Railroad Dispatching in U. S. Largely Controlled by Telephone

Spoken Orders Dispatch 32,000 Daily Trains Over 415,800 Miles of Track

(Upper left) One of the Pennsylvania's crack streamlined locomotives capable of speeds of 100 miles an hour. (Upper right) The train dispatcher at his telephone. (Lower left) Scene in an "out on the line" signal tower where alert towermen keep track of and report the progress of trains by telephone. (Lower right) Trackmen have portable telephone outfits which enable them to keep in direct contact at all times with headquarters. (Photos courtesy Penna. R. R.)

Telephone dispatching equipment plays an important part in safely speeding trains to their destination and today covers a large majority of the railroad mileage of the country. If there were only one train and one track, there would be no problem, but today with an average of 32,000 daily trains and 415,800 miles of track, the matter of safely dispatching trains is an important one.

In the train dispatcher's office one man keeps his eyes on the tracks, his mouth near a telephone transmitter. No sooner is a train under way than the train dispatcher telephones orders to the signal tower just ahead, giving this information, the tower man reporting back that it passed his window at a particular time. The telephone order is sent still further so that when the train reaches a certain section, the switch will be open, a freight train rerouted, and the train will arrive on time. The train dispatcher's job demands that his mind be kept clear for concentration and quick decision.

Finally, the movement director receives a message from the dispatcher by means of the teletypewriter, which is sent to the ticket office, baggage room, station master and information blackboard in the concourse. The message says: "Train on time." The movement director handles all calls for cars, engines and other equipment. He must know whether one locomotive is sufficient to haul a long freight train over grades. He also directs the preparation of special trains and crews that carry holiday and week-end travelers.

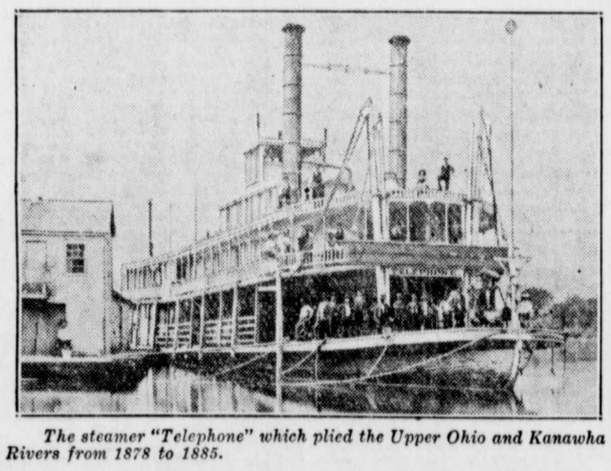
When a train starts on its trip, full information is sent by telephone from the terminal to be marked on the train sheet: train number, engine number, engineer, fireman, conductor and train crew, number of cars, and so on.

The train dispatcher's telephone serves in emergencies, too. Once a passenger was suddenly taken ill on a train speeding from Wilmington, Del. to Baltimore, Md. The conductor wrote some information on a scrap of paper, wrapped it around a weight and threw it from the rear of the train as it passed a signal tower. The tower man, attracted by the conductor's waving arm, went down for the message and telephoned it to the Baltimore dispatcher as per instructions. When the train pulled into Baltimore, twenty-five minutes later, an ambulance was waiting to rush the patient to the hospital.

Old time methods of train dispatching lacked the speed and flexibility demanded by today's faster schedules. The dispatching telephone was the logical answer, born of the knowledge of Bell System technicians.

STEAMBOAT "TELEPHONE" QUEEN OF OHIO WHEN INDUSTRY WAS YOUNG

Ancient Stern-wheeler Named for New Invention in 1878 To Symbolize Speed



The steamer "Telephone" which plied the Upper Ohio and Kanawha Rivers from 1878 to 1885.

Sixty years ago the "Telephone," a stern-wheel steamboat 150 feet in length, left Portsmouth, Ohio, on her maiden trip to Pittsburgh. At that time fast boats had often been called the "Telegraph" but only two months after the first commercial telephone exchange in the world had been opened in New Haven, Conn.,—the name "Telephone" was an innovation. Alexander Graham Bell's invention was new and mysterious and the name "telephone" stirred the imaginations of the residents along the upper Ohio River. It was then six months before the first telephone exchange was to be opened in the state, and, of course, long before the telephone was in general use.

The three Maddy brothers, who in 1876 had become prominent in steamboat circles on the upper Ohio River through their ownership and operation of the steamers "Salt Valley" and "Exchange," sought a fitting name for their new boat.

The telephone was a topic of much discussion and on March 4, 1878, the Maddy brothers announced that they had selected a very appropriate name for their new steamboat—"The Telephone." Oddly enough, the bell which they placed on the "Telephone" was formerly in use on the steamer "Exchange," on which they had served and had been financially interested. The ship was launched at Ironton, Ohio, April 27, 1878, and about a month later began her run between Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

On November 1, 1878, the "Telephone" permanently abandoned her Cincinnati and Pittsburgh schedule and entered the trade for which she was built, that between Wheeling and Charleston, W. Va., the latter port being on the Kanawha River. On December 2, the Maddy brothers sold the "Telephone" to the Kanawha Valley Packet Company, and the following week she entered the Charleston and Gallipolis trade. The "Telephone" was queen of the upper Ohio and Great Kanawha rivers and did much to publicize the instrument from which she derived her name in the early pioneer days of the telephone industry.

After an interesting career on the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers, she was damaged by ice on January 2, 1885, and sank. After having difficulties in trying to raise her, the job was abandoned and the ship was sold to wreckers.

The interesting story of the "Telephone" was dug out of musty newspaper files and historical material by Clarence A. Swoyer, of Columbus, Ohio, chairman of the historical research committee of the N. C. Kingsbury Chapter No. 2, Telephone Pioneers of America. He became interested in the historic steamboat during the course of his research into the early history of the telephone industry in Ohio.

Scratch an introvert and you find a yellow streak. He won't learn to play because people might laugh at his mistakes and he can't take it.

TELEPHONE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES REVIEWED

Telephone Talkers

The popular idea that a person who wants to say something merely starts talking and keeps on until he is through, or until he runs out of breath, is not true of telephone talkers, according to a report by A. C. Norwine and O. J. Murphy of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York City. Instead, the average telephone user never talks longer than about six seconds without at least one short pause. On the average there is a pause about every three seconds. Nearly a fifth of the time is wasted in these short pauses that no one notices.

As part of the studies being made by the telephone industry of what might be called the anatomy of speech, the telephone engineers attached to a long distance telephone circuit between New York and Chicago an apparatus to keep records, not of the words pronounced, but of the speech energy passing over the line. A total of 51 calls was recorded, lasting a little more than 13,000 seconds. Everyone was found to talk in short bursts or cascades, called talkspurts, separated by the pauses mentioned.

Since almost anyone can hold his breath at least 20 seconds without discomfort, breathing pauses cannot explain this. Just what is the real reason remains a mystery, perhaps something not unlike the well-known habit of a reader's eye moving along a line of type, not continuously, but in a succession of quick jerks with pauses between. Perhaps human ears hear best in similar short spurts of sound, so that everyone automatically learns to talk this way.

OLDER THAN TIME

The asphalt used in the manufacture of mineral surfaced asphalt shingles is virtually as old as time itself—thousands of years older than man. Many geologists believe that much of it originated in the Age of Reptiles when giant dinosaurs roamed the fetid marshlands of the new made world. It is this long-lasting material, surfaced with fireproof minerial granules that makes asphalt shingles so durable and fire-safe.

Most men are charmed by widows. A widow is an experienced listener and sympathizer.

The Quiet Of The Evening

Evangelist John Moses Baker
Baltimore, Md.

At evening time it shall be light.
—Zachareah 14-7.

In the quiet of the evening,
As I lay me down to rest,
My soul went out in longing.
For the home land of the blest.

I could almost see the city,
With the loved ones watching there,
And the burdens of life were lighter,
As I breathed my evening prayer.

There was something within that told me.
When te cares of life are o'er,
About the meeting with our loved ones.
On that happy golden shore.

Outside of my window, shining,
Was the noon fair and bright,
And I thought of that beautiful city,
Where never comes the night.

God's presence was around about me.
And His peace filled all my soul;
What a meeting, some day, in that city.
Where surges will never more roll.

TENTATIVE PROVISIONS OF 1939 AAA PROGRAM ARE ANNOUNCED

The 1939 AAA Farm Program for Maryland and the rest of the country will be similar in most respects to the 1938 program, according to C. Z. Keller, State Executive Officer.

As in 1938, the 1939 program will include establishment of individual allotments for wheat and potatoes, as well as an allotment for total soil-depleting acreage. Payment will be made for keeping within soil-depleting acreage allotments and for attaining soil-building goals by carrying out approved practices. On farms where no wheat or potato allotments are established, payments will be earned only by soil-building practices.

In general, approved soil-building practices will be similar to those approved for 1938. Crop classification will be practically the same as in 1938, the principal exception being that land planted to oats, barley, rye, or a mixture of these crops will not be classified as soil-depleting when such crops are used as nurse crops for legumes or perennial grasses of which a good stand is established in 1939, and the nurse crop is cut green for hay and is not harvested for grain.

Wheat acreage allotments will be established for all commercial wheat farms. Agricultural Conservation payments with respect to wheat and wheat price adjustment payments will be made for such farms. On non-commercial wheat farms, no payment will be made with respect to wheat and deductions will be made from other payments for any acreage of wheat harvested for grain or hay in excess of the usual wheat acreage, or 8 acres, whichever is larger.

Compliance on commerical wheat farms will be checked late this fall on the basis of wheat seeded for all purposes, including wheat seeded for hay or pasture, green manure and cover crop purposes. If the planted acreage exceeds the allotted acreage, no wheat price adjustment payment will be made and a deduction will be made from the conservation payment at the rate of 50 cents per bushel of the normal yield per acre times each acre in excess of the wheat acreage allotment.

The wheat conservation payment will be reduced on farms where the 1939 seeded wheat acreage is less than 80 percent of the wheat allotment established for such farms. The allotment used in calculating the payment for such farms will be reduced to 125 percent times the acreage of wheat seeded in 1939. Therefore, no conservation payment with respect to wheat will be made to farms not seeding wheat for harvest in 1939. A deduction at the rate of $5.00 per acre will be made for growing soil-depleting crops in excess of the total soil-depleting allotment, except that if the excess is in wheat the deduction will be made the rate specified above for wheat.

Payment for not exceeding the wheat acreage allotment will be made at the rate of 16 to 18 cents per bushel, plus a price adjustment payment of 10 to 12 cents per bushel (or a total of 26 to 30 cents per bushel) on the farm's normal yield per acre for each acre in the wheat allotment.

Payment for reducing potatoes on commercial potato farms will amount to approximately 3 cents per bushel on the farm's normal yield per acre grown not in excess of the potato allotment.

Payment for carrying out soil-building practices will be practically the same as in 1938.

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT SERVICE

During the week that ended Saturday, Sept. 10, the thirteen offices of the Maryland State Employment Service lifted out of the depths of unemployment and returned to gainful work no less than 482 men and women.

Of this total, 354 people were found jobs with private employers and 128 with public projects.

As usual, the office in Baltimore City led the list with 191 jobs filled with private employers, and 16 with public contractors. In second place this week for the number of private jobs filled was office in Cumberland; but whereas Cumberland made no public placement whatever, the office in Annapolis made 54, leading the entire State in this type of activity.

In third place for private placements was the office in Frederick, which found jobs of this nature for 28 men and wemon, just three more than its neighbor, Hagerstown, where 25 people were found private jobs.

Afer Hagerstown came Annapolis, where 21 men and women were sent back to private work. Taken with this office's 54 jobs filled, this makes a total of 75 placements for the week made in Annapolis, second only to Baltimore City's 207.

Other offices in the State-wide system, with number of private placements made by each, are as follows: Cambridge with 10; Towson, 9; Salisbury, 8; Hyattsville, 6; Oakland, 6; Chestertown, 5; and Rockville, 3.

During the month of August all previous records for the number of private placements made by the Maryland State Employment Service in any one month were broken for the third consecutive month.

The 2,080 private placements made by the Service during June of this year was the highest number on record at that time. During July, however, 2,243 such placements were made. Now August, with 2,246 private placements, exceeds all previous months.

The office in Baltimore City broke all its records during August by filling 1,235 jobs for private employers. In the rest of the State about half the offices showed increases over July: Annapolis made 92 private placements in August and only 83 in July; Chestertown made 50 in August against 15 in July; Hagerstown 160 in August and only 60 in July; Hyattsville 58 against 50; and Towson 92 against 82.

Other offices showed decreases in August compared with July, but these may be attributed entirely to seasonal slackness in their districts. The remaining offices, with the number of private placements made during August, are as follows: Cambridge, 95; Cumberland, 155; Elkton 1; Frederick, 103; Oakland, 34; Rockville, 10; and Salisbury, 161.

Placements to public projects during the month of August amounted to 732 in the entire State, bringing the total number of placements made by the Service in August up to 2,978.

A state Unemployment Service office has been opened in Elkton, at 207 North street, where assistance and information may be secured by applicants.

133 WEEKLY CASH PRIZES

New $10,000 Puzzle Contest, with 133 weekly cash prizes ranging from $500 to $1—also new comics, cutouts, stamps and the new adventure feature "The Lone Ranger". Every Sunday with the Comic Weekly of the Baltimore Sunday American. Get your copy from your favorite newsdealer.

RISING SUN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

By The Journalism Club

EDITORIAL

The Journalism Club of R. S. H. S. takes this opportunity, presented through the Midland Journal, to welcome Mr. Wm. Graham, the new principal. Naturally we were sorry to see Mr. Zimmerman go, for his leadership and aid had proven invaluable, but that takes nothing out of our welcome to his successor.

As Mr. Zimmerman was well-liked, it is probable that many of the students opened the year with an uncertain feeling. However, the entire student body welcomed Mr. Graham heartily, willing to cooperate, and we can say that, from even the short time he has been with us, things have gnoe smoothly and successfully. We can also say with assurance that they will continue to run so, for Mr. Graham has won not only our respect but our admiration. Under his leadership, we look confidently for a successful year in all of the phases of school life—scholastic work, athletics, and activities. To him and to the community we pledge the cooperation of the entire school.

Opening Sports Schedule

Athletic season will soon be on its way. This season will open on September 30. The schedule for this year will be posted at a further date.

Supper

This year, as is the usual custom, we are having a chicken and waffle supper, held in the high school auditorium. The date set for the supper is Thursday, September 22, and each plate costs fifty-cents. The money gained from this event will be used for financing several projects the school has in mind.

Work on a new school magazine is being done by the Journalism Club, under the special supervision of the Junior Academic section, with Robert Rands as editor.

Work has been started on the Senior Annual. The editors are as follows:

Editor-in-Chief,—Frank Liggett;
Literary Editor,—Ruth Baugher;
Art Editors,—Janet Hutchins, Julia Carr;
Jokes Editor,—Mildred Garvin;
Business Mgr.,—Virginia Richards;
Production Mgr.,—John Boyd;
Photography,—Russell Johnson;
Sports Editor, Boys—James Rakes;
Sports Editor, Girls,—Ann Dinsmore. Mr. Hovermill is again faculty adviser for the Annual.

Juanita Liggett.

HAVE THEM PROTECTED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Here is another bit of advice from Dr. R. H. Riley, Directory of the State Department of Health, to parents of five and six-years-olds who will start to school this fall.

"If you haven't already done it" Dr. Riley said, "take your youngster to your doctor for a complete physical examination, including tests of vision and hearing, and to your dentist for a check-up on any dental attention needed. Besides the general going over, there are two extras that are of special importance and that should be attended to without delay.

"Number one is vaccination against smallpox. Nunber two is protection against diphtheria. Nearly all parents are familiar enough with our Maryland law to know that a child has to be vaccinated against smallpox before he or she may be enrolled in any public school in the State. Protection against diphtheria is not required by law, but parents have it done voluntarily, in order that their children may be safeguarded against this very dreadful disease.

"We have had only two cases of smallpox in Maryland in eight years and we hope eventually to have an equally good record with regard to diphtheria. During the first six months of this year, nine of the twenty-three counties of Maryland had perfectly clean slates so far as this disease is concerned, without a single case of diphtheria in any of them. Our goal is a clean slate for every part of the State.

"Last year over 18,000 young children in the counties were protected against the disease at the public clinics arranged by the County Department of Health. Every year the number increases. During the first six months of this year, over 10,000 young children in the Counties of Maryland were protected against diphtheria at the county clinics or by their own doctors. Thousands of the children who live in Baltimore City were safeguarded against the disease at the City clinics or by their family physicians. We hope that in a few years, protection against diphtheria will be as much a matter of course for all children in Maryland as vacciation against smallpox is now.

"Diphtheria is a very treacherous disease and very easily picked up. Any child who has not been protected against it, is likely to contract it, if exposed to it. A single shot of toxoid will give the necessary protection.

"If your child has not been protected against diphtheria, go to your family doctor and have it done. Don't put it off any longer".