

BEGUN ON A PHONE

By OSCAR COX

There is nothing so pleases a girl as to get behind a screen where there is no possibility of being discovered and treating one of the opposite sex as she would never dream of treating him were her identity known. Ralph Harding, a youngster who was, to say the least, by no means bashful, was called to the telephone one day—a party wire—and a soft feminine voice asked, "Is this Mrs. Partington?"

"No; this is not Mrs. Partington."

"What is your number?"

"My number is 846, party W."

"Oh! I've got the wrong letter. I called 846 R. Excuse me."

"How much often depends upon a trifle!"

"No excuse needed, I assure you. Indeed, I must ask you to excuse me."

"What for, please?"

"Keeping you talking longer than is necessary to your purpose. The sound of your voice is pleasant to the ear."

A slight chuckle informed Mr. Harding that he had not given offense. The chuckle was the only reply, but it encouraged him to go on.

"We are frequently called to answer calls of 846 R. I suppose it is very easy for an operator to make a mistake in a letter."

"Quite so."

"Are you on a party wire?"

After some hesitancy the lady answered in the affirmative.

"Do you have the same letter as I?"

"My letter is 'M.'"

"And your number?"

Again the chuckle, but no other reply.

"Beg pardon. My question was thoughtless."

This was not true, as the girl well knew. If he had the number and the letter it would be possible for him to learn her identity.

"It wouldn't be proper for me to be chatting over the phone with a stranger," said the voice, "if he knew who I was, but since I am unknown I suppose it's no harm."

"How do you know that I'm not a very disreputable person?" asked Harding.

"By your voice. There is nothing that bespeaks refinement or the want of it so surely as the inflection of one's words. I defy any one not born and brought up in the highest class to assume the accent of one of that class."

"Thank you. You are repaying me for what I said to you with interest. Isn't it strange that I can hear you speak so plainly as if our lips were only an inch or two apart?"

Another chuckle.

"But, not being able to see you, I am obliged to rely on my imagination for a picture of you."

"What do you think I am like?"

"One of Titian's pictures—fair skin, dark eyes and a tinge of mellow sunset in your hair."

"I'm not like that at all."

"Well, then you're a brunette."

There being no reply, Harding asked if he was "getting warm," as the children say in hide and seek games. But the lady, who was evidently guarding herself against identification, declined to favor him with a reply.

"I wish you would give me something by which I could find out who you are," he said.

"I am a lady."

"And, while a lady may talk to a strange man unknown, she would cease to be a lady if she became known, I suppose."

"Exactly."

"Very well, there is a chance, according to your definition of a lady, of your ceasing to be one."

"How is that?"

"If ever I meet you and you say a word to me I shall know you by that voice of yours, which has a melody in it I have never heard in a woman's voice before."

"Oh, my good gracious!"

"Therefore pray that I shall never meet you."

"I will. You're simply flattering me. I don't believe you could tell me by my voice at all."

"We may test that, and without your giving me any clue to your identity except what I have, your voice."

"How?"

"I'll tell you my name and where I live and give you any other information of myself that will enable you to meet me, you remaining unknown to me. By this you may contrive a meeting without my suspecting it. If I don't recognize you by your voice I am much mistaken. Is it a go?"

"She did not say whether it was a go or not, but he gave her his name and address. She asked him to name some persons he knew, and at his giving a certain name she said he need not go any further, thereby giving him a point, and he resolved to be watchful whenever at the home of the person named. Then they said "Goodby," there were two clicks, and fate had arranged for a wedding.

Some months later Harding was invited to dine at the house of a friend—not the one the girl of the telephone had given him reason to suspect as a mutual friend. Before going in to dinner, hearing a voice behind him, he turned, looked a girl in the face and said:

"I am pleased to renew our acquaintance begun on the phone."

The girl blushed to the roots of her hair.

The wedding took place ten months later.

Woman's World

How One Englishwoman Describes Her Many War Duties.



THE COUNTESS OF ESSEX.

"Every morning," recently said Lady Essex, who was Miss Adele Grant of New York. "I go to St. James' palace and work, with a large number of other ladies, from 10 o'clock until 1—that is, for Queen Mary's Needlework guild. We have made 1,000,000 respirators for the soldiers in the trenches against gas attacks, and we have made innumerable surgical stores—bandages, etc.

"A good many other things fall to our care. This morning, for instance, 100 bales of towels arrived from the country. Dressing gowns, shirts, underwear, all sorts of things, come to us as we ask for them. We sort these, repack and send them, in required quantities, to their destinations. You may recall the war office asking for 3,000,000 pairs of socks about Christmas time a year ago. These were sent to us from everywhere, many of them incorrectly marked or not marked at all as to sizes. We had to measure every pair, label them and put them in packets of ten. That task alone meant six weeks' continuous work.

"My other duties are really too numerous to remember offhand. Let me see. At Watford—Watford is a town of 40,000 inhabitants in Hertfordshire, where we have a country place—I am on the executive committee of the urban council for war relief—that is, for the relief of civilians. I am president of the Soldiers and Sailors' Families' association, which supplements when necessary the war allowances given to wives and families. We have voluntary helpers, who take different districts, visit, write letters, find out if the families are getting their allowances and give privately additional help where it is needed. Often a woman wants to attend some function of her husband's regiment and lacks proper clothes, or, as an instance, a wife had word that her husband was wounded and in hospital at Plymouth. She had no means of her own to go to see him, and these had to be privately supplied her.

"Take the motors. At the beginning of the war the Automobile club was immediately offered 2,000 motors for war service. Since then many more have been quietly given, and those private individuals who have any left do not keep them for their own pleasure.

"Then everybody who has one lends it three or four afternoons a week for convalescent soldiers. We may be told after awhile that the use of motors must be cut down on account of petrol.

"Another luxury that may seem strange—the theater. No one dreamed of going to a theater at first. We hadn't the heart to do anything. Later the actors came out and said they were starving. Then the children returned from school for their holidays, and we felt we must exert ourselves to make things a little cheerful for them. We took them to the theaters. Gradually we ourselves got to going again. Now there are the convalescent soldiers who need entertainment, and their relatives, and the soldiers on leave—there must be relief.

"There is no longer any such thing as dinner parties," Lady Essex added. "We've quite put them out of our minds. Eight or ten people meet perhaps several times a week and happen to dine together, but there is no thought of dress and little of the dinner, except to keep it simple and sufficient. A dinner used to begin with soup and fish; there was an entree. But now! Now it is soup or fish; there is a meat course and a sweet; that is all."

Kentucky Scalloped Potatoes.
Slice potatoes and lay in the water half an hour. Place a layer of potatoes in a well buttered baking dish, sprinkle with pepper, salt and pieces of butter; repeat the process until there is a sufficient quantity. Pour over this enough milk to cover and bake an hour and a half or until the potatoes are thoroughly cooked. If onions are liked with the potatoes alternate layers may be used.

Caper Sauce For Boiled Mutton.
For this the regulation proportions of a tablespoonful each of butter and flour are cooked together until they bubble, and a half pint of boiling water is then poured upon them and the sauce stirred until smooth and thick and seasoned with pepper, salt and at least a tablespoonful of capers.

Jackson Third In Power Development

According to claims filed with State Engineer Lewis for the year 1916, rights have been initiated for the development of 456,419 horsepower. In many instances these claims represent rights to develop power but which have not, as yet, been actually developed. Two hundred and nineteen claims have been filed, covering development or proposed development ranging in size from one horsepower to 136,355 horsepower, the latter being the claim of the Portland, Railway, Light and Power Company, covering its rights on the Willamette river at Oregon City.

Clackamas county leads in the number of horsepower for which claims are filed, having 39,716 horsepower. The only counties in the state in which no claims for power have been filed are Clatsop, Gilliam and Wheeler.

Jackson county is third in the list with 14,496 horsepower, being exceeded by Hood River and Clackamas.

Ashland Loses To Roseburg 25-11

Ashland high school lost to Roseburg at Roseburg Saturday night by a score of 23 to 11. The game was hard fought from whistle to whistle, but the Roseburgers got an early lead and maintained it from start to finish. The Ashlanders were minus their star guard, "Climax" Delsman, and found their guarding system hard to adjust to the larger floor. The long trip north had tired the boys, and lack of an opportunity to accustom themselves to the baskets also counted against them. The score at the end of the first half was 11 to 2 in favor of the Umqua valley team. In the second half the Ashlanders came back strong but were unable to overtake the home team.

Delsman, who had to remain at home because of the shooting of Joe Sander, left this morning for Roseburg and will play tonight. With the advantage gained by the rest over Sunday and opportunity to practice, the Ashland team should stand a better chance of winning tonight, and the returns are anxiously awaited.

Muddy Water Spoils Fishing

A fishing party consisting of Clyde Costello, Harry Hosler, Earl Hosler and "Pope" Nininger motored to Rogue River yesterday, bringing back with them twelve fine steelheads. The water is too high as yet to make good fishing, according to Harry Hosler. A few steelhead were taken in Bear creek yesterday. Fishermen who tried it this morning found the water too muddy. A cold snap would furnish ideal fishing conditions.

Heads Are Safe Near City Hall

The crew of workmen entrusted with the job of tacking the new metal cornice on the city hall have finished their job in a thoroughly satisfactory manner and the park-bound pedestrian may now safely pass alongside the chief of police office without providing himself with a bombproof derby, which was heretofore necessary to protect craniums from pieces of falling cement underneath. The metal cornice was treated to a coat of weatherproof paint of the same color as the cement.

\$2 THE YEAR \$2
Strictly in Advance
Southern Oregon's Big Twice-a-Week newspaper

THE Ashland Tidings
STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

PRINTING

That Attracts

The Tidings has one of the best equipped plants for commercial printing in Southern Oregon, and is prepared to turn out first-class work in the line of

- Dodgers
- Placards
- Circulars
- Envelopes
- Bill Heads
- Letter Heads
- Calling Cards
- Business Cards
- Dance Programs
- Wedding Invitations
- Tags, Tickets, Labels

ASHLAND TIDINGS

Are Analyzing Soils of Valley

(By F. C. Reimer, Southern Oregon Experiment Station.)

During the year 1911 the bureau of soils of the United States Department of Agriculture made an exhaustive soil survey of Jackson county. Every soil type in this county was carefully studied, and all of these types were named and properly classified. The results were published in a bulletin entitled "Soil Survey of the Medford Area, Oregon." This bulletin also contains a large colored map showing the exact location of every type. On this map any farm in the county can be easily located, and the soil type or types which it represents can be readily determined. This bulletin does not, however, give the chemical composition or plant food content of the different soil types. (One of these maps may be seen at the Ashland postoffice.)

The Southern Oregon experiment station, therefore, has collected for analysis typical soil samples from all the leading soil types in this county. The chemical department at the state experiment station at Corvallis is now making an exhaustive chemical study of each type. When this work is completed we will know definitely just how many pounds of lime, potash, phosphorus, nitrogen, magnesium, sulphur and humus there are in an acre of every soil type. This work was started in the summer of 1915 and will be completed by May, 1916. As soon as this work is completed a bulletin will be published giving all the results. A copy of this will be sent to every farmer in southern Oregon, as well as others who may desire it.

Part of the chemical work of these soil types has already been completed, and the lime content of several types has been determined. The lime content of these types is very high. The type containing the smallest amount of lime contains 2.11 per cent, or 73,850 pounds per acre, to a depth of one foot. The type showing the largest amount of lime contains 3.48 per cent, or 121,800 pounds per acre. The average for all the samples so far determined is 2.86 per cent, or at the rate of 100,100 pounds per acre to a depth of one foot.

During the past fifteen years many miscellaneous samples of soils have been sent by farmers from this county to the experiment station at Corvallis for analysis. The average lime content of all these miscellaneous samples is 1.08 per cent, or at the rate of 37,800 pounds per acre to a depth of one foot.

It is very evident from these figures that the lime content of our soils is high. When we consider the fact that an average crop of thirty bushels of wheat, including straw, removes less than ten pounds of lime from an acre, it is evident that our soils contain sufficient lime to last for many years.

During the past four years I have conducted many complete fertilizer experiments on various soils, and with various crops in the Rogue River valley. For example, during the season of 1915 we conducted a total of thirty complete experiments on thirty farms in Jackson county alone. Up to the present time we have not obtained any beneficial effect in any experiment from the use of lime. During the fall of 1916 a complete bulletin will be published giving the results of our fertilizer experiments covering a period of five years.

It is well known by our farmers that some of our soils actually contain an excess of lime. In some of the orchards limited areas can be found which contain such an excess of lime that the foliage of fruit trees turns yellow in midsummer, and often the leaves turn brown and fall off long before autumn.

Price of Glass Goes Up 25 Per Cent

According to William Dickerson, the price of glass has gone up 25 per cent. And the baseball season is coming on, too, with its crop of "busted" windows. The rise in price is attributed to the cutting off of the European supply of some of the materials. But, then, if the spring weather would clear up a little more we won't need windows, anyway. Most of the glass that we get here is made in the east, the sand in this part of the country not being suitable for glass-making.

Charlie Crouch, wife and baby arrived Thursday evening from Roseville, Cal. He has been firing on the Southern Pacific out of Roseville.

Albany, Ore., is to have a chiropractic sanitarium.

Astoria is building a scenic highway to the summit of Coxcomb hill.

Land Office Gives Land Grant Status

The following letter relative to the Oregon-California grant lands was received from the United States Land Office at Roseburg:

"This office is daily in receipt of a number of inquiries relative to the Oregon & California railroad grant lands, asking information as to the status of these lands, their location, character, when they may be entered or purchased, etc.

"This circular is intended to reply to these letters of inquiry and to give out such information relative to these lands as may now be stated.

"A list of these lands by township and range has been prepared for each of the several counties within the Roseburg land district, containing these lands. These lists are intended to give merely an approximate area of such lands in each township, based on the list of lands given in the decree of the federal court.

"This list for any county or counties will be furnished on request.

"This office has no map for distribution, nor does it prepare blue prints, but will furnish township plats showing location of all vacant land and unsold railroad land, at \$1 per township. In ordering township plats, both the range and township number must be given, and remittance should be made by certified check or U. S. postal money order payable to R. R. Turner, receiver. Personal checks may not be received in payment.

"This office is not in a position to give advice as to the character of the land in any locality, and can not attempt to advise any one in this regard.

"As to the disposition of these lands, nothing can be determined until congress shall act in the matter. It is probable that such action will be taken some time within the next six months, and until such action is had no information can be given by this office. We would suggest to parties interested to watch the papers, as whatever action congress may take will be given therein before this office has official information thereon to give out.

"Based on the list of lands given in the decree of the court, the approximate acreage of unsold railroad lands in the several counties of this district, at the time the suit was instituted, was as follows: Lincoln, 1,040; Benton, 27,716; Linn, 14,620; Lane, 300,110; Douglas, 607,360; Coos, 100,620; Curry, 8,400; Josephine, 172,460; Jackson, 444,560; Klamath, 13,440. Total, 1,690,326.

"In addition to the above lands there are other railroad lands in several of the counties named, that at the time the suit was instituted were unsurveyed, and hence not included in the list given in the suit, but coming as well under the decree. The approximate areas of such lands are as follows: Coos, 15,000; Douglas, 65,000; Josephine, 17,000; Curry, 15,000; Jackson, 20,000.

"There is still a certain amount of unsurveyed railroad lands in several of the counties, namely: Curry, Douglas and Josephine. These lands when surveyed will come under whatever plan of disposition congress may provide.

J. M. UPTON, Register.
R. R. TURNER, Receiver."

Much More Wheat Acreage This Year

More wheat will be planted in the valley this year, according to present indications, than any year since before the fruit boom. The completion of the new Ashland mills, the remodeling of the Eagle Point mills and increasing of the capacity of the Medford mills all bespeak a growing attention to the wheat-growing industry. For several seasons prior to last season wheat was raised in the valley chiefly for poultry feed, there being no local market for it.

Have You Seen Stella?

The beautiful \$100,000 painting of "Stella" will be on exhibition for the lovers of art at the Page, Medford, Monday and Tuesday, February 14 and 15, two days only.

This wonderful piece of art was viewed by three million people at the San Francisco fair.

An informative lecture on the work of art will be given by A. McBride, and will prove very interesting to those who have studied canvases and to others as well, who are satisfied at being "shown."

"Stella" will be on exhibition at the Page in conjunction with the regular picture program. Prices remain the same, 5, 10 and 15 cents.

Note: "Stella" will not appear in Ashland.

Ashland Tidings wants ads bring results. tf

Motorcycle Show On February 22nd

February 22, Washington's Birthday, has been selected by the Hendee Manufacturing Company, Springfield, Mass., makers of the famous Indian motorcycles, as Indian Day.

The popularity of Indian Day—now celebrating its third year—has established it as a permanent and annual feature in the motorcycle world and it is observed throughout the United States, marking the opening of the motorcycle season.

Jordan Electric Company, the local Indian representatives, will observe Indian Day at their showroom with a complete display of 1916 models and the new Indian Powerplus motor, which was the big sensational attraction at both the New York and Chicago shows. Another feature of Indian Day display will be the new lightweight model, the Indian Featherweight. There will be an interesting and attractive display of the new Indian bicycles also. The showrooms will be opened all day and evening, and a cordial invitation is extended to all motorcycle enthusiasts and the public to enjoy Indian hospitality as well as to inspect the Indian 1916 line.

Not in years has the Hendee Manufacturing Company, pioneers in all advanced motorcycle improvements, presented to the motorcycle world so important an achievement as the Powerplus motor. The Powerplus motor is all that the name implies and already from coast to coast its speed, cleanliness, quietness and endurance have proven it to be a mechanical marvel. Riders all over the country have shown an unusual interest in the Powerplus motor, and undoubtedly this motor will be the center of attraction during Indian Day celebration on February 22.

Stella Will Not Smile on Ashland

"Stella" will not be seen in Ashland. "Have you seen Stella?" If you went to the San Francisco exposition you in all probability saw Stella. Everybody did. However, although Stella may be all right in San Francisco, Manager Bergner of the Vining Theatre decided that Stella was not for Ashland, and so she passes through without even being unwrapped.

"Stella" is a picture, claimed to be one of the world's greatest. However, it was not shown in the Palace of Arts at the great exposition, as all real pieces of art should have been, but was exhibited on the Zone for 10 cents a look. The entrance to the attraction was between a hot-dog and beer stand and an attraction enthusiastically announced as the greatest collection of diving girls on earth. The picture is exhibited with lighting effects and draperies which give it an effect most realistic, it being questionable whether the lighting effects or the art of the picture contribute most to its claim of effectiveness. Incidentally Stella was one of the biggest money-making concessions on the Zone.

Perhaps one in two hundred paid their dime because they wished to see what they had heard to be a wonderful piece of art. The other hundred and ninety-nine, however, many of whom probably would not deign to go near the Palace of Arts, wanted to see Stella so that—well, so that they could smile and say, "Have you seen Stella?"

In Portland the question of whether or not Stella is proper enough for the people to see will be left to the city council, the board of moving picture censors being disqualified because the picture is not a moving picture.

Among the Ashlanders who attended the poultry show at Medford Friday were Mark True, Butler Walker, Mr. McFarland and Harvey Ling.

Classified Advertisements

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY.

FOR SALE—Milk route, good cow, and milk bottles. Phone 257-Y or call at 186 Weightman street. 76-2t

WANTED—Second-hand cypress or redwood tank, suitable for wagon. Capacity 200 gallons. 303 North Main, phone 304-J. 1t

FOR SALE—Baby buggy in good condition. Phone 415-J or call 350 B street. 76-3t

WANTED—A tenant for a 10-acre tract close to town, mostly fruit, modern bungalow. The principal object is to have the place properly cared for, and owner will let at a nominal rent to right party. C. B. Lamkin. 76-2t

ALL PARTIES wishing to purchase Superb Everbearing Strawberry plants please notify me by February 22. Rev. J. S. Smith, 464 Scenic Drive. 76-2t