

Search of room provided key evidence against escape

Escape, from page C1

dean of the Indiana University Law School, governor of Indiana and governor general of the Philippines before its independence.

According to East, the lawyers "got him (Lusk) off with a one-cent fine." But "got him off" was not exactly the whole story, since a five-year prison term went with it.

Lusk was taken to the South Prison in Jeffersonville where he had served time before under the name of John L. Clark. Incredibly, he was assigned to work in the prison blacksmith shop.

East described what happened later. "On Nov. 2, 1871, a guard left Johnny (Lusk) and another convict alone for a few minutes. With a crow bar, Lusk and this Elkins frantically attacked an outside wall.

The two, followed by five others, had just gotten through the opening they had made when the guard returned, sounding the alarm."

Appropriating the prison doctor's horse and buggy, the escapees tried their best to get away, but the buggy broke down. The escapees were flogged for their trouble, and since there was no time off for good behavior in those days, Lusk served the five years.