

COUNTY COUNCIL FACES BOOST IN 1933 TAX RATE

40 Per Cent Hike Looming
Despite Enactment of
\$1.50 Limit Law.

Prospect of a 40 per cent increase in the county tax rate, despite the \$1.50 tax limit law, faced councilmen today as they gathered for first of their annual budget meetings. The current county rate is 29 cents.

They are prepared to make drastic cuts in budgets of thirty-three officials seeking increased appropriations for 1933 and will keep expenditures in other departments at a minimum, they declare.

However, a 50 per cent reduction in expenditures will be necessary, if the rate is to come within the limit.

County property is assessed 16.6 per cent lower than last year and Indianapolis assessments have been reduced 17.7 per cent, it was pointed out.

Face Poor Burden

In addition, the county faces a poor relief burden of \$895,539 and a sinking fund budget totaling \$1,082,000. These items stand as obstacles to any tax relief in 1933.

County Auditor Charles A. Grossart will place budget requests to totaling \$2,984,852 before councilmen.

The 1933 request for the county general fund, for operating the forty-four departments of county government, is \$1,707,984 compared with \$1,669,358 appropriated last year.

A sinking fund levy of 15 cents will be necessary, it is estimated, to retire county bonds. The current rate is 8½ cents.

Experiment Is Expensive

An experiment in financing that reduced this levy 5 cents last year is proving expensive, county officials declare. Burden of retiring bonds to be distributed over period of years by a proposal submitted last year. But it has been necessary to sign new bonds at high interest rates.

Budget making officials, realizing the futility of limiting the rate, have announced they will fix the 1933 levy at a figure required to meet operating expenses.

This can be done by a provision of the \$1.50 tax limit law creating the county board of tax adjustment, consisting of three members of the council, the county auditor and three members to be selected by the circuit court judge.

This body is empowered by an emergency clause to raise the rate above the maximum.

Therefore, some officials estimate Marion county taxpayers will pay nearly \$3 taxes on each \$100 taxable property the coming year. This will include the civil city and school city rates.

CHARITY BASEBALLERS TO PRACTICE TUESDAY

50 Candidates Seek Places on City
Hall Team.

First official practice of the squad of players trying for positions on the city hall baseball team which will face the courthouse team Saturday at Perry stadium for benefit of charity, will be held Tuesday afternoon at Riverside park.

John Noonan, manager of the city squad, is reported to have more than fifty players who are working for berths on the team. Definite information on the merits of the candidates will be obtained by Noonan Tuesday, he said today, to assist him in naming starters for the contest.

City and county employees selling tickets for the game reported today that advance indications point to a large crowd. Proceeds of the ticket sale, "with not one cent for expenses," will be placed in the city poor relief fund.

FIRST DRINK IN THREE YEARS BRINGS FINE

But Father of Three Wins Court
Merry on Wife's Plea.

His first drink in three years caused Herman Knott, 1319 Hartford street, to face charges of drunkenness and blind tiger today in municipal court, before James E. McDonald, judge pro tem. A companion of Knott, Clifford Grissom, 1734 Linden street, was charged with drunkenness.

Knott, father of three children, who says his earnings are only \$12 a week, was accompanied in court by his wife. He was fined \$10 and costs, the latter suspended and placed on probation for ninety days. Fine of same amount, with costs suspended, was imposed on Grissom.

The two men were arrested on Saturday after Knott said he drank two-thirds of a pint bottle of liquor for which he paid 50 cents.

BUSINESS QUIZ OPENS

South Bend Scene of Federal Probe
on Competition.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Aug. 22.—The Shannon congressional committee investigating the extent of reported government competition with private business opened its midwest session here today. Witnesses representing concerns from Boston to Denver were scheduled to be called.

Operation of a government barge line on the Mississippi and connecting rivers was the main topic at the South Bend meeting.

Railroad and shipping interests sent Bruce Dwinell, chief counsel of the Rock Island lines, and nearly a dozen other witnesses to appear before the committee.

GAINS IN DEATH FIGHT

Mrs. McCormick Passes Restful
Night; Family at Bedside.

By United Press

CHICAGO, Aug. 22.—Edith Rockefeller McCormick held a precarious advantage over death today after night that her physician described as restful.

While her family watched faithfully, the famous woman battled against the fatal malady that steadily has been sappling her strength.

Her condition has not changed appreciably, according to an official bulletin at 8:45 a.m.

DEATH BREAKS LOVE TRIANGLE

Fancies of Fiction Are Pale Beside Florida Tragedy

This is the first of a series of six stories detailing the glamorous romances that have marked true love triangles of 1932, a subject made timely by the Smith Reynolds tragedy in North Carolina.

FIVE years ago a tall young aviator who had been a World war pilot in the British army and a diminutive, but nervy, young woman who had been in an airplane only once before in her life, took off from London on a 13,000-mile flight across open seas and burning deserts to Australia.

In the same year a young newspaper man, whose mother was a professor of journalism in Miami, Fla., reached the age of 21 and turned to broader fields of writing.

Last February, fate—or some mysterious and inscrutable destiny—drew these three lives together. A sinister love triangle developed, soon to be followed by grim tragedy.

Ten weeks after their meeting the young woman was dead, the aviator was charged with his murderer and a half-hysterical woman was trying to explain to police how she had loved both men, but had found it difficult to choose between them.

So runs the thread of Florida's most sensational love triangle, just brought to a climax at Miami with the trial of Capt. William N. Lancaster, 34, former British fighting pilot.

He was charged with murdering Haden Clarke, 26-year-old Miami journalist, for the love of Mrs. Jessie Keith-Miller, world-famous Australian aviatrix, his flying companion for five years.

Captain Lancaster's defense was that Clarke had committed suicide because of despondency. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty after deliberating nearly five hours, exonerating the noted flier of the state's charge that he slew Clarke because of jealousy. The trial was cheered by courtroom spectators.

FLORIDA'S sensational love triangle closely resembles the Libby Holman-Smith Reynolds-Ab Walker tragedy in North Carolina.

A man died, shot through the head in the middle of the night, the friend accused of murdering him claims it was a case of suicide, and the whole thing turns on the alleged love of two men for the same woman.

Haden Clarke, the journalist, had been commissioned by Capt. Lancaster and Mrs. Keith-Miller, famed fliers, to write the story of their adventurous lives in book form.

He was working on the first chapter, their daring flight from England to Australia . . . he never lived to write the last, for which his own mysterious death would have provided a sensational climax.

With all the keen imagination of a novelist, Clarke perhaps could not have contrived a fictional "murder mystery" stranger than his own.

Here are circumstances adduced in court:

During Captain Lancaster's absences, Clarke and Mrs. Keith-Miller had fallen in love while working on their book.

Lancaster, hearing of their plans for marriage, wired them his best wishes and asked the couple to defer the ceremony until he could return and serve as best man.

Next day Lancaster flew in from St. Louis, they met him at the Miami airport and drove him to Mrs. Keith-Miller's house, where all three lived.

At 3 o'clock the following morning, Clarke was mysteriously shot through the head with a pistol that Lancaster had bought in St. Louis. Lancaster, whose bed was in the same room, declared that it was suicide, that Bill had lost them . . . Mental agony. Hell."

NEXTRIES of similar vein continued almost up to April 20, the day that Captain Lancaster flew into Miami from St. Louis. It was the next morning that Clarke was found shot through the head.

At the trial, Mrs. Keith-Miller defended Lancaster in her testimony. She said she had loved Clarke and had contemplated marrying him, but insisted that her love had faded because she had found that Clarke had lied to her.

She refused to say whether she still was in love with Lancaster. She did say, however, that she "still was very fond of him."

A witness produced by the state testified that Lancaster had threatened to "get rid" of Clarke. Lancaster denied it.

Numerous defense witnesses, including doctors, supported Lancaster's claim that Clarke had shot himself.

HAD Haden Clarke lived to finish his book on the two lovers whose fame as daring aviators was world-wide, it would have been a colorful story even without the tragic chapter that his death provided.

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HADEN CLARKE
CAPTAIN LANCASTER
MRS. JESSIE KEITH-MILLER

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LANCASTER explained he had bought the fatal pistol in St. Louis to give to a Miami friend in return for a borrowed weapon that he had pawned in El Paso.

He denied that his bed was unrumpled as though he had not been in it that night.

Mrs. Keith-Miller said Lancaster had come to her room, awakened her and informed her that Clarke had killed himself.

By means of Captain Lancaster's diary, introduced at the trial, the prosecution unfolded a story of the British war flier's romance for the chubby little Australian aviatrix—who weighs only 90 pounds and so small that she has to be propped into her seat with cushions to reach the plane controls.

Samples of entries Captain Lancaster made during his western business trip—while Clarke and Mrs. Keith-Miller remained in Miami to write the book—are as follows:

"Thursday, March 10, San Angelo, Tex.—Wire from Chubbie. God bless her. How dear she is to me!"

"Thursday, March 24, El Paso, Tex.—No news from Chubbie. She has disappointed me far more than this damned expedition."

"Monday, March 28, El Paso, Tex.—Letter from Haden Clarke and Chubbie. Very disappointed. Looks as though Chubbie just dashed off a note as he was on duty. Haden a little more enlightened; hope he is keeping his promise to me."

"Wednesday, March 30, Nogales, Ariz.—No news from Chubbie. What does the child not write?"

"Saturday, April 2, Los Angeles—Russell shows me two Mrs. R.'s letters. One says, 'Chubbie and Clarke came around tonight, and they were all ginned up. I really think now that Clarke has gained Chubbie's affections and that Bill has lost them.'"

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