

How the Telephone came to Foreign Lands and Lonely Islands



RICHARD STORRS COE

A gigantic plane tree in Klamath Falls was threatened by a mob of Albanians and a Jap-gang had already trimming the tree to make an aerial cable. The whole community, in and Mohammedan alike, joined in the defense of the tree. Venerated for its long history, it had gathered about it the legends of the Middle Ages. Its destruction would have been a calamity. In their police uniforms, the Albanians and the Japs, with their axes and knives, were ready to cut the tree. At the last moment, however, the local authorities intervened. Quietly and as best they could, they took a solemn official protest and a solemn official prohibition against any further desecration of the tree, which the mob had already guarded for years during periods of desecration.

Illustrates one of the many times when telephone and telegraph construction in remote communities. Even among the mountains of Europe, however, it is generally easier to deal with than with the less civilized native shift and indifference. It is very evident to the eye who constructed a telephone a few years ago in the South Sea Islands.

Lulus Land

Moderns those magic "Lulus Land," a picture of the South Pacific there lies a bleak land against whose cliffs the cold gray waves of the Atlantic beat incessantly. Deep fjords indent its shores, and in winter Arctic gales sweep over the uplands and along the coast with merciless severity. Such is Iceland. Yet it is the home of a progressive and hardy population, who, since the days of the sagas, have made their island a worthy outpost of Scandinavian civilization. The capital, Reykjavik, is a modern city, with paved streets, a medical school, libraries—and telephones.

Telephone Progress

Although in certain cases the introduction of the telephone has been due to the needs of some particular undertaking, there is in many lands a growing appreciation of the value of telephone facilities for the general public. In various countries men are striving for the building up of telephone service along lines similar to those which have been followed in the United States, where the telephone was invented and where it has attained its greatest development.

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In the end the labor problem which confronted the telephone engineers was solved only by the assistance of the local government.



In the South Sea Islands

The Icelandic linemen, riding out in winter across the frozen drifts, sometimes fording icy streams or urging their ponies along the precipitous sides of the fjords, face handicaps that have been overcome only by the utmost hardihood and resolution. But in that sub-Arctic country it is all in the day's work.

The Country of the Fjords

If one were to search the world over he could hardly find a more striking contrast than that between the coral isles of the South Seas and another island in which also telephone construction has been carried out in the face of difficulties. Many thousands of miles from the blue lagoons, the palms and the sparkling waters of the South Pacific there lies a bleak land against whose cliffs the cold gray waves of the Atlantic beat incessantly. Deep fjords indent its shores, and in winter Arctic gales sweep over the uplands and along the coast with merciless severity. Such is Iceland. Yet it is the home of a progressive and hardy population, who, since the days of the sagas, have made their island a worthy outpost of Scandinavian civilization. The capital, Reykjavik, is a modern city, with paved streets, a medical school, libraries—and telephones.

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In northern Sweden also the telephone is pushing on, even into the Arctic Circle. Not long ago the Swedish telephone authorities undertook to extend their wires far up toward the northern end of the Scandinavian peninsula for the transmission of "meteorological bulletins and information of snow conditions" to the wandering tribes of Lapps. These hardy nomads—short of stature, broad of face—depend for a living upon the herds of half-wild reindeer which they drive south in the autumn, returning north again when winter has broken and the melting snow lays bare the scanty pasturage of the Arctic uplands.

The Land of the Lamas

Recent advances of the telephone into new territory are by no means confined to Scandinavia and the South Sea Islands. The mountainous wilds of Tibet in the depths of central Asia have also been penetrated by a wire line, and the ubiquitous telephone has finally reached even the Forbidden City of Lhasa. For a hundred and forty-four miles this line was pushed forward with incredible labor over the roughest kind of country. The unskilled work was done by Tibetan peasants, who took the place of the yaks as beasts of burden on

In the Land of the Lamas

trails where even these great ox-like creatures found the going hard. Over the desolate heights, along roads that were merely the roughest of tracks, these stalwart Asiatic villagers hauled the poles, a family of six often forming the "team" for a single pole. The line to Lhasa is presumably to serve as a permanent communication system. Yet in various quarters of the globe telephone service has been established in the face of formidable obstacles to meet a temporary or at any rate a highly specialized need. Of this character was the telephone line pushed out across the sands of

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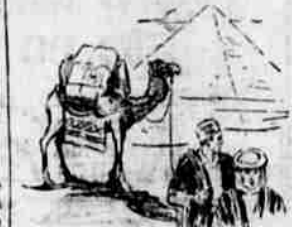
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Egypt to the tomb of Tut-ankh-Amon.

Burning Sands and Dripping Jungles

Under the broiling sun of Africa a platoon of Egyptian struggled up a precipitous hill, scrambling, straining, pushing, heaving and hauling in the scalding heat, they finally reached the summit, dragging with them the pole-line equipment for the construction of this desert telephone circuit. The Valley of Kings, where lies the famous burial vault, is not in by a steep hill. This, as well as the treacherous Nile had to be spanned by the telephone line from the tomb to Luxor. This line was not built for public use, however, but



In the Land of the Pharaohs

was designed solely to keep the archaeological explorers at the tomb in constant communication with Luxor and thus speed to the outside world news of the successive discoveries in the magnificent sepulcher of the Egyptian king.

The blistering heat of Egypt, in which this telephone construction was carried out, is at least a dry heat. Elsewhere telephone line-gangs have had to hew their way through dripping jungles, sweating in the humid atmosphere of equatorial islands.

On the rain-soaked tropical island of Borneo, lying only a few degrees north of the Equator, is a seven-mile telephone cable connecting the oil fields with the coast. These oil fields are at Lutong in the "Raj" (or principality) of Sarawak. From this remote spot communication has been established by telephone with the port of Miri—something of a feat, considering the climatic conditions.

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Leaving for the North—Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Epperson and son George have left for Portland, where they will spend Thanksgiving holidays with friends and relatives.

To Return After Holidays—Dr. and Mrs. B. J. Rea, who have enjoyed a week's trip in the south, where they attended the Stanford-California game, are expected to return to Klamath Falls this week-end.

In from Chiloquin—H. C. Spink of Chiloquin is included in the out of town visitors in the city this week-end. Spink is justice of the peace of Wood River.

Davis on Business—H. F. Davis, of the Davis and Harlan Lumber company, is included in the business visitors in the city this week.

"Doc" Dawley Visits—"Doc" W. W. Dawley, former resident of Klamath Falls, while salesman with the Shell Oil company, was a visitor in the city yesterday from Dunsmuir, where he is now manager of the Shell plant.

Langell Valley Visitor—Among the out of town visitors to spend the early part of the week in Klamath Falls looking into business affairs was Bill Campbell of Langell valley.

Visit in Chiloquin—E. M. Bubb and Marion Hauks were business visitors in Chiloquin Tuesday.

To Visit With Sister—Miss Rena Hughes of Lakewick arrived in the city recently to spend the Thanksgiving holidays with her sister, Mrs. Bertha Vernon.

Dorris Visitors—Mr. and Mrs. Will Hagelstein of Dorris, where Hagelstein serves as cashier of the First National Bank were recent visitors in the city from their home in California. While in Klamath Falls they also enjoyed a visit with John Hagelstein and son John of Algoma.



Call 320-J for Santa Claus

Kind Friend:

We extend to you and your friends a cordial invitation to attend our Christmas Opening, November 28, 1925, between 2:30 and 5:00 p. m.

A useful little gift will be presented to each visitor.

This day is set aside so that our customers and the general public may come in and look over our wonderfully priced merchandise and prepare for Christmas buying.

There is no store in town so well adapted to supply you with gifts for every one you want to remember.

All gifts if desired, packed ready for mail or express and delivered to the post office or express company at such a time as you specify.

Glover's Jewelry Store

Courtesy, Quality and Service

Briefs

at Dinner—Mr. and Mrs. Whitman have invited guests to enjoy a dinner with them at the Shippington district. They will enjoy the dinner. Mrs. Albert Kirkwood, Mrs. E. L. Cramblitt and Mrs. W. E. Folsom were the hosts.

Shrine Dance Friday

Coming second day to Thanksgiving in events of the week is the Shrine dance to be given on Friday evening in the White Pelican hotel with members of the Crater Lake Shrine club as hosts to scores of friends whom they have bidden to the affair. It is the initial dance of the season for the organization.

Glasson Improves

N. C. Glasson of Mills Addition, who submitted to a minor operation the early part of the week is highly improved, according to friends.

In from Midland

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Folsom, well known residents of the Midland district were in the city yesterday to shop and visit with friends.

Dinner At Ranch

Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Brown and Mr. and Mrs. James Grimes are entertaining with an interesting Thanksgiving dinner this afternoon on the Brown-Grimes ranch on Williamson river. Their guests will include Mr. and Mrs. Henry Grimes, Miss Mariah Grimes, Miss Mary Walker, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Sanders and daughter, Betty Jack.

Chiloquin Visitor

Arthur Jackson is a visitor in the city from his home in Chiloquin.

Odessa Visitor Yesterday

Mrs. H. E. Hansberry of Odessa is included in the many out of town visitors and shoppers in the city yesterday.

Merrill Guest In City

Mrs. L. E. Barris of the Merrill district is included in the city's visitors yesterday shopping in preparation for the holidays.

Miss Kester Ill

Miss Ramona Kester of the Olene district submitted to a major operation yesterday for the removal of her appendix. The operation was performed in the Klamath Valley hospital, where Miss Kester is now resting easily.

Rowe Improves

Grant Rowe, 823 Pine street, who has been confined to his home for several days with a bronchial cold, is much improved, according to members of his family yesterday.

At the Empire Hotel

A party of Oakridge, Oregon, residents, who have arrived in the city to test the veracity of the hunting tales of Klamath county, are among the guests stopping this week at the Empire hotel. Those in the party include P. A. Stellmacher, Charles Bilis, Ed Clark and H. O. Cain.

Hildebrand Visitor

Jack Horton of Hildebrand is among the recent visitors in the city this week.



Rev. D. Willia Caffray Evangelist

REVIVAL SERVICES

at the Methodist Church

10th and High Sts.

Beginning Friday Evening, November 27, 7:30 p. m.



Miss Clara Christensen Singer

Every Evening Come Everybody