6000 TELEPHONE BUILDINGS HAVE $350,000,000 VALUE

Construction Program This Year Calls for 200 New Structures and 80 Major Additions to Present Buildings According to Bell Telephone Quarterly



Period telephone buildings: (Top) Colonial residence type central office at Silver Spring, Md. (Bottom) also a Colonial type such as is now serving Warwood, W. Va., and Virginia Beach, Va., and the New York Telephone Company's headquarters building, which is the largest telephone building in the world.

The 6,000 buildings of the Bell Telephone System, ranging in size from the monumental headquarters structure of the New York Telephone Company—the largest telephone building in the world—with its 750,000 square feet of floor space, housing 6,000 people as well as equipment serving close to 100,000 telephones, down to the smallest buildings whose personnel includes a dozen or two people serving several hundred telephones, have a capital investment, including land, of approximately $360,000,000.

Of this huge city of buildings almost half are owned by the telephone company, says Richard Storrs Coe in the Bell Telephone Quarterly. And these figures are exclusive of the buildings occupied by the Western Electric Company, Inc., with its huge manufacturing plants at Hawthorne, Ill., and Kearny, N. J., and store houses elsewhere throughout the country, not to mention the great industrial plant now in course of construction at Point Breeze, Baltimore, Md.

This group of buildings is said to be the largest group belonging to any industry in the United States. To meet the demands of the public for telephone service the system's buildings are constantly being expanded. This year's program includes 200 new buildings and 80 major additions, which in itself is an undertaking of very considerable magnitude. Last year 122 new buildings and 39 additions to buildings were erected.

Telephone buildings are first of all built for utility. The objective of the whole vast fabric of the telephone system is to serve, to be useful, to provide adequate and economical telephone communication.

In addition to the utility service of telephone buildings, consideration is given to the design of the structures, so that they may harmonize with their surroundings and be appropriate to the climate and perhaps to the historical background of the locality.

New telephone buildings have the beauty which comes from appropriateness to their surroundings as well as adaptation to the purpose for which they were designed. These conditions are shared by the smaller and more unpretentious telephone buildings as well as by the skyscrapers. Utility, beauty, appropriateness to its location, adaptation to the purpose in hand—each is characterized by the same conditions—each is a definite manifestation of the same spirit.

While these buildings are not lacking in modernity, they are outwardly faithful reproductions of Colonial homes. A striking illustration is the Colonial brick building with its white doorway, shutters and roof rail at Silver Spring, Md. Despite its use as a thoroughly modern telephone office, this building, Mr. Coe states, would not have looked out of place to Washington's Continentals had they passed it on one of their long marches during the Revolutionary War.

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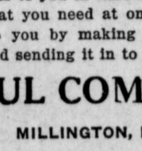
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Which Was the Intruder?

By ROSE MEREDITH

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THE first night Beth Harper arrived at the Benderson house in Gloville, to visit her one-time school friend, Marcia Benderson, she found that Grandfather Benderson was very ill.

When Beth rang the front-door bell, Marcia was coming downstairs carrying a suitcase.

"My dear Beth!" she cried. "Do forgive me for not meeting you, but grandfather is much worse and they have sent for mother and Aunt Kitty and me."

"I am so sorry, murmured Beth. "But please don't pay any attention to me, Marcia. I will spend the night if you don't mind, and go home in the morning."

"Of course you shall stay as long as you care to, dear. You won't mind being here alone with cook, will you? "Here is the car for me—please order anything you wish. Your room is right next to mine. You will know it by the blue rug on the floor. And please don't run away before I see you. Grandfather may be quite all right tomorrow and you must stay on, anyway! Good-night, dear." She kissed her guest and was gone.

As she had often visited the Bendersons in their rambling old house at Gloville, Beth passed the open door of Marcia's pretty yellow room and pushed open the door of the next room.

After Beth had enjoyed a shower and changed into a cool white dress, she brushed out the tangles in her soft, fair bobbed hair, and ran downstairs to find cook.

First, Beth stood in the great front hall and rang a bell. After she had pushed a button without getting the cook, the girl went through a rear door into a passage that finally landed her in the kitchen of the house.

Beth invaded the pantry and the refrigerator. When she finally carried a tray up to her room, she had cold roast beef, a salad, whole wheat bread and butter and a pot of hot tea. Before she ate her dinner, however, she searched the whole house, even the servants' quarters in the wing, and discovered that she was all alone in this big house. Beth was brave enough and went around the house once more, locking every window and bolting every door that commanded a strategic entrance.

Beth sighed as she set the tray on the floor outside her door, and locked herself into her room. It was not until after she was in bed with a book to enjoy and the bed-side lamp glowing, that she remembered that she had neglected to leave a light in the hall downstairs and one in the upper passage.

Beth Harper never remembered putting out the bed-side light, for she fell asleep at once, and when she awoke with a start some hours later the room was as dark as pitch.

The radium dial of the clock on the mantelpiece showed that it was two o'clock, and Beth became wide awake, as she realized that a peculiar sound was coming from underneath her window.

When she reached the window she could look down and see in the pale light of the waning moon that a man was fetching a tall ladder. When he planted it under her window and began to climb the rounds, Beth put on slippers and a silk dressing gown and fled the room. Downstairs, in a panic of fear, she thought of the space behind the upright piano in the living room.

Somehow she managed to squeeze behind it She crouched down in the farthest corner and there, overcome by fatigue and fright, she fell asleep.

When she awoke, the great clock in the living room was chiming six and she was conscious of a brisk movement in the room. By this time, Beth was wide awake. Suddenly a dog's joyous bark betrayed her hiding place. Marcia's fox terrier was trying to jump through the opening between piano and wall.

"Hold it, Patsy!" sang out a man's pleasant voice and then the piano moved out into the room and Patsy was greeting Beth like an old friend, and the owner of the voice stood there by the opening.

Beth scrambled to her feet and a dimple broke the severity of her charming face. "So you are the intruder!" she said.

"I was just thinking to myself that you were the intruder," he grinned. "So—perhaps you can explain."

"I am Marcia Benderson's guest. I arrived just as they were leaving for their grandfather's house. And as cook went away—I was alone, and so I locked up the house and went to bed."

"In my room," sighed Robert Benderson.

"I—I thought it was the guest room!"

"That is on the other side of Marcia's room," he explained.

"I didn't know Marcia had a cousin," said Beth later on, when the family had returned home after reporting grandfather entirely recovered.

"He is my only son," smiled Aunt Kitty, regarding her handsome son with pride. "And I am hoping that some day he will marry the best girl in the world!"

"Don't worry, mother, I have found her," said Robert meaningly. And somehow they all guessed that he meant lovely Beth.

That is the way it ended, anyhow.

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Preservers That Defy the Corruption of Death

A man's body was found standing upright in a block of ice and was chopped out of a crevasse in a glacier of Mount Rainier. Thus there is a reminder of the pathetic story told many years ago when Mr. Frederick Stimson was writing as "J. S. of Dale": The story of the body preserved in an Alpine glacier, slowly moving, but finally restoring the loved one to the patient waiter. Or there is the frozen pirate, the hero of a novel by Clark Russell, though this pirate was not saved from immediate death by a glacier.

Ashes and lava are also indifferent unconscious preservers: Witness Pompeii and Herculaneaum. There are natural earths that have been said to retain bodies as they were above the ground. Was the coffin that held the marquis of Dorset of a special wood or metal that after seventy-eight years his body was found uncorrupted, "in color, proportion, and softness like an ordinary corpse newly to be interred"? Or was this due to the properties of the cerecloth?

Is there any index of stories in which the strangely preserved, mummies included, have come to life, and welcomed the amazingly changed world; moved as strangers in a strange land; worked evil on descendants who had mistakenly reverenced their memory and boasted of lineage? It is no doubt better, as Bert Williams used to say, that "death is so permanent."

"Fistic Art" Had Origin in Days of Barbarism

Although boxing as a science is relatively modern, it was in the blazing sun of Italy and Greece, in the great ampitheaters of long ago, where barbarian captives fought and died to tickle the fancy of the populace, that boxing as a sport was born. That these people must have developed a skillful school of boxing during the period in which the cestus was used is certain, but unfortunately little is known either of the style of fighting or of the personal attributes of the boxer by which a comparison can be made between those long-dead champions and the modern wielder of the padded glove. The nearest connecting link is the famous Greek statue chiseled in time-defying marble known as "The Boxer." This, at least, affords a study in character.

During the early part of the Eighteenth century in England boxing was about as inhuman a sport as one can imagine. The middle of the century, fortunately, saw the dawn of a new day for the boxer, for at this time Jack Broughton, a young English champion, invented boxing gloves and originated a code of rules prohibiting much of the former savagery of the sport, on which many of the future rules have been based.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Beetle Has Some Value

Devil's horse or devil's coach horse is the name given to certain large rove beetles. About 2,000 different species of rove beetles have been described. Says an eminent entomologist: "They live on decaying animal or vegetable matter, in excrement, fungi, or fermenting sap, and are among the most universally distributed of all beetles. Many of them are predatory, and some have been accused of feeding on living plants; but on the whole they are of importance to the agriculturist only as scavengers, and as they aid in reducing the dead animal and vegetable matter into shape for assimilation by plants."—Pathfinder Magazine.

Railroaders Strong in Use of Colorful Terms

A brakeman is telling a story of the rails:

"Before we leave I take a run up to the calliope to match watches with the hoghead and find a student tallow pot in the cab, taking orders from the bakehead and spadin' diamonds with his feet together."

Substitute locomotive for "calliope," engineer for "hoghead," apprentice fireman for "student tallow pot," fireman for "bakehead," coal for "diamonds" and it all becomes quite intelligible, says the Bookman. The railroad man has not one but several colorful terms for the men and things that enter into his day's work.

The locomotive is still "the hog," from the wood burning days when its gluttonous appetite kept a fireman constantly on his toes, but it is also the "calliope" and the "boiler." A switch engine, which butts cars about the yards, is the "goat." The engineer is "hoghead," "hogger" and "swell head." The fireman is "bakehead."

A "snake" is a yard switchman and a "stinger" is a brakeman, while the yardmaster answers to "dinger." A "drag" is a slow freight and the caboose, reasonably enough, is the "crummy."

Passion for Education Mark of Truly Great

In a biography of George Washington it is narrated that he was reluctant to visit France at the end of his presidential term, because he could not speak French.

Which is only another tribute to his greatness and his wisdom.

What wise man does not regret the lack of education? There is so much to learn in life and so brief a time in which to learn it! To grasp the life and literature of those ancient lands from which our civilization and all our religioons are derived would require a couple of centuries at least. And then we would only be in the A B C class of modern study.

The more one really learns, the more one wants to learn. All who have tasted of education must regret their lack of complete possession of it.

Early Days "Burning Air"

People were afraid of this "burning air," as illuminating gas was called at first and could not be convinced that fire or explosion would not be the inevitable result of its general use. The lamplighters of London practically went on strike for a time when London streets began to be lighted by it, in 1807, although the word "strike" was not used. Used to the old-fashioned oil lamps they were suspicious and also fearful, of the new illuminant

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Might as Well

"Look here, Smith, it's no use your coming around here again, you've borrowed everything I've got in the place."

"Oh, but this is different. I wonder if I could borrow your garden for a bit of a party I'm giving on Saturday."—Passing Show.

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