted the entertainment history of this city as much as the appearance of Orlando Bloom.

The 1930 talked about 'movie' was actually plans for the new moving picture theater to be erected in the city by Frank W. Joplin and Cresap Hays on South Main Street property owned by Joplin, adjacent to the Hotel Joplin.

A few weeks after the news story about the plans appeared in the news, the Joplin & Hays Co. followed up in an April 17th *Hardin County Enterprise* story that their new motion picture theater, with sound equipment, being erected in the city would be completed and under operation by July 1st according to the project contractor.

Excavation of the theater site was well under way with the laying of bricks scheduled for April 21st.

The interior of the new theater, under construction, was reported to be similar to the Loew's Theater located in Louisville on Fourth Street between Broadway and Chestnut. That grand theater was billed as the finest theater in the south, and operated even today as the Palace Theater.

A second promised indoor theater feature appealed to the locals --sound.

A June 19th advertisement let the movie theater-going public of the city know that Messrs. Joplin and Hays had invested time and capital to please both the eyes and ears of their community. "Talkies" were on

their way to Elizabethtown.

To The Theater Going Public

We have dedicated our new theater to the theater-going public of this city and community who deserve a modern up-to-date amusement place. We have spared no expense in the construction of our building with the sole purpose in view of

COMFORT TO OUR PATRONS

We trust when you visit our theater that you will find we have succeeded in our purpose.

"let your eyes and ears decide"

Western SOUND Electric SYSTEM

The VOICE of ACTION

Western Electric Sound System—produced by the makers of your telephone—first made sound pictures possible. It is a proved success of three years' standing, installed in 5500 theaters, among them the finest in America. It was chosen for the Joplin as the only system qualified to reproduce sound pictures to your complete satisfaction.

Until you see and hear sound pictures, presented in clear natural tone by Western Electric equipment, you cannot appreciate what new

thrills and realism brings to motion pictures. Soon your favorite of the screen will speak to you at the Joplin. Great musicians will play for you, sing for you, you can hear the words of famous people spoken from the screen, hear the actual roar of an airplane, the howl of a lashing storm.

Western Electric Sound System—the standard of the world—will bring you the best sound pictures at their best—the actual voice of the artist—always natural—always good.

Watch for our Opening Announcement
Talking Pictures at Their Best

JOPLIN THEATER
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

The theater which is responsible for bringing better pictures to this city.

THEATER RESEMBLES STREET IN SPAIN

Interior Details Of New Picture House Well Under Way

A street in Spain on a beautiful, cool, and starry night will be the impression made on audiences attending the new Joplin Theater, this city.

J. H. Wickstead, Louisville, decorator, is now supervising the scenic effects in the interior of the building.

Patrons of the theater, on entering the auditorium will apparently see a street in Spain, lined with Spanish villas with romanite balconies and a handsome residence at the end of the street. The audience will be seated in this apparent street, while overhead numerous twinkling stars and softly rolling clouds will be realistically effected.

The stage, at the end of the street, is built to resemble a house and will be surrounded by palm trees and asteria plants, artistically placed. The asteria will be genuine vines, scientifically preserved.

Rich velour draperies, highly decorated in gold, are being specially made for the local theater under the supervision of Charles Koch, of the American Motion Picture Co.

The lobby will be extensively decorated according to Moorish pattern in brilliant and elaborate hues.

A rest room for ladies and a smoking room for men are provided at the rear of the theater. There will be 600 seats down stairs for white patrons of the theater and 68 seats in the balcony for colored persons.

It has not been definitely determined just when the new theater will be open for business, but announcement of opening is expected soon.

Aged Man Succumbs

- June 26, 1930: Hardin County Enterprise

On June 26, 1930 the local news reported on Elizabethtown's splendid pleasure dome being built specifically for showing motion pictures with sound. Details of the decor revealed that the grand establishment was also equipped with a stage and a smoking room for men.

Citizens of the area must have embraced movie-going as a prime past-time as the theater reportedly had a seating capacity of 668.

A day prior to the nation's birthday, the paper was full of details of the upcoming July 10th grand opening plans to accommodate the crush of patrons expected to the three-night and one afternoon matinee of the first 'talkie' in town. Gold-diggers of Broadway, a Warner Bros. comedy/musical film was shown at the premier event. This film is historically important in its own right as the second two-strip Technicolor all-talking feature length movie released

by the company and the third released in color.

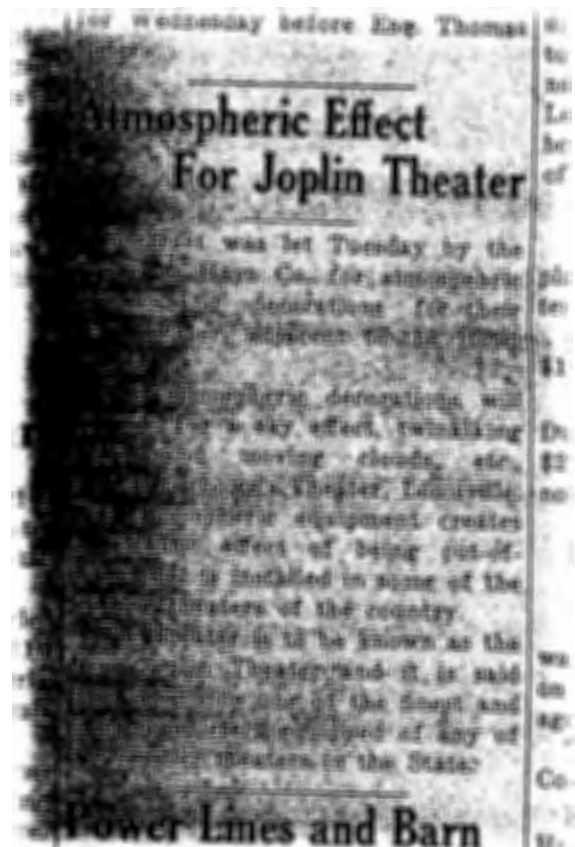
Due to circumstances beyond the control of the local investors, the long awaited grand opening was delayed.

Come August 28th, with the doors still closed to the public, F.W. Joplin became the sole owner of the Joplin Theater

building while owning two-thirds of the

shares of stock in the Elizabethtown Amusement Co. Joplin has also purchased the one-third interest of Louisvillian S. J. Switow and the one-sixth interest of Etowian G. Cresap Hays in the Amusement Company and the half interest of Hays in the building itself.

During this time, Joplin, the Mayor of Elizabethtown, was also working on securing the remaining one-third interest in the Amusement Company from C. N. Koch of Louisville in order to establish sole ownership of this local entertainment empire. Joplin added that his wife, the former Pearl White, would assist him in the business.



- June 5, 1930: Hardin County Enterprise

NEW THEATER TO OPEN TUESDAY

Four Marx Bros. In "Animal Crackers" To Be First Show There

The new theater of Frank W. Joplin, recently leased to the Masonic Amusement Company, will open in this city next Tuesday night with "Animal Crackers," a talking picture, featuring the four Marx Brothers. The theater opens under the name "Masonic Theater."

"Animal Crackers" is now showing at one of the leading theaters in Louisville and is considered one of the best mirth-provoking comedies produced by the industry. The four Marx Bros. will be remembered in their other recent side-splitting success, "Cocacola," both on the stage and screen. This new picture is of the same general type and every bit as good with many new song hits and wise-cracks.

A ten-year lease on the theater was sold last Friday to the Masonic Amusement Company by F. W. Joplin, proprietor. Final arrangements, including transfer of the theater's equipment, were completed Monday.

The deal had been pending for some time, definite action awaiting the parties concerned reaching satisfactory terms.

It is understood that the new owners will operate the new theater under the name of the Masonic Amusement Company. The new equipment is being installed by the new operating company that had leased it and the theater building owned. Mr. Joplin had recently obtained sole interest in both operating company and theater building.

Woman's Club Year

D
D
N
D
A
C

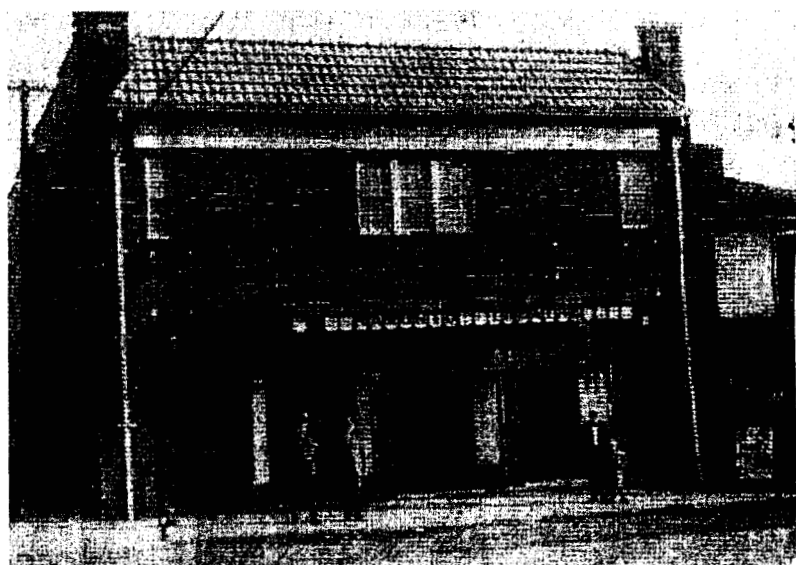
September 11, 1930 the Masonic Theater, located on Mulberry Street, announced two items of great interest to local residents on the newspaper's front page.

Charles Middleton, a former Elizabethtown boy, was in the cast of their Saturday night's airing of the Rod LaRocque romance/western movie, "Beau Bandit."

They also announced that this movie was the next to last movie to be shown in the Masonic Theater which played silent movies at the Masonic Temple.

This was far from the last of the Masonic Theater as the Masonic Amusement Company had leased a new theater from F. W. Joplin. A ten year lease had been struck. The deal called for the long awaited Joplin Theater to be operated under the Masonic Theater name and the old movie equipment at the Masonic Temple to be sold.

Elizabethtown ushered in the 'talkies' on Tuesday, September 16, 1930 with the showing of "Animal Crackers" that featured the four Marx Brothers. That movie was considered one of the best mirth-provoking comedies produced by the industry with many new song hits and wise-cracks.



Above: The Masonic Theater on South Main Street during its heyday. The building was owned and leased by the F. W. Joplin family.



Left: A 1970's view of South Main Street. The Joplin family currently leased the old movie theater, stripped of all its earlier grandeur, to Houchen's Market. The building was erased from the city's landscape in the early 1980s by a fire.



Message From The President

Greetings to all members,

Well, by now, Christmas 2012 is but a memory. The tree is down and ornaments are packed away. Our resolutions are heavy on our minds – probably as is the weight gained. Now it is time to look to 2013. The Society is in need of new visions, new interest, and especially new members. Invite a friend to the meetings. Share your **Bits and Pieces** with others. Give the Society your ideas and desires.

A few of the members work very hard to prepare this publication and your help would be greatly appreciated. This past year has been one of challenge and triumph for the Society. To keep us growing, we need members to step up and offer assistance and ideas.

I would like to do a series of “memories” of the membership of Hardin County Past. If you are willing to talk with me and be recorded, I will put those memories into print for all to read and enjoy. All you need to do is get in touch with me and let me know when you have some free time to reminisce. Once you get started, you may be surprised how much you have to say.

This issue also has a new feature called “*What do you want to know or find?*” There are several items listed to show you what it is about. The object is to spur interest in the history of the county and share what we know and/or have.

Lately, as I have stated, I want to see more historical markers and restoration of existing ones. Your help is really needed to accomplish this. Please send me a note with suggestions for both of these projects. The more people we have working on this, the more we can get done.

I hope to see you all at the State Theater on January 28th!

-Judith “Judy” Cummins French

What do you want to know or find?

This new column for *Bits and Pieces* is now underway. Inquiries and responses may be sent to:

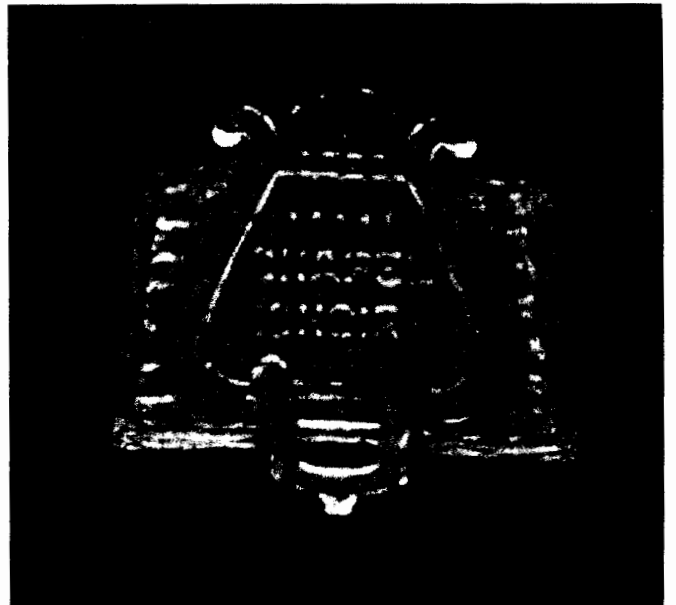
Judy French, HCHS President
Hardin County History Museum
201 West Dixie Avenue
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Inquiries will be posted in the next issue.

To start the “ball rolling”, I am putting in queries in hopes of getting responses. Any photos submitted will be scanned and returned in a week or so – at our expense.

The Black family is hoping to find pictures of the “Black’s Men’s Store” on the Square in Elizabethtown.

Memorial United Methodist Church is creating a “hall of memories”. It will trace the history of the Methodist Church focusing considerably on the Lucinda B. Helm era. Any pictures of the church, particularly the interior or church membership, will be appreciated. Also there was a youth choir called “Chapel Choir” during the 1950s. If you were, or know, a member of this group, please let us hear from you. Two of the pins given to these choir members have been located.



A Brief Look At South Main's Owners

By Meranda Caswell, HCHS Member

The dwellings and businesses of Lot 12, and Lot 13 have faced South Main Street since the early 1800s. Today three businesses have frontage from these lots on South Main Street. Blakey Printing Company faces South Main Street and encompasses part of Lot 12 with some additional footage of the rear property from Lot 11 that faces Quince Alley. Windstream Telephone Service face South Main Street and encompasses part of Lot 12 with some additional footage of the rear property from Lot 11. Lot 13, facing South Main Street from the west, is owned by Sugar Mill Properties and the current owner also holds title to Lot 14 that runs along the rear of Lot 13 over to Cherry Alley. Originally these lots were owned by Andrew Hynes. He either purchased them from the City of Elizabethtown after he had given 20 acres to create the town of Elizabeth or he had purchased these lots at a city auction. Regardless, Andrew Hynes owned these three lots when he died in Bardstown, Kentucky in 1800. The property remained in his estate until the late 1820s and early 1830s.

The estate of Andrew Hynes had been passed along to his descendants. Andrew Hynes had married Elizabeth Warford. They had at least seven children who were alive in 1800, according to his will recorded in Nelson County, KY: Sarah Churchill, Elizabeth Harrison, Thomas Hynes, Nancy Hynes, Polly Hynes, Abner Hynes, and Alfred Warford Hynes. His mother Hannah Barnes was also still alive. Elizabeth Hynes died between November 1803 and December 1803 in Nelson County, KY. She had left her estate to her six children. One of the executors of the will was Andrew Hynes' nephew -- William R. Hynes.

LOT 11

William R. Hynes, executor of Andrew Hynes estate, had sold Lot 11 on 22 June 1826 to Hugh Gunning (Deed Book K Page 319). On 22 November 1827, Hugh Gunning sold the property to Jonathan Simpson and John Morris along with lot 3 (Deed Book K Page 326). This lot 3 is now known today as the Huddleston House; it had been known as The

New Joplin Hotel since 1922. On 7 June 1836 Roderick Warfield sold lots 3 and 11 to John Morris, Executor of Hugh Gunning, estate (Deed Book P Page 377). Hugh Gunning had mortgaged his property to Roderick Warfield. After Hugh Gunning died, his debts had to be paid and then Roderick Warfield released his mortgage as in Deed Book P Page 377.

LOT 12

On 21 September 1831, my ancestors William and Elizabeth Bush, sold lot 12 to James and Thomas S. Crutcher (Deed Book M Page 248). This lot had been recovered in chancery court in Hardin Circuit Court from Andrew Hynes in favor of William Bush. On 5 May 1881 the Gardner family sold to Mary E. White one house and lot with a blacksmith shop and wagonmakers shop being western half of lot opposite M Author's livery stable on (South) Main Street (Deed Book 24 Page 506).

LOT 13

On 1 July 1833 William P. and Nancy Duvall of Tennessee sold lot 13 to Horatio G. Wintersmith (Deed Book N Page 304). It is the same lot on which Wintersmith has lately erected a large stable of brick with sheds and other buildings and of which lot he has had possession for about 15 years. Nancy Duvall, one of the daughters of Andrew Hynes, had received the title to lot 13 from his estate. On 26 March 1836 the Trustees of Elizabethtown gave to the Heirs of Wintersmith lot 13, one half acre (Deed Book P Pages 419 and 422). In 1841 Robert L. Wintersmith sold this lot to Gaither and Company (Deed Book T Page 396). There is a gap in the deeds between 1841 and 1889. On 4 May 1889 L. L. Jenkins, estate sold lot 13 to George W. White for \$6500.00. Dr. White paid \$3163.45 in cash. The balance was due in two notes executed by Dr. R. B. Pusey. This lot was on the west side of (South) Main Street between Pear and Strawberry Alley. It was the same lot sold to M.Arther by the heirs of H. G. Wintersmith in Deed Book 13 Page 274. The lot had a livery stable, 6 head of horses, three one horse buggies, four carriages, 1 spring wagon, one road wagon, all of the manure,

harnesses, whips, wrenches, fixtures, oil and oil cans, stoves, lamps and lanterns, ladders and all fixtures for greasing buggies, carriages, wagons, one sleigh; everything in or about the stable like hay forks, curry combs, brushes, shovels, wheelbarrows, lumber, stone bricks. The only exception was a mare claimed by Arther Jenkins, the new buggy and new harness.

Dr. George W. White was born in 1827 in Pulaski County, KY. He married Mary E. Elliott of Breckinridge County. Dr. White was a practicing physician in Breckinridge County. When they moved to Elizabethtown between 1870 and 1880, he was in the livery and stable business. He died in 1897. They are both buried at the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. They had several children and one daughter, Pearl White had married Frank W. Joplin. The downtown Elizabethtown property on South Main Street had been owned by Dr. George White and his wife. The property then passed to their children.

According to R. Gerald McMurtry, General George Custer's cavalry unit was stationed from 1871 to 1873 on the site of the Ritz Theatre on South Main Street, and the horses were kept in stables across the

street. This would be Lots 11, 12, and 13.

In the Nelson County Will Book A pages 415 to 422, Andrew Hynes had written a will. The will is quite lengthy as Hynes had considerable wealth. The will mentions both large acreage in Soverns Valley Hardin County as well as lots in Elizabethtown, these being the lots mentioned in this sketch.

Hardin County Clerk's office has recorded deeds from 1793 to the present. When searching for the history of a property or a building, one must remember the verbal stories about a location will not fit the written record. Most of the buildings have been leased. The information found in newspaper articles about a location differ from the actual owner of the property. The early deeds of the Elizabethtown lots from 1793 to the late 1800s are difficult to locate. Hardin Circuit Court had as many deeds as the Hardin County Court. Lawsuits reigned through this time period. Circuit court records are housed at the Kentucky Library and Archives in Frankfort. One also has to view the Elizabethtown City Minutes currently housed at the Elizabethtown City to trace the chain of ownership.

An advertisement that catches the eye...

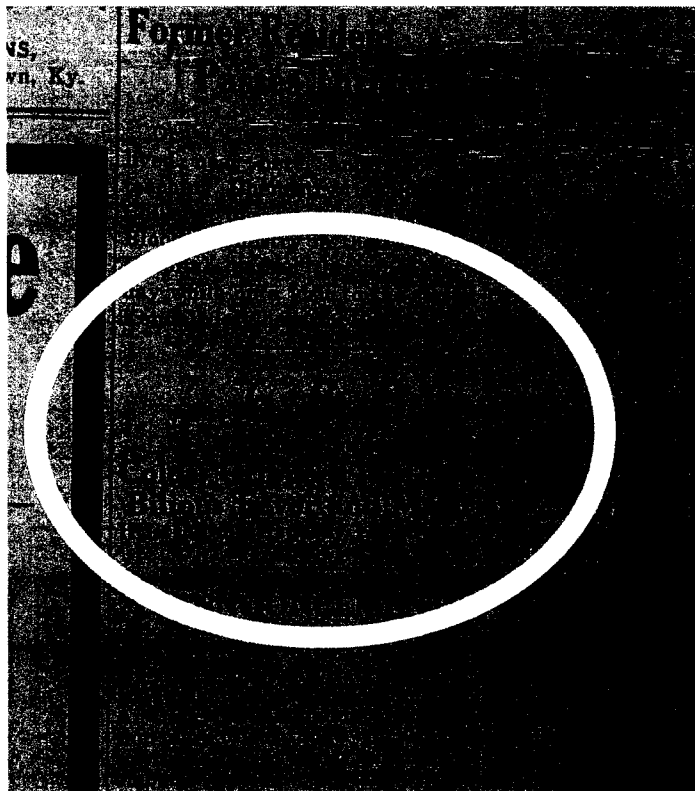
This short and simple ad is found though out many of Elizabethtown's early newspapers. More likely than not, it was a choice of many households feeling a bit under the weathers in the first decade of the twentieth century.

Never hear of this miracle cure for a Devil of a Cold? I was quite surprised to learn the following...

666 Cold Products are the foundation line of the Monticello Drug Company and modern formulations which are free of alcohol are still available under the 666 label after over 100 years of continuous production. Today's 666 formulations include both liquid preparation convenient caplets.

Invented by our founder Tharp Spencer Roberts, 666 cold remedies were originally patented as "Roberts Remedies #666". The name derived from the prescription pad number on which he wrote a formula to treat a rural preacher with a severe case of malarial fever and chills . This formula was credited with saving the life of the much beloved fever sufferer and it came to be requested by reference to the "666" number off the prescription pad.

The original 666 formulation had a high concentration of quinine and alcohol within the ingredients and became the best selling remedy for malaria, chills, fever,



influenza, colds, constipation, and bilious headaches worldwide. The 666 lines have evolved over the years and have from time to time included liquids, tablets, salves, and nose drops.

Definitely an old time remedy with a brand that will not be soon forgotten.

Historical Society announces next meeting



Ron Elliott

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, January 28, 2013, at the STATE THEATER GALLERY, 209 West Dixie Avenue, in downtown Elizabethtown. The buffet dinner, catered by BACK HOME, will be served at 6:30 PM. The price is \$8.50 per person. Call Twylane VanLahr at 270-765-2515 by **Friday, January 25th, for dinner reservations**; later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

The dinner is followed at 7 P.M. by a very special book signing and lecture by author Ron Elliott. Elliott's new release, *American El Dorado: Great Diamond Hoax 1872* and its subject none other than Hardin County native Phillip Arnold, gives an in depth look at the almost unbelievable tale of greed and egotism ever released on some of the biggest names in America. While crime does not pay and the subject of the elaborate scheme did not live long enough to enjoy his ill-gotten gains the riches of the evening will be in your corner as you enjoy this delightful presentation.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 381
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42702