

JERRY KOEHLER, FLEA TRAINER, DIES HERE

Jerry ("Doc") Koehler, one of two men who made Evansville famous by eccentric novelties, died yesterday at a local hospital. At one time Koehler operated a saloon at St. Louis, and was reputed to be wealthy. He died penniless.

After he failed in the saloon business at St. Louis, Koehler became a wanderer, and while at New Orleans came across some German sailors in a saloon, one of whom had a trained flea. It gave Koehler an idea, and together they secured fleas from Germany and trained them for a "flea circus," which they exhibited all over the country.

He was 56 years of age at his death, but had lived many more years than that in his experiences in circus and other forms of life. The remains are at Smith's morgue, and will be buried in Oak Hill cemetery.

The other Evansville man who made a sensation with an eccentric exhibition was Col. Charley Burns and his trotting calf. The colonel has long since been gathered to his fathers. He exhibited his calf all over the country, on many race courses, and cleaned up nicely, as he called his part of the usufruct from the exhibitions. His greatest crowd was at Philadelphia, where the Quakers turned out en masse to see the exhibition, not believing that any such thing as a trotting calf existed. The colonel proved it and took their money.
