

City In Kansas Has No Taxes, No Debts After Taking Over Utilities

CHANUTE, Kas.—(AP)—You don't have to pay a city tax to live here and no resident has paid one since 1930.

But the city isn't in debt. It doesn't owe anybody a cent and has some \$350,000 to \$400,000 in its treasury.

Chanute, a beacon of civic prosperity in an America of debt-ridden communities, is the only debt-free, tax-free municipality of its size (11,000) in Kansas.

It didn't get that way through siphoning off part of the take from gambling dens and race tracks, as have some Florida and Nevada communities. Gambling is illegal in Kansas.

Chanute put itself into the black ink side of the civic ledger by going into business for itself. It took over the ownership of its own public utilities—water, gas, electricity—and pays for the cost of all municipal government through earnings from these services.

"But our utility rates are well within the average charged by other municipalities throughout the state," said Ross Cooper, 45, city clerk, "and most citizens approve of our way of paying city government costs."

These costs are about \$125,000 a year, including police and fire department expenditures, but they measure only partly the earnings of the city-owned utilities.

Chanute issued \$44,000 in bonds to build a water plant in 1893. It bought out a private gas company in 1899 by threatening to build its own municipal plant.

In 1903 the city took \$32,000 from its municipal gas company earnings to buy out an unsuccessful private electric power com-

pany. "The owner was glad to sell for \$32,000," said Cooper. "Now our electric power plant is worth at least \$2,000,000."

The water and gas plants have similarly increased in value.

The city owed \$480,000 when it ceased levying taxes in 1930.

That bonded indebtedness had been reduced to zero by the beginning of this year.

Utility earnings also purchased a \$90,000 municipal airport, one of the first in Southeast Kansas, a \$375,000 municipal building and war memorial which serves as a community center, a \$50,000 city swimming pool with submarine lights, a \$15,000 city warehouse, a \$25,000 municipal library and other improvements.

A \$50,000 program is now under way to double the output of the municipal power plant and permit it to extend its operation further into rural areas.

"We are now selling electric power to four nearby communities and also have about 350 rural customers," said Cooper.

"The city is hard-boiled about its utility service, and doesn't coddle clients."

"We think we can get service started faster to a new customer than any other company," said Cooper, "and we can turn it off faster too."

"We've educated the public to pay their bills. If the bill isn't settled by the 27th of each month, we cut them off without notice or argument. The people approve of that—and like it too."

"We have pioneered in lots of things, and we think we have a pretty good city here."

DIANA BARRYMORE HELD IN BRAWL



ACTRESS-DAUGHTER of the late John Barrymore, Diana Barrymore, and her husband, John Robert Howard, face a court hearing in Louisville, Ky., on charges of assault and battery and disorderly conduct. The hearing was the outgrowth of what police officers called some fist swinging on a downtown street corner and in the police station bullpen. They were released on a \$100 bond each. The couple accused the police of having knocked down Diana. Her husband, a professional tennis star, asserted: "They (the police) hit me with a club." (International)



SOUVENIRS RUN FROM EGG TO GARTER

HOLLYWOOD—Well, I can see that my wife was right. I never should have started saving all this junk.

I'm a sucker for souvenirs. Thumbtacked to my wall are all the curious knickknacks that come a Hollywood reporter's way—but all my bright reminders of pleasant hours are becoming dingy dust-catchers.

There's the hanky that wiped a blob of Dotty Lamour's lipstick off my face after I had boldly verified a mechanical Kiss Tester's finding.

The perfumed garter I hung on Carole Landis' shapely gam (sure, 'twas a stunt contest in which a dozen screenland newsmen participated).

The basket containing an egg that invited me to a cocktail party for Betty MacDonald, author of "The Egg and I" (the egg was fresher than the treatment the movie-makers gave her book).

The document that testifies I am a member of the Navajo Indian Tribe with the name of Stau-Naspi-Appen or "Warrior Who Brings the Light of Dawn." This is a gag for the picture, "Pursued," which needed clarity and plausibility more than this to make it interesting.

An engraved diploma notifies all by these presents that I am a Doctor of Philosophy by the grace of Potts College, Pottsville, U. S. A. It is signed by "Frank Morgan, Keeper of the Dean," who presumably hoped I'd mention his radio program.

There's a hunk of Shirley Temple's eighteenth-birthday cake; an invitation from the governor of Utah, engraved on Utah copper, to the premiere of "Rainrod"; a toy bronze shovel announcing ground-breaking for the Lou Costello Jr. Youth Foundation; photos, clip-pings, "Official Press" ribbons—

All I know is there's too, too much. I'll have to tear it all down. Some other day—not today.

Cutting-room scraps: Fast-talking Lee Tracy—remember?—is back at his old tricks as a movie newspaperman in "High Tide". He's 49 now and, they say, as dynamic as ever . . . Bob Cummings,



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Library Notes



MARGARET JOHNSTON County Librarian

SIGNS

We have a new sign saying "Haywood County Public Library" and on the door it says "Library Hours 10 to 12 and 1 to 5 and closed Wed. Afternoon"

Sometimes we wonder if people read signs on doors of Libraries, Offices, etc. Really, we don't know how to make it any clearer. Now, Mrs. Atkins and I are at the library from 9 - 5 every day but we need every minute of the time before we open at 10 o'clock for the many activities involved in Library Work. "Checking out books" to you is one part of our work and every minute of the day is filled in helping people to select books, answering reference questions, typing Library Notes, cards for new books, and catalog cards renewing books, sending out notices for books requested or those overdue. Every little bit you help us gives us more time for these many details—even the way you sign your name can be a waste of our time. Some married women use three or four different ways, yet they are registered only one way. If you are registered as Mrs. T. H. Jones, please sign your Book cards that way and not Mary Jones.

After you select your books, take the cards from all the books, leave the books open and while you are signing the cards, we will stamp the books for you. In that way it enables us to help some one else and it keeps you from having to wait.

If you ever hear of "Murder in the library", it will probably be because someone has said, "Oh, it is just wonderful for you to work in here and it is so nice for you to have this lovely fireplace where you can sit and read". Wish those adults could follow us around a while.

Stamp Centenary Celebration

This week marks the celebration of 100 years of the U. S. Postage Stamps. A study of the stamps which have been issued since 1847 will give you the story of the men who created our nation. They tell of the struggles, expansion, inventions and the growth of our country.

You will want to see the new book entitled "American Stamps" by Maud and Misha Petersham, who are stamp collectors as well as famous artists.

It contains:

1. Over 500 large, clear lithographs of each stamp issued.

2. Over 60 drawings of events and places of philatelic and historic interest.

3. Descriptions of the historical background of each stamp, and something of its value to collectors.

4. The excitement of collecting and the beauty and variety of American stamps.

5. A panorama of American History, anecdotes, little known facts, personalities and events.

You will want to see the stamps on display by some of the collectors in Waynesville. No rare stamps, but there will be history of our country in each one displayed.

Some of the boys are anxious to form a Stamp Club in Waynesville. If you are interested too, they would like to know about it. Here is an opportunity for some adult leader to work with a grand group of teen-age boys.

Drivers Warned To Obey Traffic Lights In Town

Drivers in Waynesville are warned to observe stop lights strictly or prepare to pay fines in Mayor's Court. Another word of caution issued by Chief Orville Noland is to motorcycle drivers, who are asked to make sure they have mufflers on their vehicles.

During the past week-end six drunks and one drunken driver were arrested by local police, and a number of tickets were given to parking violators.

ABANDONS NEW MODEL

DETROIT—General Motors corporation abandoned plans to produce a new light Chevrolet.

A GM spokesman said the project was dropped because of material shortages and the "public demand for the established line."

giddy interference with his work drives him to drink. Again Miss Calvert comes to the rescue.

All this is grim and humorless stuff but well acted. Ella Raines is Bob's sister; Eddie Albert a hard and practical man; John Abbott a cynical music critic. The role of Aunt Melinda is played by Lillian Fontaine, mother of Joan Fontaine and Olivia de Havilland.

If you missed the tuneful and generally interesting "Alexander's Ragtime Band" seven years ago, you can see it now during redistribution by 20th Century-Fox. Tyrone Power, looking slither than now, leads a jazz band. Alice Faye is his singer. Don Ameche his pianist, Jack Haley his drummer.

THE WORLD'S MERCHANTS FLEETS

1939	1946	PROJECTED
ACTIVE U.S. - 16	ACTIVE U.S. - 29	ACTIVE U.S. - 11
FORMER ENEMY - 16	FORMER ENEMY - 3	FORMER ENEMY - 4
NON-MARITIME - 8	NON-MARITIME - 9	NON-MARITIME - 9
OTHER BRITISH - 2	OTHER BRITISH - 3	OTHER BRITISH - 3
OTHER MARITIME - 2	OTHER MARITIME - 15	OTHER MARITIME - 2 2
UNITED KINGDOM - 22	UNITED KINGDOM - 22	UNITED KINGDOM - 22
TOTAL 78	TOTAL 80	TOTAL 72

Song Recording Revives Question, What In World Is a Whiffenpoof?

AP Newsfeatures

A 36-year-old drinking song is providing inspiration for amateur artists and doodlers around the country. It started when a record company (RCA Victor) announced a recording of "The Whiffenpoof Song" by Metropolitan opera baritone Robert Merrill. An old favorite in and out of Yale where the gay Whiffenpoof Society embraces it as its traditional "official" song, the Whiffenpoof Song aroused a flood of queries as to what a Whiffenpoof is.

When Merrill sang the number on his radio program, quiz-conscious listeners demanded a description. Many referred to it as the Baa-Baa-Baa song or the Three Sheep song.

But the record company and Merrill's radio sponsor couldn't find anyone who knew exactly what a Whiffenpoof was. Confronted by this crisis, a crew of researchers was set loose.

Archives revealed: A group of Yale Glee Club boys, given to comradely and sentimental indulgence in old ballads and old ale, banded together into a separate group in 1909. They picked as their name the Whiffenpoof Society and their official tune the Whiffenpoof Song, both from a musical comedy popular at that time.

The lyric was adapted from Kipling's "Gentlemen Rankers." The tune was composed by Todd Gallo-way, Amherst '85.

The Whiffenpoof itself, according to a story related by an actor in the musical comedy, was a fish caught by boring a hole in the bottom of the boat and placing a piece of cheese beside it, for bait. Maddened by the cheese, the Whiffenpoof came up uttering harsh cries, and was thus caught.

An emblem of the Whiffenpoof Society, designed about 1912, depicts the Whiffenpoof as more bird than fish and remarkably like a griffin. Perched atop a swizzle stick, the Whiffenpoof sprouts wings resembling mint leaves and has a horse's neck from the drink of the same name.

The question, What is a Whiffenpoof?, was taken up and made into a national letter-writing and drawing contest in cities throughout the country.

"I've had to add the song to my concert repertoire," says Merrill.

Mississippi has approximately 15,860,000 acres in forest areas.

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