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Regarding the Rental of the Golf Course

Fort Hays Kansas State College

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STATE OF KANSAS



JESS C. DENIOUS
SENATOR THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT
DODGE CITY, KANSAS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIRMAN WAYS AND MEANS
MEMBER EDUCATION
PRINTING
ROADS AND HIGHWAYS
MINES AND MINING

Topeka, Kansas,
February 3,
1939.

Dr. C.E. Rarick,
Ft. Hays State College,
Ft. Hays, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Rarick:

I read with interest your letter and enclosure with regard to the Kansas Frontier Historical Park . Some complaint has come to me regarding this Park, but, of course, I do not know whether any of it is justified. It has been represented that the state maintains a golf course for the citizens of Hays, and that very little payment is made by the people of Hays for the use of the facilities.

If you have any suggestions to make on the subject, I shall be glad to hear from you about it.

Sincerely yours,

JESS C. DENIOUS.

JCD:M

J. Denious
Frontier Park

February 7, 1939

Senator J. C. Denious,
State House,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Senator:

This is replying to your letter of February 3 regarding the Kansas Frontier Historical Park.

The history of this park goes back to the year 1901 when the abandoned Fort Hays Military Reservation was ceded to the state. At that time the State accepted the responsibility for maintaining on this property three institutions. They were, a college, an experiment station and a park.

Not until eight years ago did the legislature very definitely accept the responsibility of caring for the park. In the year 1933 there was a C.C. camp brought to this area, and the federal government supported the activities of this camp here for thirteen months. As I recall it the investment of the federal government in this park was \$138,000.00. This investment consists of three dams, two foot bridges, shelter houses, picnic areas, drives, paths, straightening and cleaning water courses, and otherwise making the park servicable to the public. Since that time appropriations have been made and the development of the park has gone forward. The park is used by a large number of people, as indicated by the report which I sent to you.

The Park Board has never commercialized the park in any way. I mean by this we have not permitted any concessions to come into it at all. We wanted it to be, as evidently it was intended from the first to be, for the use and enjoyment of the people. I need not say to you that such a service is of great value to the people in this part of the state.

The Board rents a portion of this area for a golf course. The Golf Club pays a rental of \$50.00 a year, and in addition maintains the ground which they have under lease. The very appearance of this area has greatly improved since the club has been caring for it. We have canvassed this situation on several occasions, and we always reach the same conclusion, that the club is paying all the rental their resources will permit, and as much rental as pasture land in this section will bring.

February 7, 1933

By renting this area we have an income from the park, and the state is relieved of the responsibility of caring for this acreage, which would be quite an expense if we had to keep down the weeds. The Board of Managers is watching this situation very closely, and you may be sure we will protect the interest of the state in every possible way.

This is replying to your letter of February 3

In general may I say this respecting this situation.

The state has an institution here that is doing a fine service here, and thousands of people profit from the investment which the state is making in this park. I feel very frank in commending to you and your committee the validity of the request we have made.

If there should be further questions or criticisms I will appreciate having you write me.

Sincerely yours,

President,
(Chairman Board of Managers)

The Park Board has never commercialized the park in any way. I mean by this we have not permitted any concessions to come into it at all. We wanted it to be, as evidently it was intended from the first to be, for the use and enjoyment of the people. I need not say to you that such a service is of great value to the people in this part of the state.

The Board rents a portion of this area for a golf course. The Golf Club pays a rental of \$20.00 a year, and in addition maintains the ground which they have under lease. The very appearance of this area has greatly improved since the club has been caring for it. We have canvassed this situation on several occasions, and we always reach the same conclusion, that the club is paying all the rental their resources will permit, and as much rental as pasture land in this section will bring.