

Was Evans' death murder or suicide?

The evidence against Mrs. Sarah Evans in the case of her husband's death was purely circumstantial. The Nov. 4, 1896, edition of the *Bloomington Telephone* summarized the testimony, which contained details that intrigued the standing-room only spectators.

It was left to the *Bloomington Courier* to report the oddest detail. Indiana University chemistry instructor Herbert G. Reddick had done the analysis of the contents of Charles Evans' stomach. After revealing that the victim had swallowed enough strychnine to poison several persons, the teacher said Evans had "a larger stomach than usual," the entire stomach weighing nearly one pound.

There is nothing in the newspaper accounts to indicate that



Looking back

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Assistant Prosecutor Robert Miller had underestimated his courtroom rival, Col. John R. East. On the contrary, of the 160 witnesses called, 100 of them had been subpoenaed to testify against Mrs. Evans.

Part of the drama of the courtroom scene was provided by the defendant's little daughter, who clung to her mother. On Nov. 4, Col. East's closing arguments see Back, Back page