

REPORT OF EXAMINATION OF THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
By A. M. Johnson, First Assistant State Examiner  
Commencing: September 9, 1948 Concluding September 17, 1948  
MONTANA OFFICE OF STATE EXAMINER, Helena  
September 28, 1948

the Honorable Mayor and Council of the Town of Columbia Falls, Montana.  
We herewith submit a report of the regular annual examination of the records and accounts of the Town of Columbia Falls, as made by A. M. Johnson, First Assistant State Examiner, said examination commencing on the 9th day of September, 1948, and concluding on the 17th day of September, 1948.

Respectfully  
W. A. BROWN (signed)  
W. A. Brown, State Examiner  
TOWN OF COLUMBIA FALLS  
OFFICERS  
Mayor, Mr. John W. O'Connell  
Clerk, Mr. Howard C. Greene  
Treasurer, Mr. Francis P. Fleming  
Police Judge, Mr. Charles H. Hetzer  
Chief of Police, Mr. Sylvester Senner  
Attorney, Mr. James A. Cumming  
Water and Housing Collector, Mrs. Clara J. Green

VALUATION

Assessed Value for Year 1948,	\$1,082,083.00
Assessable Value for Year 1948,	321,619.00
TAX LEVY FOR 1948	
General,	17.5 Mills
Street and Alley,	10.0 Mills
Fire Department,	1.0 Mills
Firemen's Disability,	2.0 Mills
Water Bond Sinking and Interest,	1.0 Mills
	5.0 Mills
Total Levy,	36.5 Mills

OPERATION OF GENERAL CASH ACCOUNT

Balance in all Funds at time of the last examination January 10, 1948,	\$ 9,343.02
Receipts from above date to August 31, 1948,	122,345.17
By Disbursements during same period,	131,688.19
	125,493.41
Balance in all Funds, August 31, 1948	6,194.78

CASH RECONCILEMENT

Bank of Columbia Falls, Columbia Falls, Montana —	
General Account Balance,	\$ 4,260.80
Plus Deposits in Transits,	158.44
	\$ 4,419.24
Banking Project Account Balance,	\$ 1,504.29
Plus Deposit in Transit,	242.45
	1,746.74
Less Disbursement of Warrant No. 18,	2.65
	1,744.09

CASH FUND BALANCES AUGUST 31, 1948 (Corrected)

Balance:	\$ 645.18
Street and Alley,	(red) 725.46
Fire,	5,203.47
Fire Department,	724.65
Firemen Hall,	257.98
Water Housing Project,	(red) 1,577.88
Banking Project,	1,539.61
Firemen's Disability,	220.41
U. S. Government Sinking (Housing Project),	616.17
Water Bond Construction,	(red) 2,361.02
Water Bond Sinking and Interest,	1,200.00
Special Street Oiling,	202.00
Sidewalk & Curb,	213.43
Special Improvement District Number 3,	3.74
	6,194.78

WATER RECEIPTS

Water Collections, January 1, 1948 to August 31, 1948	\$ 7,971.55
By Town Treasurer's Receipts for same,	7,971.55

GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROJECT

Rentals collected from January 5, 1948 to April 30, 1948	3,404.64
By Town Treasurer's Receipts for same,	3,404.64

PETTY CASH FUND

Cash on hand at time of the last examination as of February 7, 1948, See Examiner's report dated February 7, 1948,	\$ 35.00
Accounted for as reported to Successor, Mrs. Clara Green,	34.50
Difference due Petty Cash Fund,	.50

GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROJECT

Rentals collected from May 1, 1948 to August 31, 1948,	\$ 3,587.13
By Town Treasurer's Receipts for same,	3,587.13

PETTY CASH FUND

Cash on hand,	\$ 29.00
Receipts not reimbursed,	5.50
	34.50

JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE

Fines and Forfeitures collected from January 1, 1948 to August 31, 1948,	\$ 249.00
By Town Treasurer's Receipts for same,	249.00

OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS, AUGUST 31, 1948

Water Bonds, dated May 1, 1948, Amortization 20 years, Redeemable after 5 years, 3 1/2%,	\$100,000.00
Outstanding:	
General,	\$ 3,570.38
Street and Alley,	3,061.05
Water,	221.66
Water Housing Project,	5,200.00
Water Housing Project,	133.45
	12,186.54

Special Districts:

Special Improvement District No. 3, Sidewalk and Curb,	\$ 700.00
1948 Special Oiling Project,	4,122.94
	494.00
	5,316.94

OFFICIAL BONDS

Treasurer, Francis P. Fleming Bonded with American Bonding Co., Expires May 2, 1949,	\$ 1,000.00
Town Clerk, Howard C. Greene American Casualty Co., Expires April 16, 1949,	\$ 1,000.00
Police Judge, Charles H. Hetzer American Bonding Co., Expires May 2, 1949,	\$ 1,000.00
Chief of Police, Sylvester Senner American Surety Co., Expires May 3, 1949,	\$ 1,000.00

Water Collector, Clara J. Green

Western National Indemnity Co., Expires first Monday, May, 1949.  
HOUSING COLLECTOR, Clara J. Green (Not bonded for these duties).

EXAMINER'S COMMENTS  
Treasurer's fund accounts in total amount were in reconciliation, but not in each detailed fund account, a difference having been caused by transfers having been made by the Council which had not been reported to the Town Treasurer. At the time of this examination it was recommended that all transfers be made only by issuance of warrants and receipts, thereby assuring proper accounting of the cash funds. The Treasurer's cash accounts should be adjusted so as to reflect corrected balances as shown in this report.

The Cash Fund Accounts revealed that overdrafts had been permitted. This is an illegal practice and we must insist that when funds are depleted no payments must be made by the Treasurer, and instead the warrants presented when funds are exhausted must be registered. Registered warrants must only be paid when funds are available and in order of registration.

Cancelled warrants are on file for all payments made by the Town Treasurer. Receipts for taxes collected by the County Treasurer and remitted to the Town Police Court fines, housing rentals, etc. were checked. The funds on deposit were fully protected by legal depository securities, but we found that the Town's Custodian Receipts for the collateral furnished by the depository bank had not been approved and reapproved quarterly as required by law.

The accounting forms prescribed and ordered from the printer at the time of our last examination had just been recently received. The Town Clerk's accounting had been posted from January 1, 1948 to July 1, 1948, but the accounts did not reflect the true status and were incomplete. During the examination the accounts were corrected and completed to August 31, 1948. If instructions are followed we assure that the system prescribed will provide necessary control information and adequate internal protection.

We found that the Office of a Water Registrar had been established, whose duties were to handle the real and operating accounts of the utility, but we noted that the control of the accounts and collections were not accomplished. The charges and collections had been posted but no controlling accounting was provided whereby the accuracy of the Consumers' accounts had been determined. Monthly report forms prescribed by our department for the Water Registrar to report to the Council the activities of the water collections and delinquencies had not been prepared. A satisfactory control of the accounts and collections for this revenue must be accomplished by either having it done by the Water Collector in connection with those duties or by the Water Registrar.

Many of the claims were not subscribed and sworn to as required by law.

Respectfully submitted,  
A. M. JOHNSON  
First Assistant State Examiner

**Your Building Suppliers**  
LUMBER — ROOFING  
NAILS — BUILDERS HARDWARE  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINTS  
\*\*\*  
**WESTBERG LUMBER CO.**  
YARDS AT  
COLUMBIA FALLS — COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

**Dance Every Saturday Night**  
To Good Modern Music at the  
**DEW DROP INN**  
(Cafe Adjoining)  
1 mile north of Coram

**KNOW MONTANA...**  
—By Joel Overholser, Editor The River Press.  
**CHOUTEAU COUNTY**  
Chouteau is one of the original counties created by Montana's territorial legislature in 1865. The name honors Pierre Chouteau, Jr., president of the American Fur Company, first to establish a permanent trading post on the upper Missouri. Fort Benton, famous in fur trading and steamboating days, is the county seat. While the county's area has been whittled down to about one sixth of the original expanse through creation of other political units, Chouteau remains a sizeable and prosperous area of 4,032 square miles. Wheat and stock raising are its wealth. The Missouri river was its early day artery of commerce. Today two railroads and bus service provide transport needs.

—By H. L. Knight, Publisher Times  
**FLATHEAD COUNTY**  
The legislature of 1893 authorized the creation of Flathead county. Missoula was the parent county. The county area is 63 miles wide and 60 miles long. It comprises the valley of the Flathead river and its tributaries. Kalispell is the county seat. Whitefish, next in size, is a division point of the Great Northern railway. Glacier National Park is part of the eastern domain and Flathead Lake is within the county borders. Improved highways, running in all directions, are open the year round. Productive farm lands, growing of fruit, stock raising, lumbering are stout economic factors. When scrub timber is cleared, undeveloped lignite fields will provide fuel. Assessed valuation of the county is \$34,170,224.  
**ANACONDA COPPER MINING COMPANY**  
"Work for a Greater and More Prosperous Montana".  
This is a project that should include all Montanans.

**DANCE**  
SATURDAY EVENING AT  
**Mountain View Tavern**  
4 miles south of Columbia Heights  
to the music of "THE KEYNOTES"  
A four piece modern band  
Your favorite drinks mixed and served the way you like them  
**LUNCHES**

**Service from your Door**  
\*\*\*  
**Laundry - Pressing - Cleaning - Dyeing**  
\*\*\*  
We bring you efficient service, and our truck calls at your door in Columbia Falls, Columbia Heights, Hungry Horse, Martin City, Coram and Belton.  
\*\*\*  
**KALISPELL LAUNDRY and DRY CLEANERS**  
BEGG and PADDOCK

"There is far more involved in the question of tax reduction than the immediate relief for the taxpayers, important though that is. Continuation of the present ruinous war-time rates during the third year after the war constitutes a serious threat to the integrity of government."  
"History shows that a continued collecting of income taxes in excess of twenty per cent leads a nation into bankruptcy . . . or in a distinctly totalitarian direction."  
"Let's stop falsifying about the reason for the high cost of living, and place 25% of it on taxes, where it properly belongs."  
**TOM J. DAVIS**  
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE for the  
**UNITED STATES SENATE**  
Paid pol. adv. by Davis for Senator Club, Mrs. Ed Shea, Secretary, Butte

*It pays to know your oil will flow!*  
Quick lubrication in a cold motor is a great car saver. Makes easier starting, too. Oval-E Extra Motor Oil (winter grade) flows in the cold . . . gets right up into cylinders . . . eases drag at starting, eases strain on oil pump. This great oil also resists sludging, stands up to engine heat for constant lubrication, and is long lasting.  
**use OVAL-E EXTRA MOTOR OIL**  
for HAPPY WINTER MOTORING  
your OVAL-E dealer recommends ALL of these services NOW:  
● **MOTOR OIL**—a change to winter grade Oval-E.  
● **GEAR LUBE**—put winter grade Oval-E in transmission and differential, to help easy shifting and smooth running.  
● **CHASSIS**—lubricate with long-lasting Oval-E greases to help keep icy slush out of bearings, smooth action in.  
● **WHEEL BEARINGS**—protect by a re-pack with Oval-E high quality grease made especially for this purpose.  
● **RADIATOR**—ask the Oval-E man to condition your cooling system for safe winter driving.  
● **TIRES**—Check, inflate, repair or replace for safe driving. For NEW TIRES, or TIRE SERVICE, your Oval-E station is the place to go.  
● **LIGHTS**—Good visibility is vital.  
● **WIPER BLADES**—you need good ones in winter.  
● **SPARK PLUGS**—clean and snappy for quick starting.  
● **FAN BELT**—strong and tight.  
● **BATTERY**—fully charged and in good condition.  
● **OVAL-E SERVICED**—from bumper to bumper—is the right way to start your car into winter.  
**OVAL-E Ready for WINTER SERVICE**  
THE CARTER OIL COMPANY  
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