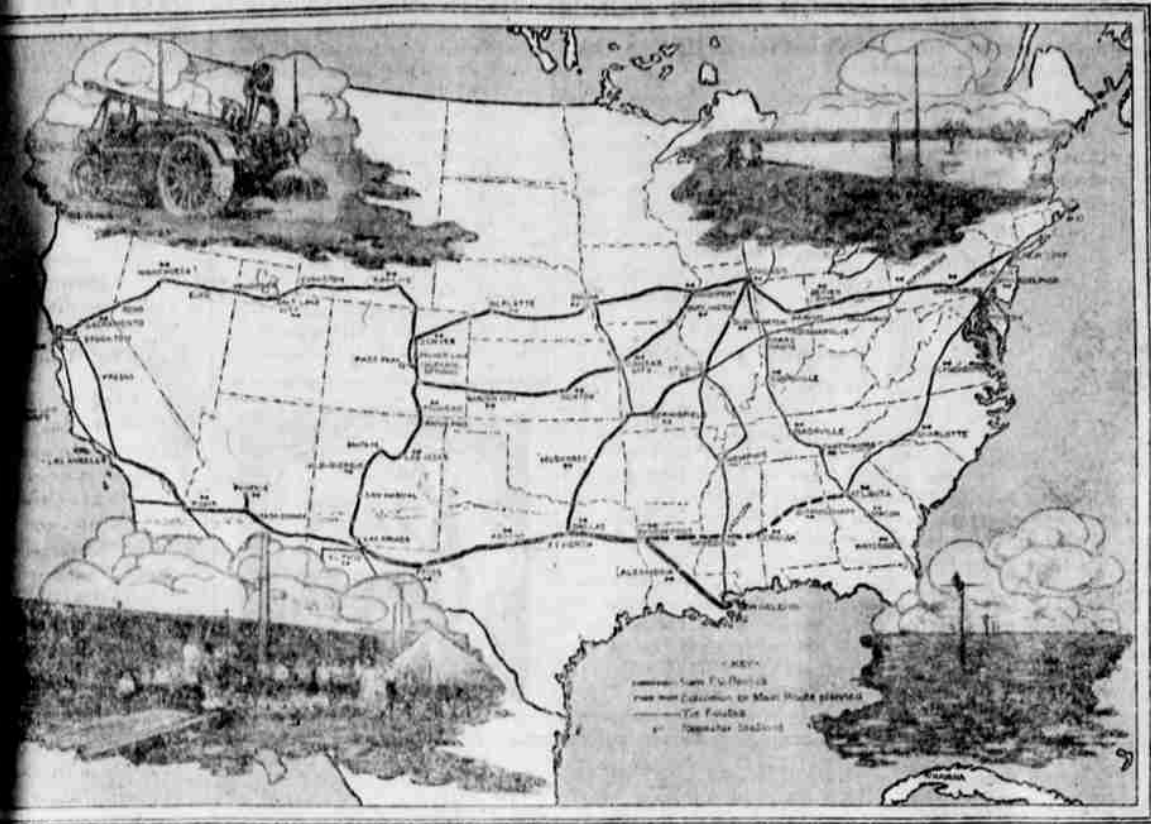


New Telephone Line From Dallas to El Paso Gives Second Speech Highway for Transcontinental Service



By JOHN B. O'BRIEN

TEN years ago the first transcontinental telephone line reached out across the land and brought the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts in conversational distance, ending west of Chicago via Omaha, Denver and Salt Lake City and terminating at San Francisco. It was thought it would be some years to come, but within seven years, a second transcontinental line had been projected and started. The first section of this route to be established was that between Paso and Los Angeles. At the time facilities were provided extending these circuits from Paso to Denver via Albuquerque from Denver to the east, either Kansas City and St. Louis or the original transcontinental line via Omaha and Chicago.

An Additional Security

The new route possesses the advantage of being widely separated from the original route and is, accordingly, an additional security against hazards. Not only do these and west trunk lines provide independent routes for the speech of the nation, but they are joined together by north and south lines at certain points, making a sort of gridiron of lines for the nation. There is such a

connecting line between Los Angeles and San Francisco, another from El Paso to Denver via Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Vegas and Trinidad; a third from Dallas to Kansas City and Omaha; another from New Orleans to Memphis, St. Louis and Chicago, and finally the line from Atlanta to Washington and New York. With such a network it will be difficult to isolate any section of the country telephonically, for, in the event that a storm makes it necessary to divert traffic it can be routed around such storm damage as might occur at any point in the network.

The distance from the Louisiana-Texas state line to Dallas is 186 miles, and from Dallas to El Paso 555 miles, making a total of 741 miles. The new telephone cable line between New York and Chicago is 2,411 miles in length, only 70 miles longer than this group of four transcontinental wires all in Texas alone. These wires, if stretched out end to end, would more than span the distance from New York to San Francisco. They contain nearly 1,500,000 pounds of copper and provide in part for a number of very long circuits. These include a Chicago-Los Angeles circuit routed generally via St. Louis, Memphis, Dallas, El Paso and Phoenix; a Dallas-El Paso circuit and a Dallas-Los Angeles circuit. Telephone service may be operated simultaneously with the telephone service on these same wires. Telephone repair stations have been installed at regular intervals.

A Difficult Task

It was no easy task, the completion of this telephone line across Texas. Part of the country through which the line passes is hilly and very rocky and part of it is just loose, dry sand which is blown into new hills by every wind. In some places the sand was so loose and so deep that it took eight horses to haul 12 twenty-foot poles. At times

the wagons would sink in the sand up to the axles. In spite of the hardships, however, due to the country and the climate, the task was completed within schedule time. Two construction gangs, one working west and the other working east, set poles, added cross-arms and strung wire as they went. The poles were of crooked pine, twenty feet long and spaced thirty-six to the mile. In the rock and hard soil holes were drilled by an air drill, which was operated from a portable compressor unit mounted on a truck.

In this manner two men could drill 120 holes per day in solid rock and 250 holes in the hard soil. The holes in solid rock were drilled three feet deep and then dynamited. Those in the hard soil were drilled fully four feet and a stick or so of dynamite did the rest. In shooting the dirt holes, care had to be taken not to put in too great a charge of explosive, for if the soil was broken too fine and lifted too high in the air the wind would blow it away and there would be nothing left for tamping back around the pole.

Rattlesnakes Interfere

If there are any rattlesnakes left in the state of Texas, telephone men will be very much surprised. Rattlesnakes along the route were very numerous and during the hot days of July and August they were very much feared, as at that time they are blind and give little, if any, warning, striking at every sound. The men comprising these construction gangs had some very exciting experiences with rattlesnakes and it is estimated that over 500 of the dangerous pests were killed, ranging in length from one to six feet.

Camp Trains Used

Because the country traversed by the line is, in part, so sparsely settled that there was no possibility of securing hotel or boarding-house

accommodations for the members of the gangs, camp trains were secured from the Texas and Pacific Railway Company and were outfitted especially for this job. Each train comprised three bunk cars furnished for a total of forty-eight men, a kitchen car, a water car, a dining car, a tool car and a material car. The kitchen, dining and bunk cars were well screened. A portable bath-house with shower arrangement was also fitted up so that when it was connected by hose to the tank on the water car it afforded a pleasant means of refreshment following a hard day under a broiling sun, with the thermometer usually around a hundred in the shade.

The trains were easily moved from one siding to another and were always within six miles at the outside of the particular job where the construction gang was at work. The kitchen car was equipped with another hose, also connected with the water tank, and gravity did the rest, so that the men who were detailed to the "kitchen police" were saved many a step. The water was furnished by the railroad company as needed, while groceries and other supplies were obtained in wholesale lots from the various towns along the line.

To the telephone-using public there is a special significance in the building of this new transcontinental route. It affords an important, additional link in the long distance facilities which the Bell System is constantly building to meet the demands of its nation-wide field, and it also provides another "line of defense" against the unruly forces of Nature that sometimes do damage to even the best telephone lines. This new line lies below the steel belt and will relieve considerably the congestion of traffic on the transcontinental circuits that have been previously established.

Evidence Against Three in Fake Gold Mine Deal



Photo shows evidence with which Cleveland police expect to convict three men who allegedly attempted to swindle William F. Hennessy, president of a realty company, out of \$25,000 in fake gold mine deal. Gold nuggets, gold bearing quartz, printers' ink and type used to simulate postmarks are in the picture.

Ostrich and Partridge Feathers Trim Evening Wraps

These Evening Wraps Contrast in Silhouettes, but Match in Trimming.

By Annette Bradshaw.

LAST season the newest thing in evening wraps was the model cut exactly like a tailored coat, but made of such gorgeous material that one could never confuse it with the coat for day wear.

This season favor is divided between the tailored evening coat and the wrap which flares out becomingly as it nears the ankles. The modish trimming for either is ostrich, and the effectiveness of this addition can be seen in the two accompanying sketches.

The cape was worn recently by a smart young movie actress. It is made of bright green velvet, as soft as the finest satin. The model is shaped so that it falls closely the lines of the shoulders and then flares decidedly in the lower portion. Matching green ostrich with long fronds makes the collar.

The coat is made of tulle cloth in gun metal tint and is modeled on strictly tailored lines. The collar and sleeves are untrimmed and deep hand of ostrich which trims the lower part of the coat is black. This particular model is lined with coral velvet.

Royal blue velvet is much in the mode for the new Fall season. A stunning tailored evening coat of this material is trimmed with a deep hem band of ostrich in a brilliant green shade, of just the color value to contrast effectively with blue of the velvet.

Partridge feathers also make a smart trimming for the tailored day coat. These contrast effectively with the tints used in tweed and all woven cloth for the day time ensemble.



Annette Bradshaw.

Fifty-Acre College Has Only Two Students



Whether a college for "training of Christian leaders" with an enrollment of only two students fills requirements of the bequest under which it was founded in 1883, is the basis of a suit being fought out at Omaha, Neb. Heirs of estate of late Henry T. Clarke want deed to land occupied by Christian Workers' college at Bellevue revoked, claiming that institution has ceased to be a college. The students, Thelma Crawford and Lucille Krebs, and the directors deny. More students are expected next term, it is explained. One of the buildings on the 50 acre campus is shown.

Becomes British Viceroy of India



Edward Frederick Lindley Wood (above), named by King George V to highest appointive post in British empire, viceroy of India, is minister of agriculture in the Baldwin cabinet, and only surviving son of Lord Halifax. He succeeds Earl Reading.

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