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Saturday, Feb. 2

Hoopeston American Legion

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July 2001 storm blows up wealth of Hoopeston history

A cliché says it's an ill wind that blows no one any good. That adage proved true for the city of Hoopeston.

The July 8, 2001 storm, which wreaked havoc on city homes and industries, blew up a wealth of historical information.

When city workers poked through the former water building on Main St., they found city record books dating back to Hoopeston's founding in 1871.

The books detail all aspects of city business, from the first person buried at Floral Hill Cemetery in 1871 to minutes of the town meeting at which Hoopeston was incorporated in 1873 to employee wages in the 1960s.

The books were found in old trunks in the second floor of the water building, said water superintendent Steve Baker. "We couldn't move the trunks because we were afraid they'd fall apart," he said. So the books were taken from the trunk, placed in an end loader and moved before the building was torn down.

Hoopeston administrative assistant Loni Garman is fascinated with the amount of history contained in the books and how well they have stood the test of time. "I can't believe how good a condition they're in," she said. The covers of some of the books bear moisture damage but the pages are legible records of Hoopeston's earliest city government at work.

In a volume dating from 1873, the names leaders who incorporated the town are neatly written, along with a detailed account of what happened at the meeting. An ink drawing serves as an official seal.

Other tomes contain information on burial plots at Floral Hill, including the first interment on Jan. 7, 1871 of 23-year-old Lucy S. Chapman who died of consumption. A related book shows the price of a



Photo by Lourdine Florek

Hoopeston administrative assistant Loni Garman looks over some old record books found after the July 2001 storm.

cemetery lot at \$10 in 1888.

Registries of death certificates show that, like now, residents died from a multiple of causes, some no longer heard of today. One person died of "softening of the brain" and several passed away due to "general debility. One person was run over by a train while another perished because of an "accidental fracture of the skull."

Some causes of death sound more familiar, from
See HISTORY on other side

New at
Hoopeston Express Lube

Ladies Day

Ladies, bring your vehicle
In on Tuesday and receive
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Fish Fry

Saturday, Feb. 2 starting at noon

Karaoke 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday

BJ's Pump

1023 W. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5700



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*Minuteman *Casey's Coffee Corner

**And on the Internet at
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Thursday Afternoon Ladies League

Standings 1/24/02

1. Pla-Mor Lanes	36	24
2. Gress I	34½	25½
3. Knuth's	31	29
4. Rex's	30½	29½
5. H&R Block	25	35
6. Crunch's	23	37

High Team Handicap Game: Gress I 832, Pla-Mor Lanes

History continued from other side

cancer and tuberculosis to pneumonia and indigestion.

A "record of city receipts and indebtedness" from the late 1880s shows Thomas Hoopes received \$2 in interest on donations.

In 1917, T.M. Elliott was an agent for the Aetna Insurance Company. His customers, their policies and payment histories are duly recorded in a book.

Another volume dated 1925 lists the names of residents who borrowed money from the Hoopeston Improvement Fund. The record indicates when each of the loans is to be repaid and who was timely and delinquent in their payments.

Who paid fines for various offenses is also listed, as are tax payments made by citizens in the city.

Wage records are also kept, from very early on until the 1960s when then street superintendent and former police chief Orval Kaag received \$235 every two weeks.

Officials hope to preserve the newfound links to the past. From the plastic bags and boxes the books are currently in, they will hopefully be moved to containers that keep them from further deterioration.

Obituaries

KOPP—Sarah Mildred "Millie (Cronkhite) Kopp, 95, of Hoopeston, died at 7:23 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, 2002 at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour before services. Memorials are suggested to Antioch Church of Christ.

Bowling Scores



831, Knuth's 815; **High Team Handicap Series:** Pla-Mor Lanes 2,434, Knuth's 2,385, Rex's 2,295; **High Individual Scratch Game:** Linda Van Burk 207, Thresia Pierce 181, Leona York 179; **High Individual Scratch Series:** Linda Van Burk 517, Leona York 504, Thresia Pierce 497.

Hoopeston Women's Bowling League

Standings 1/21/02

1. Easy Sliders	34	17
2. Beertenders	31	20

3. R&R Body Shop	30	21
4. Main Street Travel	29	22
5. Kankakee Federal	27	24
6. Family Affair	26	25
7. Family Circus	25½	25½
8. Weber's Drug Store	25	26
9. B.J.'s Pump	24½	26½
10. No Name Just #14	22½	28½
11. Pin Pals	22½	28½
12. Yaden-Rethelford	21½	29½
13. Gillins Oil	21	30
14. Community Bank	17½	33½

High Team Game: Family Circus 1,065, Kankakee Federal 1,063, Gillins Oil 1,038; **High Team Series:** Kankakee Federal 3,102, Gillins Oil 2,998, Family Circus 2,942; **High Individual Game:** Shawn Irwin 222, Glenda Reed 220, Patti Lowe 213; **High Individual Series:** Glenda Reed 585, Patti Lowe 576, Patty Cappellano 546.

Police News



Arturo Atuna, 48, of Rt. 15, Mission, Tex., was arrested at 8:37 p.m. Sunday at East Maple and South Sixth St.

Atuna, wanted on a U.S. Marshall's Office warrant on drug charges, was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await extradition to Texas.

Weather



Mostly cloudy, chance of light rain today. High 42. Tonight, chance of light snow. Low 27. Tomorrow, snow, possibly mixed with rain or sleet. High 33, low 25.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.



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Just the Facts

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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AUCTIONS

Home to be auctioned. 640 E. McCracken. 2 bedrooms, new windows, sound roof, 65'x 165' lot, 31'x41' garage, good neighborhood. Sat., Feb. 2, 10:30 a.m. DeWitt Auction Co., Hoopeston. Bill DeWitt #040000372. Call for showing, (217) 283-7161. 23-32

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