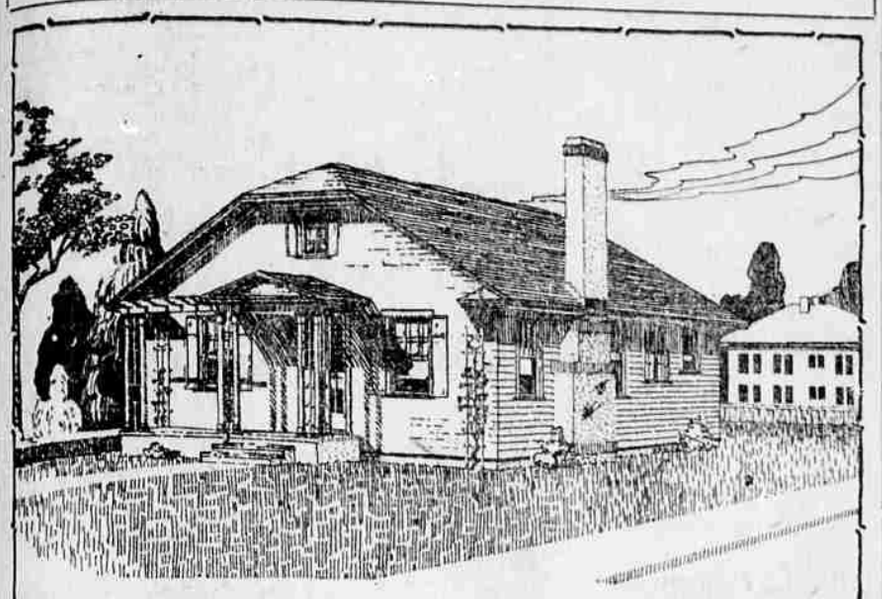
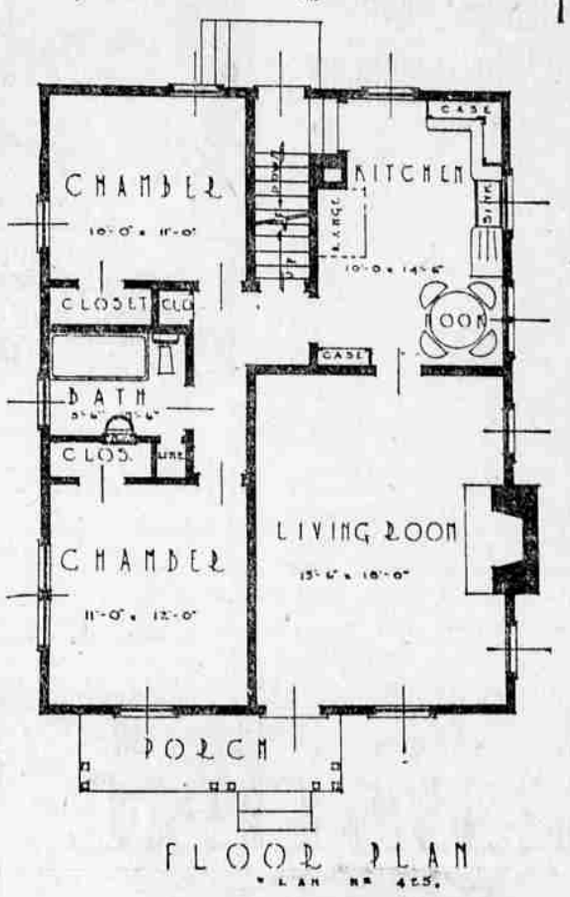
FOUR-ROOM COLONIAL TYPE OF HOME IS POPULAR

Economy and Comfort for the Small Family Is Provided in Prorperly Planned House; Central Hallway Is Feature





Economy and comfort are insured for the small family in the properly planned four-room house. The colonial type lends itself nicely to this class of dwelling, combining simple structural plan with pleasing exterior design and entire absence of waste space. The accompanying plan insures a minimum of effort on the part of the housekeeper together with ample space for all requirements of comfortable living for the average sized family.

The two bedrooms are of ample size and provided with plenty of closet space. The central hallway ties all rooms nicely and if the builder desires a door may be built to the hall from the living room. The door from the linen closet also may open upon the hallway instead of into the bathroom, if the housekeeper prefers this arrangement.

As in nearly all houses of this size the intention is that the living room may be used as a dining room if occasion warrants, space for a dining nook being provided in the kitchen for ordinary family use. The back porch is handy to the kitchen and to the basement and with the installation of modern equipment the housekeeper should find her tasks reduced to an absolute minimum in a house of this general plan.

Ground floor area of this house comprises 884 square feet. Additional space may be had by finishing a room in the upper story. Besides this upper room the attic affords ample space for storage purposes.

Additional information relative to plans for this or other houses may be obtained from Walters-Bushong Lumber company.

LOCAL RECORD FOR CONSTRUCTION HIGH

That Eugene's total amount in building permits for February compares very favorably with the fast-growing communities of southern California is indicated by figures for the past month compiled for a large group of cities in the sunny southland.

The building permit total for February in Eugene was $330,525.

The following are reports from a number of southern California cities:

Santa Monica	$274,350
Santa Ana	237,966
Santa Barabara	224,235
Van Nuys	221,432
San Bernardino	212,988
Inglewood	204,920
Fresno	201,041
Redlands	175,472
Alhambra	174,420
San Fernando	170,840
Burbank	161,530
Ventura	159,108
South Pasadena	131,809
Riverside	130,413
Monrovia	127,250
Hawthorne	122,250
Venice	120,400
Bakersfield	104,357
Compton	100,975

NATIONAL BUILDING OF FEBRUARY LESS

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The volume of building dropped during February to the lowest point in three years, according to statistics compiled by the Associated General Contractors of America. The low volume mark is regarded as the result of severe weather, rather than as an indication of a curtailment of the large program prophesied for 1925. Additional strength for this opinion is found in the fact that the volume of contracts awarded during the winter months of 1924-25 exceeded the figure set by the corresponding period one year before.

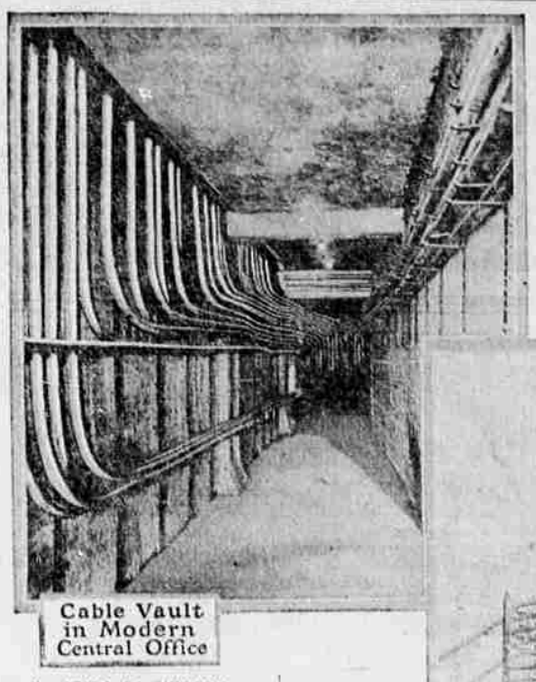
As no significant change is noticeable in material or labor conditions, no radical variation of costs is anticipated during the coming season. Only an unexpected curtailment of the amount of work which the industry assumes will be undertaken during the next six months would produce a marked reduction of costs, it is stated.

The total volume of contracts awarded during November, December and January exceeded by eight per cent the amount awarded during the same three months a year before.

Wages showed no change in February, remaining at a position slightly above that shown for the closing months of 1924.

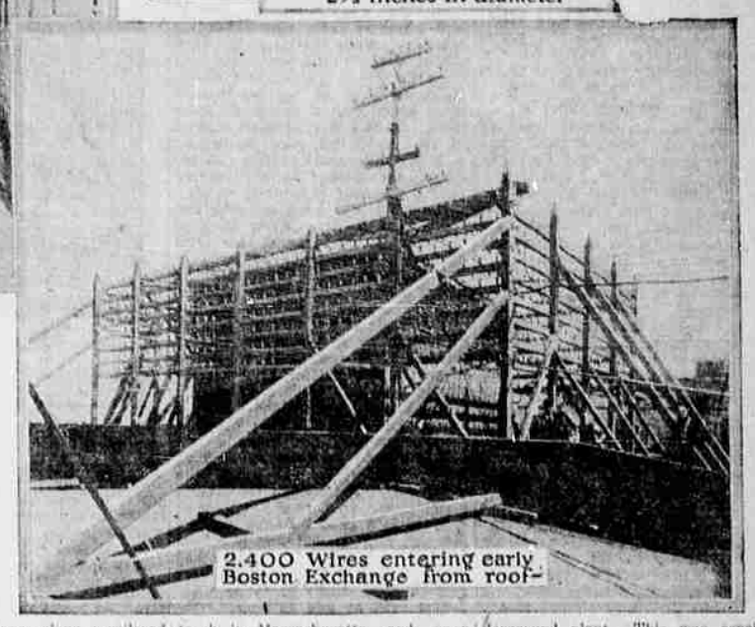
UNDERGROUND CABLE IS BIG ACHIEVEMENT

Traffic Conditions Partially Relieved by One of Telephone Engineers' Greatest Steps Forward; Poles and Wires Are Kept Out of Way, and Plan Proves Success



Cable Vault in Modern Central Office

2,400 Wires in a single cable 2⅝ inches in diameter



2,400 Wires entering early Boston Exchange from roof

By JOHN B. O'BRIEN

TRAFFIC conditions have become one of the chief problems in our larger American cities. In an effort to relieve conditions on the surface, part of the traffic was at first placed on elevated structures and later a part was diverted underground.

Much of the same development has taken place in the telephone industry except that here the process was anticipated by about a quarter of a century. At first the wires were strung on poles and on roof-tops, but the time came when the number of wires had swollen from hundreds to thousands and the overhead method had to be abandoned. Now, in the large commercial centers all the telephone wires are placed in underground cables.

Previous to the development of underground transmission, the use of larger and heavier poles on the lines in our larger cities became necessary as the number of subscribers increased. The use of higher poles resulted in the attachment of more crossarms to the main line until finally pole lines in many cities were carrying as high as a hundred open wires, while in a few cities from 150 to 200 wires were carried. Poles rose from fifty feet in height to sixty, seventy and eighty until finally the highest of all pole lines was built along West street, New York city—every pole pole a towering Norway pine ninety feet in height and carrying thirty crossarms and three hundred wires.

Telephone exchanges were as near the roof as possible for there it was that the wires entered the central office building. Typical of the development at this period was the Galveston (Texas), exchange. An immense cupola was built on the roof to receive the wires from every direction and to distribute them inside. It was about ten feet high by eight feet long and six feet wide and was provided on the outside with crossarms equipped with porcelain insulators to receive the bare, open wires, and on the inside with heavy brass plate, saw-toothed lightning arresters, adjusted as close as possible to heavy copper ground wire, tacked to the same one-by-four pine boards to which the plates were screwed. It is recorded that the cupola leaked and that, in case of rain, it was necessary to place washtubs and tin cans to catch the drippings on the floor below.

As early as 1880, the Bell engineers began to apply themselves to the special study of overhead and underground cables. The use of cables as a substitute for open wires in order to reduce the congestion in thickly populated cities was not, however, the first phase of their development. The principal earliest use of cables for telephone purposes was to carry wires across rivers, either by placing them on bridges or in tunnels or allowing them to rest on the bed of the stream. In 1882 experimental cables were laid underground for a short distance along a railroad track in Massachusetts and soon thereafter the first underground cables for commercial use were laid in Boston and Brooklyn, but subscribers using the cable could not talk satisfactorily further than to the suburbs. In 1887, however, the successful introduction of the twisted pair, underground conductor, revolutionized the underground construction and paved the way for the extensive use of cables.

Up to that time progress, of course, had been slow. For example, in 1882, the total wire mileage underground in New York city, where it naturally was needed most, was about the same as would be contained in a quarter-mile length of modern 1200-pair cable. By 1889, a few cables containing 50 circuits were successfully installed and operated. These cables were two inches in diameter. Since then the technique of making telephone cables has advanced steadily so that many of the cables placed today, although only 2 5-8 inches in diameter, contains as many as 2400 wires.

Every year has seen an increasing amount of underground cable added to the plant of the Bell system. For example, the year 1892 witnessed 20,000 miles of wire added to the underground plant. This was considered a phenomenal gain, but in 1922 just 30 years later, two million miles were added—one hundred times as much as in 1892. Today, more than 66 per cent of the wire in the Bell system is in underground cable, comprising more than 26,000,000 miles.

These underground cables, upon entering the modern central telephone office, pass directly into what is known as the cable vaults. Like huge, sluggish snakes they appear, with gray bodies curving upwards toward the ceiling where they disappear from view. From there they go to the terminal room where the cables end and the wires are fanned out to begin their twistings and combings on their way to the switchboard.

It would be difficult to imagine a modern city with overhead wires; in fact, telephone development as it is known nowadays would be entirely impossible under those conditions. It seemed that cities had about reached the point of telephone saturation some thirty years ago, because of the congestion of overhead wires, but the placing of the wires underground and the development of the cables have increased their capacity hundreds and even thousands of times.

LUMBER PRODUCTS MART NOT SO GOOD

Exceptionally heavy lumber production with unsatisfactory commercial results and progress in reforestation and permanent lumbering that gives promise of an adequate continuing supply of lumber were features of the lumber industry in the past year, according to Wilson Compton, manager of the National Lumber Manufacturers' association.

"Measured by volume of production the lumber industry has just come through one of the greatest years in its history," says a statement by Mr. Compton. "We estimate the entire production of lumber in 1924 at between 36 and 37 billion board feet, as compared with 38 to 40 billion feet last year. Except for 1923, the 1924 lumber output was the largest since 1916.

"As a whole, however, the year was not a satisfactory one to the industry, though it closes in a stronger position than at any other time during the year, with production, shipments and orders virtually balanced. Making allowances for remanufacture at the mills and local deliveries, shipments have exceeded production. Stocks are lower than a year ago. Prices have been stable and relatively low, ranging from $29 to $33 a thousand for softwood, and from $40 to $45 for hardwood, about 40 per cent less than the after-war maximum."

Europeans to Pay Huge Tax Burdens

Since 1913 taxes in both the United States and Great Britain have increased 250 per cent and those in France 300 per cent. During the same period the tax burden or ratio of taxes to national income has increased 80 per cent in the United States, 107 per cent in Great Britain and 25 per cent in France. Today the tax burden in the United States is just half that in Great Britain and about two-thirds of that in France.

These strongly contrasting percentages and relations call for explanation. Tax burdens depend, taxes being equal, on the incomes, or earnings of those who pay them. In Great Britain numerous strikes and continuous heavy unemployment since the war has helped to cut down the national earnings and thereby to increase the tax burden. In France, on the other hand, the increase, in territory and population brought about by territorial rearrangements since the close of the war and also the absence of important unemployment has helped to increase national earnings and thereby to lessen the increase in the tax burden.

One-Fifth Laid to Auto

Practically one-fifth of all fatalities from accidents in 1923 were the result of automobile mishaps, according to the U. S. department of commerce. The total number of fatalities was 74,131, of which 14,411 were auto accidents.

Millions of Plugs

There are millions of plugs in this country today, but they're of the spark plug variety. One Toledo firm made 36,000,000 in 1924.

FAMILY TAX COSTS TOTAL $350 FOR 5

The annual cost of government in the United States for local, state and national purposes is about eight billion dollars, or $70 per capita, according to the taxation committee of the California Real Estate association. This means $350 per year for a family of five and the average income of such a family, says the association, is estimated to be about the family income goes to support the government of the city, the county, the state and the nation.

Tax problems are: Tremendous increase in governmental expenditures; need for finding relief for real estate owners who directly pay more than 75 per cent of all the taxes; and the fact that special taxes were, as soon as collected swallowed up by new functions of government.

It was brought out that national expense is decreasing and that, while state expenses throughout the nation are increasing slightly, city and county expenditures are increasing very rapidly.

Summarizing the situation, Edward P. Doyle, manager of the bureau of information and research for the real estate board of New York city funds:

Tremendous special taxes have been levied which ultimately fall on all our people whether they own real estate or not; yet these have not lessened the burden of the real property owner. New functions of government immediately devour the new levies.

Improvement Noted In Lumber Business

Better business condition in the lumber business of the state are in sight, in the opinion of Dillard A. Elkins, chairman of the state industrial accident commission, who is here today on a short business visit. Mr. Elkins states that the state accident commission handles a large number of cases in the lumbering industry and that some very accurate data on the rise and fall of prosperity in this line are seen in the reports of the state board.

"Recently throughout the state there seemed to be a much better showing" Mr. Elkins said. A meeting of the 20 or more field workers of the state commission will be held at Salem tomorrow and Sunday, Mr. Elkins states. This is an annual meeting.

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