

# Fit put cabbie in jail

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## Looking back, from page A1

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pointed Frank Regester to do so. On Nov. 19 Hays pleaded not guilty to the charge of assault and battery with intent to kill and was tried by a jury consisting of Joseph Ratliff, Lucian McDaniel, Louis Bowles, Harry Harris, Carter Legg, William King, Ira Dillman, Orville Butcher, Louis Trisler, John Matthews, Alex Hirsch and Harley Baker. Rufus Allgood was the bailiff.

Apparently the jury didn't deliberate very long. Hays was found guilty and was given a sentence of a \$50 fine and 180 days in the Monroe County jail. His request for a new trial no Nov. 21 was denied.

There remained on the books the charges of simple assault, theft of a vehicle (presumably the taxi) and perjury. Hays' perjury charge — the most serious one — was continued again on

Jan. 12, 1915.

It should be noted that from the volume of the court case load, Judge Miers and Prosecutor Joseph Barclay may have thought they had more "important fish to fry" than Hays' charges. After all, one of the more interesting cases at that time was that of Mrs. Wertz, who had been caught operating her husband's speakeasy while he was spending time in jail for the same offense.

On Lincoln's birthday Prosecutor Barclay did a little legal housecleaning and dropped charges against Hays and others. He may have felt that the extended threat of further punishment (for perjury) had taught Hays a lesson. But Hays' perjury charge was not dropped until over a year after the offense.

When the 1916-17-18 City Directory rolled off the presses, the name of Will Hays was not listed among city or county residents.