

The Harrodsburg Herald

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D. M. HUTTON, Editor and Owner

MISS NEVA WILLIAMS, Associate Editor

JACK G. DURHAM, News and Advertising

MISS BIRDIE LINNEY, Bookkeeper

MISS JANE BIRD HUTTON, Assistant Manager

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Look At The Record

(Editor Warren Fisher)

Surely the memory of none of us is so short that we have forgotten the heart-breaking anxiety that beset every home owner, every farmer, every business man in the closing days of 1932. Surely the frantic fear that touched all of us in the dying days of the Hoover administration is not already forgotten.

Frantic farmers and home owners could not pay their mortgage interest—sometimes 8 or even 12 per cent. Banks were staggering under the weight of "frozen loans, loaded with unsaleable real estate, without ready cash and failing at the rate of 100 a month. Business, unable to get credit, piled up 25,000 bankruptcies in 1932. Farms representing the labor of a life-time went under the hammer as mortgages were foreclosed. Fear, desperation, deep despair, beset an entire nation.

And then Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated.

He had said in his acceptance speech that he would "take away the spectre of too high interest rates; save homes for thousands of self-repecting families and drive out the spectre of insecurity in our midst." One of the President's first acts was to fulfill his campaign pledge.

The Home Owners' Loan Corporation, created in June, 1933, gave distress home owners a chance to keep their homes by refinancing loans at 5 per cent interest, with principal to be repaid in small monthly installments. Distressed banks and mortgage companies were thus given a chance to exchange their defaulted mortgages for government-guaranteed bonds. Similar emergency help was given farmers, further relieving the banks and mortgage companies. Schools were kept open, other public services functioned through the immediate payment by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation of 225 millions in back taxes.

Workmen, contractors and merchants benefitted through advances of 75 millions by the same agency for home repair. Farmers saved more than 20 millions in interest charges on loans refinanced by the Farm Credit Administration. The savings of 50 million people, invested in real estate by banks, insurance and loan companies, were protected through the exchange of frozen mortgages for government-guaranteed bonds. Fear was banished; hope returned; business began to advance and unemployment to diminish. The President, by quick action, by sound and far-sighted policies had in a few months been able to renew the hope of a panic stricken country and rescue us from the economic slough of despond that threatened to engulf the nation.

Who is so foolish as to believe that the man who did this cannot continue to lead us to complete recovery—to a prosperity that will be the more genuine and lasting, because it will be shared by all?

Astounding Ruling Made By

The Public Service Commission

Last Saturday we were amazed at the information furnished us by the District Manager of the Telephone Company. We had just congratulated the gentleman for his company's response to a growing demand for a reduction in rates to a point where many now feel they have to give up their telephones. Many now feel they have to give up their telephones. The service were the rates lower, would also be enabled to have service. Imagine our surprise when we found the lowering was, in fact, a perpendicular raise.

He pointed out that his company did not resist the lowering of rates but accepted the ruling of the Commission and that they hoped the small toll fees would make up the loss sustained in lower rentals. We made it plain that it was our opinion the telephone users would resent the ruling and ask for a review of the case. Some will, no doubt, conclude the service is too restricted and discontinue their telephones. Some feel that the reduction in rates to a point where many now feel they have to give up. That the company to adopt the all toll service would do well to offer free rental and increase the number of users to a point where they could make the big money expected.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, City and County officials, it was agreed to join other cities in opposing the change. To urge the Public Service Commission to revoke its order for that section of the ruling permitting the Telephone Company to charge toll on intra-county station exchanges. The fight is now on!

We want to make the prediction that just as soon as the cities get organized well in the opposition to this unreasonable ruling of the Commission, selfish persons will begin to bawl "you are going to take the telephone out of my hand." They will disregard the fact that this act is going to tear the telephone out of hundreds of hands. In one of our struggles here several years ago this selfish appeal was put up.

There is one route to take if this one fails and it would be to abolish the Commission and turn the companies back to the cities where they were chartered.

We feel that if this case is opened up in the Commission the Telephone Company will find it a little more difficult to prove its point than before.

The Telephone Company Should

Study the History of the Railways

Many are amazed at the obtuseness of those who are directing the affairs of the Telephone Company at this time. They point to the once arrogance of the railway officials and employees; of how they disregard the rights of the public and their pleas for fair play; of how sentiment grew against the railways to such an extent that even in the courts of justice they could not find justice awarded to them—the railroad was always considered wrong.

Then with the advent of the passenger bus and the truck, the public found it had an instrument with which it could show its contempt and independence of the railroad. This new ally of the public proved a very alarming thing for the railways. They stood out against the new condition for a period before coming to themselves. Then they repented of their arrogance, became polite public servants, reduced fares and have now regained a large amount of their former patronage. To do this it took an upheaval that landed into Limbo, the stupid officials that had gotten the railroad into the embarrassing mess in which they were found. Other and keener minds man their jobs today.

It is a serious matter to accuse the ones who are directing the Telephone Company's affairs of doing a stupid thing but it seems to be so. The stockholders will sooner or later discover whether they are drifting and there will be another upheaval.

Science is making such strides it is not vain to imagine a universal vehicle for transmitting and receiving speech without a central station—individual to individual if you please. This is possible now over a limited radius. While such equipment is rather cumbersome for the individual to carry today it may be a vest pocket affair tomorrow.

Such situations as exist today between the Telephone officials and the Kentucky public may cause the hastening of the day of individual to individual communication and a renewal of Home Telephone Exchanges again installed.

Sometimes We Doubt That

There Are Watchmen on the Wall

Sometimes when we see wicked places prosper in our community and apparently no watchmen on the wall, we wonder what good it is doing to erect costly churches and maintain organizations that are unwilling to do the work which is of right theirs to do.

Just last week a person sought license to open another place here to sell intoxicants. He was barred but not by the vigilance of the churches. We wish they could have had the credit, but they are not entitled to it.

After writing the above we chanced to see a refreshing article about Dr. George W. Truett, president of the Baptist World Alliance. His church has a membership of 7,500. He was in Louisville last week and spoke twice in the National Preaching Mission. He made this interesting report about his trip abroad:

"We returned from this missionary visit profoundly reassured as to the conquering vitality of the Christian Gospel. We saw and heard and felt with our own eyes and ears and hearts many evidences of the conquering power of the Gospel."

It may be there is Gospel heaven now working in Mercer county that will work to a point where our churches will have a greater boldness to approve of wrongs.

LETTERS from Our Readers

Editor Herald:

I am not only concerned as a telephone subscriber, but as a city official, in the recent action of the Public Service Commission in the ruling it made in the telephone matter. I have made some investigations and present some figures which I believe to be right. I will first present the possible number for toll calls:

Exchange at Harrodsburg has 474

Exchange at Cornishville has 81

Exchange at Salvisa has 197

Exchange at Duncan (People's Ex-

change, privately owned), has 146

subscribers.

Exchange at Burgin has 216

subscribers. Not in fight for toll for one year.

If in Harrodsburg exchange, the

474 subscribers make an average in

calls of 200 per day, which we can

prove exists at the present time, it

would amount to \$20 per day or \$7,

300 per year. If the Telephone Com-

pany should give Harrodsburg a cut

of 50¢ on each phone in our ex-

change it would amount to only \$2,

\$844. This does not look like a saving

to our citizens of this city. It looks

like a money making proposition

to its stockholders. In plain

words a citizen cost I subtract \$2,

from \$7,300 which would show a

profit to the telephone company if

the mission proves the proposed

rate of \$4.456 this does not look like

a reduction in rates. However, my

bit of is that it will run more than

200, but I am making a low estimate

to be safe. This is based only on toll

for county exchanges, Harrodsburg

to enter exchanges in our county.

The Cornishville exchange has at

present 81 subscribers making app-

roximately 125 calls to Harrods-

burg, Duncan and Salvisa. This

would amount to \$12.50 per day or

\$3,912 for a period of 313 days, tak-

ing out 52 Sundays. If they should

give this exchange a reduction of 50¢

on each phone listed it would amount

to \$486.00, or a profit to the tele-

phone company of \$486 from \$3,912,

showing a profit of \$3,426. Please

note and you will stop and check

why so many calls come from a

small exchange. This exchange is lo-

cated 10 miles from Harrodsburg,

six miles from Duncan and 10 miles

from Salvisa, all rural country farm-

ers and stock raising country. You

will note Duncan and Cornishville

are located in the west end of our

county and are not heavily popula-

ted. So they use phones at distance

for convenience.

The Salvisa exchange has 197 sub-

scribers making approximately 180

calls per day to adjoining exchanges.

This would amount to \$6,570. If you

should give them a reduction of 50¢

on each phone in Salvisa exchange

it would amount to \$1,182. Take 1,

\$182.00 from \$6,570.00, it would show

\$5,388 profit at present. Please note

this exchange is 10 miles from Har-

rodsburg, but does most of its calls

through west section of county, ap-

proximately 76 calls per day into

Harrodsburg exchange.

The People's exchange, Duncan,

has at present 146 subscribers. This

exchange is privately owned by local

interests in that section of the coun-

try. This exchange will make approxi-

mately 80 calls per day through

other exchanges. Equivalent to \$8.00

per day or for 313 working days, \$2,

504. 146 phones at 50¢ reduction per

The Herald.

Gladys Patterson.

PIE SUPPER

There will be a Box Supper held at

Martin School Friday, Oct. 23, at

5:30 p.m.

Katherine Hepburn in "Mary of

Scotland."

Fox News.

Call and pay your subscription to

The Herald.

Joe's Shoe Shop

POPLAR STREET

Come to our store and receive autographed

Photo of Horace Heidt

Absolutely FREE!!

MERCER RADIO SHOP

104 E. Poplar St.

Phone 12

month would be \$876 per year or take

\$876 from \$2,504 would show a profit

of \$1,628 for telephone company. Ar-

rangements would have to be made

for this exchange.

Harrodsburg 474

Cornishville 81

Salvisa 197

Peoples Exchange (Duncan) 146

Total 898

Burgin Out 752

Harrodsburg 474

Cornishville 81

Salvisa 197

Phones @ .50 reduction per year

\$6

Reduction in three exchanges

\$4,512

A profit on Harrodsburg of

\$4,456

A profit on Salvisa of

5,388

A profit on Cornishville of

3,426

Profit on only 3 exchanges

\$14,270

I am leaving out Burgin and Dun-

can. I am basing this on a 50¢ re-

duction when it will not be this av-

erage 50¢ on business and 25¢ on res-

idence.

Respectfully,

Thomas Squifflett.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Andrew's Catholic church, Har-

rodsburg, Ky.

Holy Mass Sunday 9 a.m.

St. Nicholas Catholic church, Rose-

Hill, Ky.

Holy Mass Sunday 7:30 a.m.

REV. CLARENCE MYERS,

Pastor.