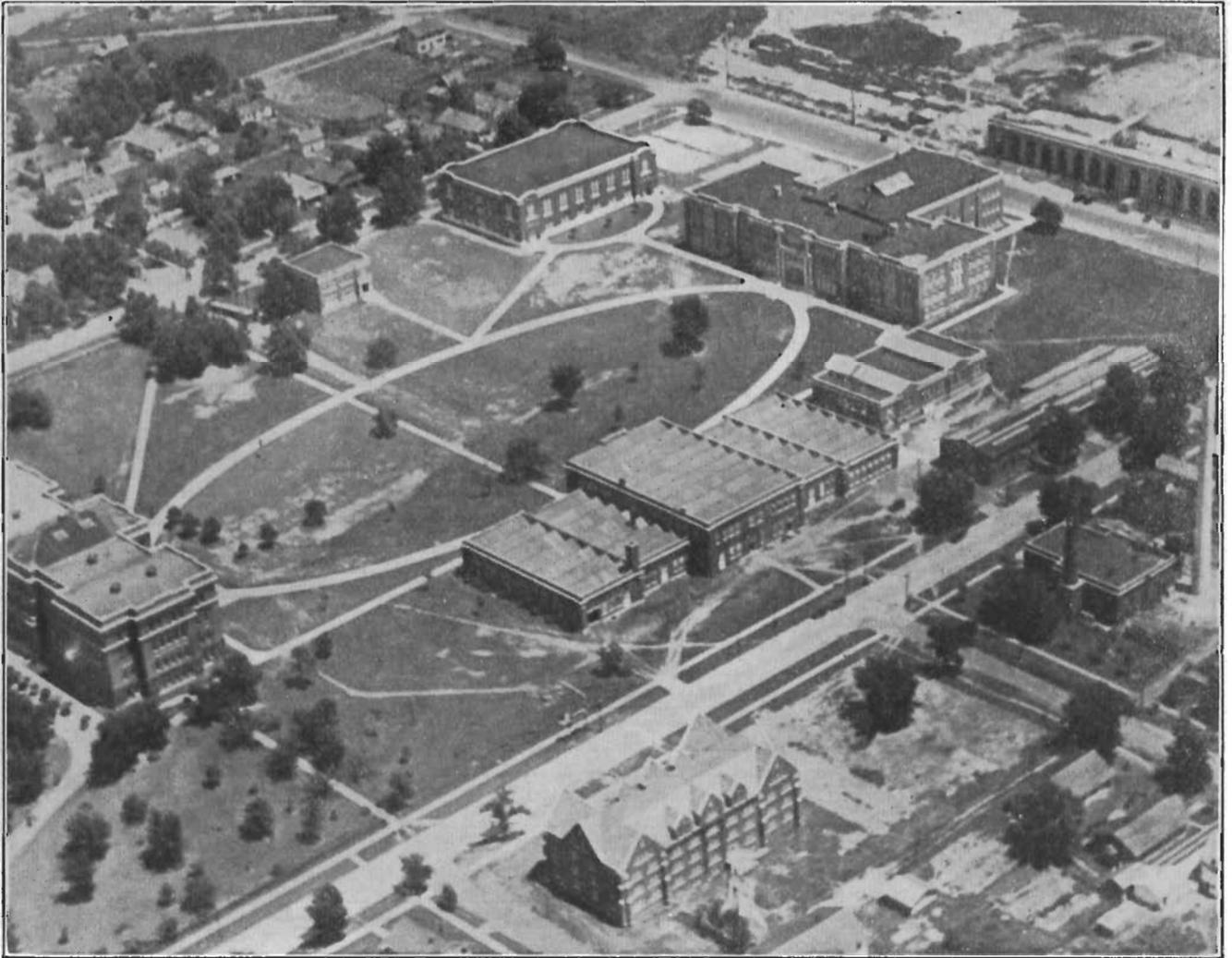


Pittsburg, Kansas

Where Initiative and Energy Blend



By FORD HARPER, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce

PITTSBURG is a city of more than 22,000 inhabitants, situated in the heart of the Southeastern Kansas coal fields. It is engaged in coal mining, which is carried on with deep shafts and immense steam shovels, some of which are the largest in the world.

The clay industry is represented by vitrified brick works, a pottery plant and a tile plant. Just recently a new roofing tile plant has located at Pittsburg. The clay found in this vicinity and used by these concerns is the best in the United States.

The city itself has many beautiful homes, sixty-two miles of paved streets, one and one-half miles of white way, beautiful churches, a good Y. M. C. A. and two parks. Lincoln Park is one of the largest in the state and one of the most modernly equipped.

Pittsburg is the metropolis of a thickly-populated section of Southeastern Kansas and Southwestern Missouri, which produces more material wealth than probably any like area in the world. One hundred and fifty thousand people live within a radius of 23 miles and within this radius are located the richest lead and zinc mines in the world, the immense deposits of coal and valuable clay already referred to, and thousands of acres of fertile agricultural land.

Four railroads and one hundred and two miles of interurban electric lines afford excellent transportation facilities between Pittsburg and the numerous other cities and towns in the district.

Crawford County, in which Pittsburg is located, is



J. A. GIBSON, President, Chamber of Commerce



FORD HARPER, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce

one of the leading counties in the state in hard-surfaced roads.

Pittsburg is close to the great natural gas fields of Kansas and Oklahoma and enjoys the advantage of cheap gas.

Few cities in the country can offer the combination of cheap coal, cheap gas, excellent transportation facilities, large local markets, and other advantages which Pittsburg offers to a prospective manufacturer. A payroll of \$2,000,000 per month indicates to what extent these resources have already been taken advantage of, but there is plenty of room for more. The clay working industry in particular offers alluring inducements. Thousands of tons of this material have already been uncovered and it is easily accessible.

This article would hardly be complete without mention that Pittsburg is the home of the Kansas State Teachers' College and Pittsburg also prides herself on her local public school system.

Following this article is a survey of Pittsburg just recently made, also a statement of many facts and many statistics are given that will be of interest to anyone reading of Pittsburg:

The population of Pittsburg at the opening of 1925, five years after the last decennial census, is 22,023, an increase of 3,971, or 22.0 per cent, over the 18,052 given in the United States enumeration.

Characteristics of the Pittsburg population are:

	1920 Census	1925 Survey
Population	18,052	22,023
Males	9,068	11,063
Females	8,984	10,960
Persons over 21	10,942	13,349
Males	5,342	6,761
Females	5,400	6,588
Dwellings	4,333	5,286
Families	4,652	5,675

The survey is based on statistics from local sources, giving comparative figures for the close of 1919 (immediately before the 1920 census), and for the close of 1924, as summarized below:

Report of Superintendent of Schools M. M. Rose, of public school enrollment of 3,701 at the close of 1919, and 4,726 at the close of 1924, an increase of 1,025 or 27.7 per cent.

School age census of 5,465 at the close of 1919, and 5,926 at the close of 1924, an increase of 461, or 8.5 per cent.

Report of W. J. Lapworth, superintendent of the city department of water supply, of 5,055 domestic water services in the city at the close of 1919, and 6,153 at the close of 1924, an increase of 1,098, or 21.7 per cent.

Report of Postmaster of 22,000 persons served through the Pittsburg post office at the close of 1924, an increase of 2,000 over the close of 1919.

Report of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company of 1,805 residential telephones in the city at the close of 1919, and 3,238 at the close of 1924, an increase of 1,433, or 80 per cent.

The survey, with definitely ascertained figures of increase, is not to be classed with estimates announced from year to year on the assumption that the city's growth since 1920 has been at the identical rate of the period of 1910 to 1920.

VITAL STATISTICS OF PITTSBURG

Census

Pittsburg has a metropolitan population of 27,000 people.

Pittsburg has within the city limits a population of 22,023 people.

Pittsburg is growing at the rate of 14.5 per cent.

Pittsburg has a trade territory of 150,000 people.

Pittsburg has a trade area of 6 square miles.

Industrial

Pittsburg is the heart of "The Kansas Coal Fields."

Pittsburg has 74 manufacturing enterprises.

Pittsburg industrial plants obtain low electric rates. Pittsburg has a gas rate of 70 cents per 1,000 feet. Pittsburg has a water rate graduated according to consumption as follows:

25 cents per 1,000 gallons up to 100,000 gallons.

22 cents per 1,000 gallons for next 50,000 gallons.

19 cents per 1,000 gallons for next 150,000 gallons.

15 cents per 1,000 gallons for next 150,000 gallons.

13 cents per 1,000 gallons for next 450,000 gallons or more.

Pittsburg has telephone rates as follows:

Residence, \$1.75 and \$2.00; business, \$3.50.

Educational

Pittsburg has 9 public schools, 4,726 scholars and some private and parochial schools.

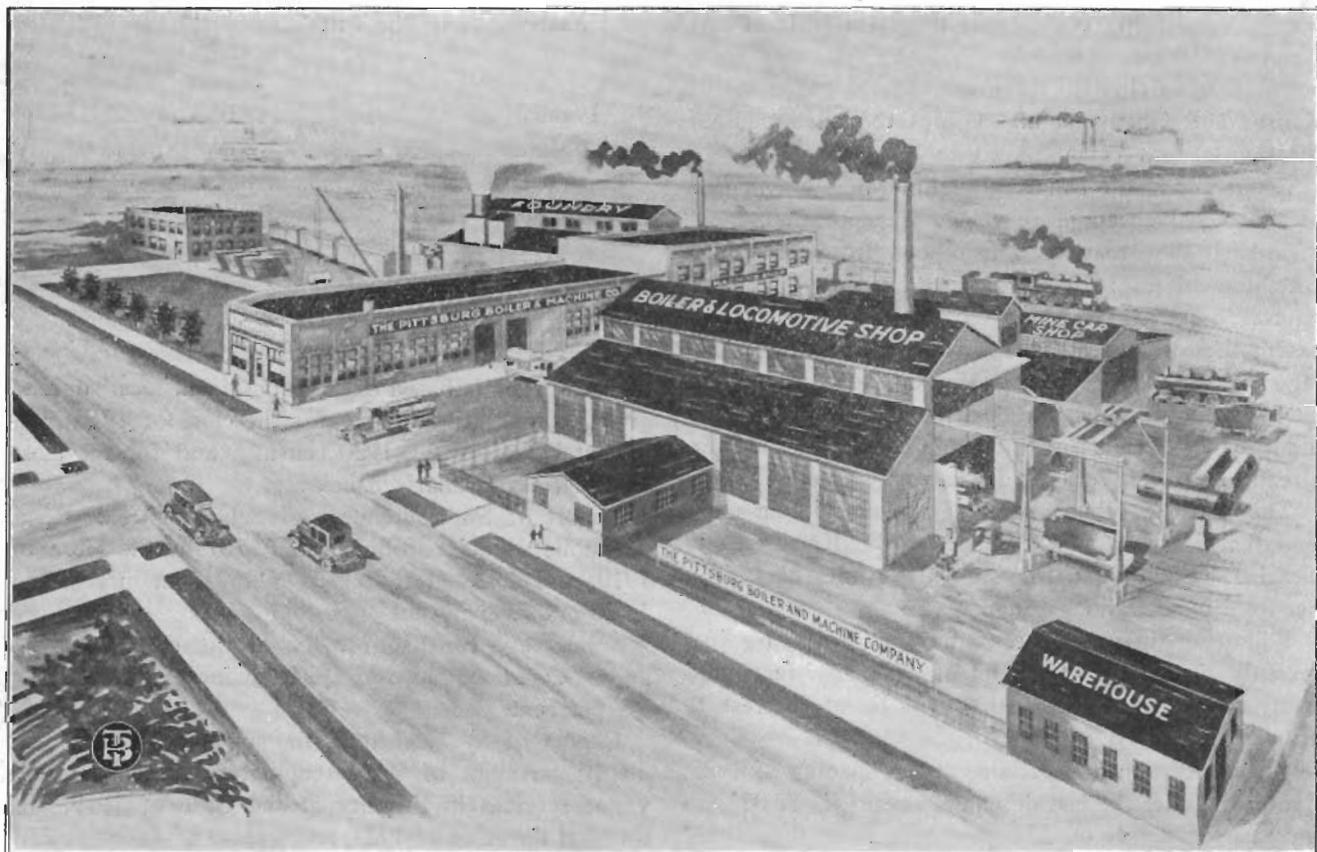
Pittsburg has the Kansas State Teachers' College, with an annual enrollment of 4,500.

Pittsburg has a business college and an auto school.

Financial

Pittsburg has 14 financial institutions; monthly bank clearings, 1922, were \$2,684,870; deposits were \$7,000,733.

Banks, at close of 1924, show a most healthy condition.



THE PITTSBURG BOILER AND MACHINE COMPANY

Municipal

Pittsburg is governed by a commission form of government—mayor and four commissioners.

Pittsburg has a motorized fire department.

Pittsburg has an assessed valuation of \$19,474,695.

Pittsburg's annual budget is \$225,000.

Pittsburg's tax rate for 1924 is as follows:

Assessed valuation.....	\$19,474,695
City tax rate.....	11.375
School tax rate.....	16.
County tax rate.....	7.85
Total rate (including state tax, 2.3075 mills)	37.5325

Climate

Pittsburg has a climate both mild and healthful.

Pittsburg's summer heat is not excessive and the periods of hot weather usually are of moderate duration.

Pittsburg's annual snowfall is light.

Pittsburg's precipitation is well distributed throughout the year.

Pittsburg's heaviest rainfalls occur during the spring and summer, when most needed by growing crops.

Pittsburg's first killing frost generally occurs about November 1 and the last, April 10.

The prevailing direction of the wind is from the South. The average velocity is 10 miles per hour.

Geographical

Pittsburg is one hundred and thirty miles south of Kansas City.

Topography—The surface is generally level, rising slightly toward the North, with a slight decline toward the South. All grades are easy.

In closing this resume on Pittsburg, the writer would like to stress two further outstanding features:

In the past year of rather trying economic conditions, Pittsburg is outstanding in the State of Kansas in the least number of business failures. The State of Kansas is one of the outstanding states in the Middle West in the least number of business failures. In other words, this conclusion can be made. Kansas perhaps has suffered some in the past year, but she has withstood the shock in better shape than many neighboring states. Then, locally, **Pittsburg has suffered some, but a survey of the bankruptcy courts will prove that Pittsburg is standing better than many of**

her neighbors. This is not said to make our neighbors feel badly, in fact, they should be happy in the fact that we have been able to hold up our end.

For 1925, Pittsburg and the State of Kansas will undoubtedly do better. We anticipate that a similar comparison one year hence will show this section of the country, as well as others, on an upward plane.



FRISCO YARDS—PITTSBURG, KANS.

W. G. WOLFE SAYS—

"Pittsburg is the garden spot of Kansas. I love Pittsburg and all that it means to me."

14 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In Pittsburg's proud possession of 14 financial institutions is found a criterion of its prosperity.

When This Woman Holds Up Her Right Hand, Everybody in That Vicinity Stops

“STOP!” All she has to do is raise her right hand, step before a car or a pedestrian and say, “Stop!” They stop. Perhaps it is because it means life to them if they do, for she happens to be a flagwoman and has charge of the crossing at Twenty-first Street, West Tulsa.

Mrs. Florence Newman has been in the service of the Frisco six years—beginning her service after her son and chief support went to war. A middle aged woman, with a pleasing voice, clear dark eyes, the possessor of a happy disposition, and she enjoys clean



MRS. FLORENCE NEWMAN

humor. This latter characteristic is more clearly exemplified by the following story which she tells of herself:

Several months ago when hi-jacking and holdups

had become quite common in and near West Tulsa, the police, in order to stamp out crime, made it their duty to question all strangers or anyone else on the streets at unusual hours. Circumstances required Mrs. Newman to be out rather late one night and in returning home she had to pass near two policemen.

“Who is that woman?” inquired one policeman.

“Oh, she’s all right,” drawled the other officer, his voice carrying audibly in the night air. “Let her go, she’s just the flagwoman!”

The compensation derived from being a flagwoman, Mrs. Newman avers, has become a necessary adjunct to her financial welfare, even though the occupation is not one usually followed by the feminine sex. She is paying for a home in West Tulsa, besides meeting the expenses of her daughter who is attending business college. These assumed obligations, together with other necessary expenses, serve as a constant drain on the coffers of the household, and it is a hard matter to get ahead, and there is no likelihood of her voluntarily seeking more gentle work in the near future.

Most people, according to Mrs. Newman, are inclined to be careful at railroad crossings. There is a small minority, however, that is ever ready to disregard warnings and often near physical restraint is necessary to keep them from walking into the path of approaching trains.

The most troublesome of this class is the person who realizes danger is lurking, yet refuses to accept advice or warning from anyone. They work under the old adage that a wise man needs no advice and a fool will **not** take it.

There is also the impatient element that get in a hurry. They assume the railroad has **no particular claim** to the right-of-way, and will **rush blindly in**, in an effort to beat the train **across, even though** by a hair’s breadth.

Another class is the person, usually a former railroad employe, who feels that **he is sufficiently familiar** with railroad rules and train schedules **not to need any warning**. He will look at **his watch and reason** that all regular trains have passed and any subsequent “stop signal” is meant to cover switch movements which will not extend up to the crossing. With this in mind he saunters merrily on, often to his sorrow.

“I always do my best to prevent accidents, and save the life of those who persist in disobeying the signals,” said Mrs. Newman, as she gave a sharp blast of her whistle and hastened in position to announce the approach of another train.