

Ada Blank—Her Career Grew With an Industry

By ANN CONNELL
Register-Guard Society Editor

Retiring from her position as Traffic Employment Interviewer after nearly 37 years' work with the telephone company, in which she hired hundreds of girls, Ada (Mrs. Alfred A.) Blank says:

"With each new phase of the work, as I progressed through the years, it always seemed that THIS was just the thing I'd always wanted to do!"

Actually, she intended to be a teacher, because her father was, and there had been many teachers in her family. She was studying with this in mind when her mother died. That changed her plans, for she was the eldest, although only 18, of eight children at home. "I learned to sew for the little ones, although I'd never done it before; and I canned over 400 quarts of food that summer," she recalls.

She was Ada Westfall, then. Her father, L. D. Westfall, had taught at Spokane College. He became interested in real estate development, and with a partner developed the suburb of Hillyard (named for J. J. Hill), but in a financial panic they lost all their holdings. He went back to teaching, and they were at Tualatin, Ore., when Ada was married to Alfred Blank, whom she had known in school. That was in 1916.



MRS. ALFRED A. BLANK
Her 'Summer Job' Lasted Thirty-Seven Years

of the company had doubled. (Where there never had been more than 100 girls employed at the old-style switchboards, Eugene now has between 180 and 200 operators, all handling long-distance calls and information queries. There are 20 information operators.)

New Post

When the work load became too heavy for the chief operators, of whom Eugene has two, Ada's present position was created. The Traffic Employment Interviewer post combines personnel and public relations, she explains. In this capacity she has met the girl applicants, hired the girls for the traffic department (which in this instance means traffic of messages over the wires) and has supervised disability cases. She has given many talks to high school senior classes on Career Day programs, explaining personnel etiquette.

"I never knew, when I left the house in the morning, where my day might take me during the work," says Ada Blank. "It could be to the home of any worker who is ill."

Both Ada and her husband, Al, have had brushes with illness and surgery in recent years, but both have recovered and look forward to retirement together. Al retired this spring. They plan to do a little traveling, which is their shared hobby and enthusiasm. Ada is a member and past president of Eugene Quota Club; she also has been a member of Pacific Northwest Personnel Management, for the past six years.

Friday was Ada's last working day, as July is her vacation month and her retirement date is August 1.

A retirement party in her honor was held Friday afternoon in the Operators' Lounge at the offices of Pacific Northwest Bell.

Friends Fete Brewsters At Reception

A reception in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Eugene recently honored Mr. and Mrs. Kim Brewster (Carol A. Lewis), who were married earlier in the LDS Temple at Salt Lake City, Utah. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Stratford (Marjorie) Lewis of Eugene and Lawrence Lewis of Ashland, the bridegroom the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brewster of Portland.

Mrs. Brewster wore at the reception her bridal gown of Chantilly lace, made with scalloped neckline and skirt with back ruffles from waist to hem. A crown of seed pearls held her veil. She carried a bouquet with a white orchid at center.

Miss Janice Brewster was her sister's maid of honor and bridesmaids were Miss Belva Richens and Miss Kathy Balvey of Portland. Diane Lewis was her sister's junior bridesmaid. The honor attendant wore purple satin, the others were in pink. All carried lavender and pink flowers.

Best man was Larry Hardin.

Serving at the reception were Mrs. Dennis Stratford, Mrs. Loeven (Wilda) Mickelson and Mrs. William Allen, Mrs. J. H. Stratford, Mrs. O. P. Barney, Mrs. Jack Bevans and Miss June Pherson served punch. At the guest book were Miss Deanna Hickman and Miss Virginia Johnson.

Party Line Cottage in Carmel

It's been a busy round for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nombal who this weekend will leave their Eugene home, after 40 years residence here. The popular couple have been entertained luncheons, dinners, teas and coffees, which would average more than one a day for a month, and which took them as far as Salem and to surrounding nearby towns.

It will be a month before their cottage in the new development for elderly folk at Carmel will be ready for them, and intervening time will be spent at Cedarwood Lodge on the McKenzie River.

Their son, Frank, and his family, two daughters and a son, will spend their vacation at the Metolius River, and will return by way of the McKenzie River Highway, picking up the parents and driving their car south. The younger Nombals' home is at Atherton, Calif., an easy drive from Carmel. His work takes him to an office in Palo Alto.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nombals, Mrs. W. C. (Florence) Chadwell, and her family, which includes two sons, live at Corona del Mar, which is near Carmel.

Being near to their family is the one thing which will compensate them, Mrs. Nombals said, for leaving their friends, their home and garden, and Oregon. "We've loved every minute of our life in Eugene," she said.

Hacienda Carmel, where they are going, is a new development in which they purchase their home and it is theirs for later disposal. They will pay a monthly fee for upkeep, and will have the privilege of using its many facilities of pool, golf course, hobby rooms and similar attractions.

Mrs. Lillian Lind, formerly of Portland and now of Eugene, was hostess to members of Eugene Circle of Evangelical Congregational Church of Portland. Smorgasbord luncheon was served beside the swimming pool.

Traveling to Eugene for the afternoon were Mrs. Lydia Peterson, Mrs. Al Hein, Mrs. Helen Bihn, Mrs. Esther Green, Mrs. Pauline Axt, Mrs. George Schreiner, Mrs. Anna Schermer, Mrs. Rosalie Hergert, Mrs. Betty

Howells, Mrs. Freda Green, Mrs. Freda Helzer, Mrs. Ann Koch and special guest, Paul Koch.

It will be a Montana address for Ken and Margaret Emerson, according to a letter received by Dr. and Mrs. Milton V. Wer of Pleasant Hill, parents of Mrs. Emerson.

Ken will be assistant professor of chemistry at Montana State College in Bozeman. He is presently completing studies at California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, where he has had a two-year post-graduate scholarship.

The Emersons and their three sons—Bruce, 5, Brian, 3 and 2—will leave about Aug. 18, their new home, stopping en route to visit relatives in Lake City, Utah. Since 1916 Ken and Margaret are avid fishermen and skiers they are looking forward to living in Montana.

Both the Emersons received their master's degrees at University of Oregon in 1957. Ken received his Ph.D. in 1958 from University of Minnesota.

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COMMENT

by R. L. McGaffey



4th OF JULY

These days much of our lives have been taken over by researchers... and by statisticians. Advertising agencies hire researchers to tell them if people want a product, before the people have even heard of it. Pollsters tell us whom we're going to vote for before we vote. Statistics have become a much part of business the kind of rugged individualist who built so many successful businesses would have a hard time getting job with them today. I wouldn't fit the statistics pattern. Maybe it's a good thing our ancestors didn't pay so much attention to statistics. Historians tell us that no more than a third of the colonists were in favor of the revolution. Just as many were against it, and the rest didn't care one way or the other. If they had run a survey, the whole thing would have been called off. The spirit of '76 would be unknown... and July 4th would be just another day in the month.

McGaffey's EUGENE MEMORIAL CHAPEL 400 E. 13th DI 5-871

'Part-Time' Job

The couple had two children, boy and girl, and young Mrs. Blank's plans did not include "working out," not at all. But one summer, when they had been married 10 years and were living at Oswego, the chief operator of the telephone office there called her and invited, even begged, her to come to work part-time in the office.

"She knew me," Ada says modestly, and she said she liked my voice and manner."

So with that equipment, she went to work—it was to be only

for a summer, and just from 1 to 5 each afternoon. "But here I am," she says.

Move to Eugene

Within five years, she was made chief operator and manager of the office at Oswego. Ten years later, the Oswego office was closed when dial phones came in; it became a community dial office operating out of Portland, and Ada Blank went to work as a relief clerk in the Northern Oregon District

office of the telephone firm in Portland. That was in 1938.

In March, 1941, it had been decided to establish a Southern Oregon District office in Eugene, and Ada was asked if she would transfer with it, as office supervisor. When they determined that her husband, Al, could find employment in Eugene similar to what he was doing, as foreman of a large warehouse, they agreed to sell their Portland home and move here. Their son was married by

this time, their daughter about to be.

So in June of '41, the Blanks moved to Eugene. Their daughter was married in November, and right after the Pearl Harbor incident in December her husband enlisted, so she moved here, too. The son came within two years and the family was reunited in Eugene.

Within the next ten years, Eugene had grown enormously, and in spite of installation of dial phones the working force

Clan Elects New Officers

Descendants of Rowland Chambers and Nahum King gathered in Avery Park at Corvallis for their annual reunion.

Clan officers elected for the year were Paul K. Chambers, president, and Paul K. Chambers Jr., historian, both of Corvallis; Mrs. Gardner King, secretary-treasurer, of Cottage Grove.

More than 60 family members, who came from several Oregon and Washington towns, registered at the picnic. Gary Chambers, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Chambers of Philomath, was the youngest person attending, and James Allen, 83, of Cottage Grove, was the oldest. Persons coming from the farthest away were Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Grimes of Saudi Arabia.

Eugene members of the family include Mr. and Mrs. Lester Read and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Plunkett.

Out-of-state family members at the gathering were Nathan A. King and Nathan A. King Jr., Toppenish, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Fishwood, E. thel A. Holmes and Josephine Holmes, all of Vancouver, Wash.; Mr. Albert Talbot, Raymond, Wash.

Art Classes Set For Youngsters

Registration for children's summer art classes at Maude I. Kerns Art Center will be held Monday, July 2, and will continue on Friday, July 6. Classes will be held regularly on Mondays and Fridays from 9 to 12 a.m., daylight. Three classes in arts and crafts and one in drawing and painting are planned.

Anyone wishing more information may call the center, DI 5-1126, during those hours.



To Take Office

Mrs. Del Carpenter will be installed as worthy matron and Del Carpenter as worthy patron of Junction City Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, in ceremonies Sunday at Junction City Masonic Temple.

Installation Scheduled By Junction City OES

Junction City Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, will install officers Sunday at 3 p.m. standard, 4 p.m. daylight, in the Masonic Hall at Junction City.

Officers to be installed are Mrs. Del Carpenter, worthy matron; Del Carpenter, worthy patron; Mrs. Russell W. Jones, associate matron; G. G. Smith, associate patron; Mrs. Edward Buck, secretary; Mrs. Anton Rasmussen, treasurer; Mrs. Robert McCullough, conductress; Mrs. Iris Woodie, conductress.

Mrs. Helen Woodin, chaplain; Mrs. John Gregory, marshal; Mrs. William Pollard, organist; Mrs. G. G. Smith, warder; L. W. Siegman, sentinel; Mrs. Raymond Lee, Martha; Mrs. Gerald Edward, Electa; Mrs. L. W. Siegman, Ada; Mrs. Herbert Bowers, Ruth and Mrs. Rex Brown, Esther.

Courtesy girls are Mrs. Carey Strome, Mrs. Jerry Brown, Mrs. Karl Bracher and Mrs. Clarence Moe.

Mrs. Carey Strome will be the installing matron; Mrs. Carey Strome, installing patron; Mrs.

Edward Buck, installing marshal; Mrs. Merle Burton, installing chaplain; Mrs. Fred Kingsley, organist; Mrs. Phillip Buck, soloist. Clayton Morris and Larry Brown will present musical selections.

Terry Kay Carpenter will be Bible bearer and Jerrie Brown and Gloria Burton will be in charge of programs.

At the reception following the installation, Mrs. Warren Owings and Mrs. Hans Skow will be in charge of refreshments. Mrs. C. A. Huntington and Mrs. George Mullett will pour. Mrs. William Ling and Mrs. Gregory Stroda will arrange decorations.

Round the Town

EUGENE PROGRESS Club will meet for potluck dinner Sunday at 12:45 p.m. standard, 1:45 p.m. daylight, in the Eugene Water and Electric Bldg. Members are to take table service.

CREDIT WOMEN'S Breakfast Club will meet Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. standard, 7:30 a.m. day-

light, in Stanley's Del Rey Cafe. Reports on the district and national convention will be heard.

WOMEN'S BENEFIT Assn. will meet Monday at 12:30 p.m. standard, 1:30 p.m. daylight, for dessert at the home of Mrs. Ethel Loge, 174 Allen Ave., Springfield.

'Dear Abby'

—Abigail Van Buren—

DEAR ABBY: In this day and age, what should one call his father? Dad, Pop, Papa? Does "Father" denote more respect than Papa? We'd like your opinion.

TWO SONS

DEAR SONS: I have had a clipping for many years. The author is unknown to me. I'd like to share it with you:

"If he is prominent and wealthy and you stand in awe of him, call him 'Father.' If he sits in his shirt sleeves and sweaters at ball games, call him 'Pop.' If he tills the soil and labors in overalls, call him 'Pa.' If he wheels the baby carriage and carries bundles meekly, call him 'Papa,' with the accent on the first syllable. If he belongs to a literary circle and writes cultured papers, call him 'Papa,' with the accent on the last syllable. If, however, he makes a pal of you when you're good, and is too wise to let you pull the wool over his loving eyes when you're not, and if, moreover, you're sure no one else you know has quite so fine a father, you may call him 'Dad.'"

DEAR ABBY: I am married to a nut who insists that I continue bleaching my hair like I did 25 years ago. He says he fell in love with a blonde and he doesn't want to live with a gray-haired old grandmother. Abby, I am sick to death of sitting in beauty parlors. It is expensive and ridiculous. My natural hair color would be a salt and pepper, which would give the "frosted" effect which is fashionable today. But this bull-headed, blonde-loving husband of mine says NO. What can I do?

BLONDIE

DEAR BLONDIE: Get a good blonde wig and watch your husband flip his when he gets the bill.

DEAR ABBY: There is a young married girl in our neighborhood who is very pretty. All she has to do is look at a man and he is under her spell. Well, she has come over here several times right after supper and has asked my husband to go with her to try to hunt up her husband. They are gone two and three hours at a time and I don't like it. (They never seem to find her husband.) I don't want to appear jealous but I'd like her to leave my husband alone. How? Or am I being childish?

JEALOUS

DEAR JEALOUS: Your instincts are probably good. Why invite trouble? Next time your neighbor recruits your husband for a man hunt—join the hunt.

For Abby's booklet, "How To Have A Lovely Wedding," send 50c to ABBY, Box 3365, Beverly Hills, Calif.

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"Art" and his wife and two children live in Eugene at 193 Tandy Turn E.

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