

H.C. Knode & Company

By Steve Lang

H.C. Knode was a prominent businessman in Indianapolis for many years. He was a liquor salesman, wholesale liquor dealer and hotel entrepreneur. H.C. married Martha Francis Petty and they had a son, Ralph, who would work with H.C. in the liquor and hotel business until H.C's death in 1931.

Martha Francis Knode was an accomplished equestrian and won the 1900 Indiana State Fair "Best Saddle Stallion". She rode

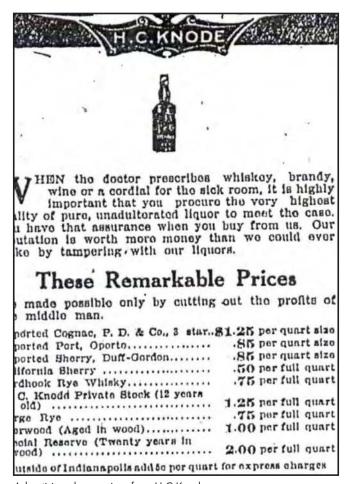


Here is a Old Sherwood Whiskey bottle from H.C.Knode

several prize winning horses including Goldenrod, Teddy Nutwood & Mattie Bidgeford. Henry and Martha traveled to Louisville and Chicago for horse shows regularly. Martha passed away in 1951.

Henry Clay Knode was born in the town of Hagerstown (west of New Castle), Indiana in 1860. He moved to Indianapolis in 1888 taking a job as a traveling agent (salesman) with James R. Ross & Company who was a Wholesale Liquor Dealer located at 129 South Meridian Street. In 1894 Knode was made a partner in the business with Ross and Henry Thompson. In 1898, armed with his 10 years of experience with Ross, Henry started his own business.

H.C. Knode & Company was founded in 1898 and was located at 118 S. Illinois St in downtown Indianapolis. Knode featured several brands of liquors for sale including Old Sherwood Rye, Duff-Gordon Sherry, Fordhook Whiskey & Old Martell Cognac. Knode moved his business to 34 S. Meridian just a half block south of Washington St and in the heart of the Wholesale district in 1904. In 1905 H.C. welcomed his son Ralph to the business after graduating from Shortridge High School in 1901 and Purdue University in 1904. He hires his son to be a traveling agent to learn the trade like he did under James Ross. In 1915 he moved



Advertising cheap prices from H.C.Knode

Girls True to Mounts.

H. C. Knode is another wor as always been enthusiastic at ising and exhibiting of horses, as taken many prizes. y young girls own saddle hor resuldn't trade their mounts to automobiles. Bome of them infortable, informal "cross sadthers never appear on their ho.

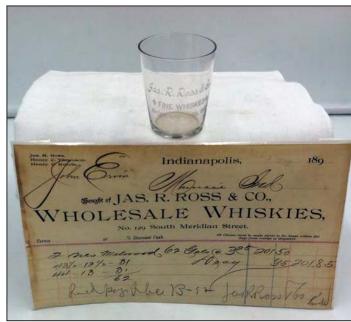
Still Sticks to Her Horse



Lady Knode showing off one of her prize horses

his business to 32 S. Meridian.

In 1916 the Prohibition movement was starting to gain steam and Henry could see the writing on the wall. H.C. and Ralph



Knode worked for another wholesale whiskey outfit, Jas R. Ross, before starting on his own

formed the Knode Hotel Company and became the proprietors of the Exchange Hotel located in the Union Stockyards at 1501 Kentucky Avenue on the southwest edge of downtown. In 1917 Henry retired from the wholesale liquor business and he and Ralph became full-time hotel entrepreneurs. H.C. would pass away in 1931. Ralph would continue to run the hotel for 43 years.

HISTORY'S CORNER In Memory of Dick Watson longtime FOHBC Historian Charles G Hutchinson invented and patented the Hutchinson Patent stopper in 1879 as a replacement for a cork bottle stopper which was commonly being used as stoppers on soda and pop bottles. He used a wire bale and rubber seal to close the bottle. Production of these stoppers ended about 1912 Watch each issue for a new installment of History's Corner.



3 different advertising shot glasses from the Knode Company

Ralph was also the director of the Livestock Exchange Bank at the same location.

Henry's son Ralph married New York City born Miss Edna Isabell Mclellan on October 16, 1909. He filed for divorce from Edna on March 27th, 1912 after less than 3 years citing "abandonment". He would later marry Miss Neva Mae Jackson on February 13, 1919. They were married until her death in 1962. Ralph passed away 4 years later.

Henry Knode's obituary is interesting in how it describes his death. In early March 1931 while visiting New Orleans Knode suffered a heart attack. He returned to Indianapolis and was under nurse and doctor care. On March 16th after realizing his heart attack was going to be fatal, he plunged from his sick bed while the nurse was out of the room. His resulting injuries caused him to pass away an hour later.