

The Apollo Temple

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In the late 1880's Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Evans came to make their home in Smithville with their three children on Main street near the Methodist Church. Among his Business Shops, he operated a Grocery and Confectionary and sold Mineral Water. In 1902, he started a soda pop factory (Apollo Lithia Springs). At that time there was but one soda pop factory in Kansas City and one in St. Joseph.

The soda pop was first hauled to customers in the adjoining Counties by spring wagon drawn by mules. Mr. Evans purchased the first truck owned and operated in Clay County. When Mr. Charles M. Evans passed away in 1929, the operation of the factory was taken over by his son, Chester Evans who still resided in the home. The factory was closed in 1942. After the big Flood of 1965, some of the empty bottles were found washed up on the bank of the Platte River. Mr. and Mrs. Link Evans, members of the family came to live in the Chester Evans home in June 18, 1965.

On a Steeple on top of the Chester Evans Home stands "THE MYTHICAL GREEK GOD OF HEALING, APOLLO" – [sic] staunch and secure for the past 79 years to date. Mrs. C.M. (Alice) Evans purchased it at the Worlds Fair at St. Louis in 1904, at a cost of \$125.00

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