

City police informant escapes jail time after brushes with the law

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other useful tools.

The prisoner in question was one Enos Bingham, accused of skipping out on his boarding house bill and fleeing from a police officer. He exited from the Bloomington scene when it was discovered he was wanted in Greencastle for burglary.

Meanwhile, Harris may have been tried for his misdoings, but the disposition of his case in Mayor Malott's court, is missing. (Apparently the clerk of the court failed to record whether he was fined or the charges were dropped. The only trace of the case is the docket number, 127.)

However the case was disposed of, the law was not through with Harris. On March 31, 1911, the *Telephone* informed its readers that the self-styled detective — one of the former recipients of Mayor Malott's police discretionary fund — had been arrested with two accomplices for petit larceny. The crime was stealing chickens.

When he appeared in court on April 7th, Harris declared that

he could not afford to hire a lawyer, and the court appointed the firm of Wellons and Carpenter to do the job. He also asked to be tried separately from the other two, Charlie Garrison and George Swaney.

The jury of Harris' peers consisted of E.R. Fletcher, Antoin Lettlier, Gilvert Connard, Reeves Cox, Dudley Smith, Samuel McWylie, O.G. Bunker, John J. Campbell, John Ramsey, Henry Branam, William Gobel and Al Dobson. They found him guilty, and the sentence was "not less than one year nor more than 8 years in the Indiana Reformatory."

But, the court record added, "The court further finds that by reason of the character of said defendant, and the facts and circumstances surrounding the commission of said crime, the interest of society does not demand or require that the defendant shall suffer the penalty imposed by law, if he shall hereafter behave well."

It seemed that Harris' luck was with him at least one more time.