

Renders Decision in Local Telephone Controversy

A certified copy of order of the Nebraska State Railway Commission in re-Formal Complaint No. 360, Lewis H. Blackledge, et al vs Farmers' Independent Telephone Company of Red Cloud and Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Company, and received here the first of the week, covers some seventeen pages of type written copy.

Prior to the order, itself, which follows the official document states:

"The Commission is of the opinion that it lacks power to order a physical consolidation of the properties. It would require comparatively little material and labor to make the two plants one, as the two exchanges are less than five hundred feet apart.

"It is obvious that duplication of telephone utilities in a limited field, such as we find here, is not desirable from any standpoint, even though an interchange of service be provided between the subscribers to the two services, and with monthly rates of pay. There is the impediment to messages due to passing through two switchboards, and if rates are to be made sufficient in amount to operate and maintain both plants, and pay a fair return on their value, many persons desiring the service will be prevented from getting it because of financial inability.

"The Commission regrets that it is unable to order a physical consolidation of the properties involved herein, but it has power to order an interchange of service between the two plants. The interchange will require the installation of at least two additional trunk lines between the two exchanges and the employment, of at least one and possibly two additional operators by each company.

"The additional property necessary, according to the record, consists of four metallic circuits, five hundred feet long, with which to connect the two exchanges, and the Commission's engineer estimates the cost of these circuits, including connections with the switchboards, at \$50. Nine per cent of this cost for maintenance and depreciation and seven per cent for return, or \$8.80, constitutes the annual charge on account of property. Assuming that four additional operators are necessary (two for each company) the allowance for this purpose is \$480 per operator per annum, or \$1920, making the total annual cost of the unified service \$1928. This is for division among 124 business subscribers, 404 residence and farm subscribers and 361 switching subscribers of both companies, according to the value of the additional service. Doubtless a number of duplicate instruments will be discontinued under the new system and the estimates of revenues to be derived from the additional charge should be liberal. The new service will be of the most benefit to the business subscribers because many of them are now subscribers of both companies and will be able to discontinue one of them, and because telephone service is practically indispensable in carrying on business. It will also be of more value to residence than to switching subscribers as the former live in town and the latter in the country; and the latter are now connected with the Farmers' Company almost altogether and are quite well satisfied with the present service.

Additional rates of seventy-five cents per month for business, twenty cents for residence and ten cents for switching based on the present number of subscribers will yield \$2,518.80 per annum. This is \$590.80 in excess of the estimated cost of the consolidated service, but the excess is not greater in all probability than the loss likely to result from the discontinuance of duplicate subscribers. The new rates are probably as high as the traffic will bear, however, and if any loss results it would have to be borne by the competing companies under this rule. The loss of subscribers due to the abandonment of duplicate telephones should be borne equally by the companies, so as to be in harmony with the order requiring long distance service."

ORDER

It is therefore ordered by the Nebraska State Railway Commission:

1-That the application of the Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Company for permission to discontinue the trunk line connection between its exchanges and the exchange of the Farmers' Independent Telephone Company of Red Cloud, located in Red Cloud, Nebraska, and to discontinue furnishing long distance service to subscribers of said Farmers' Independent Telephone Company, be and the same is hereby denied.

2-That zone telephone service is substituted for the present separate exchange service of the companies affected, the zone to consist of all of the subscribers to the local service of both companies; and the companies are hereby ordered to install and maintain as many additional metallic circuit lines connecting the exchanges of said companies in Red Cloud, Nebraska, as may be required to furnish good and adequate service, and to furnish to all the subscribers connected with said exchanges telephone service with each other at the following rates of charge in addition to the present monthly rates, as follows:

Business subscriber, per month \$1.75
Residence subscribers, per month .20
Farm and switching subscribers, per month .10
and that additional switchboard operators be employed sufficient to give adequate service.

3-That the relation as to number of business and urban subscribers to the service of each of said companies on October 1, 1917, be maintained, and each of said companies is hereby prohibited from accepting subscribers to the local service, excepting farm and switching subscribers, in greater proportion as to the revenues due therefrom as near as may be, as to each other than the proportion existing on October 1, 1917.

This order shall go into effect as to the first and second paragraphs thereof on June 1, 1919, and as to the third paragraph thereof on July 1, 1919. Made and entered at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 1st day of May, 1919. Nebraska State Railway Commission (Signed) T. L. HALL, Secretary

Attest (Signed) T. A. BROWN, Secretary (SEAL)

Notice to Non Resident Defendants.

In The District Court of Webster County, Nebraska. Aena Lamb, and Jacob Lamb, her husband, Jacob Barger, and Flora Barger, his wife, Jesse Barger, John Barger, Lewis Barger, Frank Barger, Barger, his wife, Frank Barger, William V. Miller, plaintiff hereto, filed his petition in the district court of Webster county, Nebraska, against said defendants, impleaded with others, the object and prayer of which are to partition or if the same cannot be partitioned equitably then for sale and division of the proceeds of said sale of the following described real estate, viz:

North half of the northwest quarter of section eleven, in township four, north, range nine, west 10, M. Webster county, Nebraska. The petition also asks that the shares of the parties may be determined and confirmed and general equitable relief. The verification of said petition states that the true name of Barger wife of Frank Barger, defendant, is unknown and that said Barger, wife of Frank Barger is a non resident of the state of Nebraska and that all of the above named defendants are non residents of the state of Nebraska and that service of summons cannot be made in the state of Nebraska on said defendants.

You and each of you are required to answer said petition on or before the 9th day of June 1919 or your default will be taken and entered against you. Dated April 23, 1919. WILLIAM V. MILLER, Plaintiff, By Frank J. Munday His Attorney.

Seventy-Eight Million Dollars Interest Paid May Fifteenth

May 15th is again pay day in U. S. A. Seventy-eight Million Dollars in Liberty Bond interest will be paid to American people. If every bond-holder clips his interest coupons and exchanges them for May War Savings Stamps at the post office or banks, this will grow to ninety-three million dollars in 1914. Get your share. Every \$4.16 in war Savings Stamps will grow to \$5. Keep the dollars growing.

Kansas Pickups

George Ring is sick with the flu at this writing.

Jesse Hoeking has started listing in corn this week.

Ross Johnson has rented and moved into the Gus Ring place.

E. E. Spurrier made a business trip to Smith Center Wednesday.

Miss Edith and Ella Grewell spent a day recently with Mrs. E. E. Spurrier.

Miss Edith Grewell spent a few days last week with her sister, Mrs. Fay Upp.

E. E. Spurrier and family visited Sunday evening at the Robt. Lathigan home.

D. K. Grewell is down with the flu at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ethel Upp's.

Mesdames Belle and Ruth Brown visited Mrs. Edith Ryan in Lebanon, Monday.

It is reported that Geo. Matson and four of his children have the diphtheria at this writing.

Gus Ring and family have left for an extended visit with his folks in Hays county, Nebraska.

Mrs. Otis Price entertained twenty nine of the Independence Ladies Aid at her home Thursday afternoon.

Report of the Condition of THE WEBSTER COUNTY BANK RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA.

Charter No. 1049, incorporated in the State of Nebraska, at the close of business May 31, 1919.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Assets (Loans and Discounts, Overdrafts, Liberty Bonds, U.S. Government Securities, Furniture and Fixtures, Current expenses, taxes and interest paid, Due from national and state banks, Checks and items of exchange, Currency, Silver, nickels and cents, Total) and Liabilities (Capital stock paid in, Surplus fund, Undivided profits, Individual deposits subject to check, Demand certificates of deposit, Time certificates of deposit, Depositors' guaranty fund, Total).

STATE OF NEBRASKA, County of Webster. I, S. R. FLORENCE, cashier of the above named bank, do hereby swear that the above statement is a correct and true copy of the report made to the State Banking Board. S. R. FLORENCE, Cashier.

Notice of Administration.

In the County Court of Webster County, Nebraska. In the matter of the estate of Annie E. Mather, deceased.

To all persons interested in said estate. Notice is hereby given that Lydia M. May, has this day filed a petition in the county court praying that administration of said estate may be granted to herself as administratrix, and that said petition will be heard before the court on the 23rd day of May, 1919, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m., at the county court room, in the city of Red Cloud, in said county, when all persons interested in said matter may appear and show cause why the prayer of petitioner should not be granted; and that notice of filing of said petition, and the hearing thereof, be given by publishing a copy of this order in the Red Cloud Chief a legal weekly newspaper printed and of general circulation in said county, for four consecutive weeks prior to the said day of hearing. A. D. HANNEY, County Judge. Dated this 30th day of April 1919.

Notice of Final Report

In the County Court of Webster county Nebraska. In the matter of the estate of Anna Katrina Burg, deceased. All persons interested in said estate, are hereby notified that the Executor has filed a final account and report of his administration, and a petition for final settlement of his account and a discharge from his trust, which have been set for hearing before said court on the 10th day of May, 1919, at 10 o'clock, A. M., when all persons interested in the premises may appear and contest the same.

Sheriff's Sale

Notice is hereby given, that under and by virtue of an Order of Attachment issued from the office of Edith L. McKelighan, clerk of the district court of the Fourth Judicial District, within and for Webster county, Nebraska, upon a decree in an action pending therein, wherein Occidental Building & Loan Association of Omaha, Nebraska, was Plaintiff, and against William S. Parks, et al, Defendants, I shall offer for sale at public vendue, according to the terms of said decree, to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the south door of the Court house, at Red Cloud, in said Webster county, Nebraska, (that being the building wherein the last term of said court was holden) on the 12th day of May, A. D. 1919 at 2 o'clock p. m., of said day the following described property, to-wit: Lot six (6), in Block three (3), Garber's Addition to Red Cloud, Webster county, Nebraska, given under my hand this 11th day of April A. D. 1919. FRANK HUFFER Sheriff, F. E. Maurer Plaintiff's Attorney.

Annual Report of City Clerk

The following is a statement of the disbursements of the City of Red Cloud, Nebraska, and the classification thereof for the fiscal year ending May 1, 1919, as shown by the records in the office of the city clerk:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Gen Fund War Drawn, El Lt Cash War Drawn, El Lt Levy War Drawn, El Lt Levy "Special", Water Cash War Drawn, Water Levy War Drawn, Occupation War Drawn, Firemen's War Drawn, Sewer War Drawn, Total War Drawn, Officers Salaries, Water & Light Salaries, Other Salaries, Printing and Supplies, Labor Lt & W., Material Lt & W., Repairs Lt & W., Street Work, Cross Walks, Office Expense, Fuel, Freight & Drayage, Lub Oil & Waste, Power Plant Fire, Miscellaneous Disbursement, New Oil Engine, Oil Tank Storage, Oil Tank Wagon, Pay Switchboard, Sewer, Litigation, Insurance, Firemen, Band, Elections, Incidentals, Funds Trans., Total Disbursements, Liabilities, No City Bonds retired during the year, Water Bonds Outstanding, Elect. Lt Bonds Standing, Sewer Bonds Outstanding, Inter Pav War Standing, Other War Outstanding, Special E L War Eng Act, Interest Accrued War Reg, Bal Due Switchboard, Bal Due Firemen's Hall, Estimated Fire Loss, Total Liabilities.

*The item \$8670.05 does not include \$36714.86 and accrued interest on Warrants registered against property owners in Paving District No. 1. Treasurer's Report shows \$3107.73 paid in to apply on this debt.

Available resources in Cash and uncollected Taxes less funds overdrawn and Registered Warrants outstanding May 1, 1919 are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes General Fund, Electric Light Fund, Water Fund, Occupation Fund, Library Fund, Firemen's Fund, Sewer Fund, Water Bond Sinking Fund, E L Bond Sinking, Pay War Sinking Fund, Sewer Bond Sinking Fund, Total Available Res., The assessed value of Red Cloud City for the year 1918 was \$558,500.00 or an actual value of \$1,792,500.00. The total City Levy for 1918 was 36.5 mills. The City's debt for each one hundred dollars of actual valuation is three dollars and ninety cents. Comparative debt for the past five years is as follows: May 1, 1915, \$26897 14; May 1, 1916, 20621 90; May 1, 1917, 46992 19; May 1, 1918, 66227 68; May 1, 1919, 70913 33. Income from Water and Light Plant for the year is as follows: Light \$17201 81; Water \$3891 20. Total Exp Aect Plant \$21093 01; Deficiency \$21662 04. Dated May 1, 1919. (Seal) O. C. TEEL, City Clerk.

Takes in the Sights in Paris

Dear Father and All: I haven't heard from any of you, nor the folks at Cowles for some time. But sometime letters go astray, and as I have just returned from a leave to Paris, I know you will want to hear about that. At other times when there I was doing something in the line of duty, and was limited as to time but this last trip was for pleasure, and sight seeing alone. I am writing the boys about the trip, but wish you would send this letter on to Cowles.

We left here on my birthday (April 2nd), and returned April 8th. Spring seemed to have come that week for our special benefit. Before that time, and since, it has rained as usual, but our days up there were perfect. I came back convinced that from a standpoint of art, Paris is the greatest city in the world; architecture, sculpture and painting being found of a value and amount not equaled in any other city of the world.

There were eleven of us went. I was with a fellow named Hartman. Hartman is from Anaconda, Montana, so we have a little something in common, besides both of us working in the Administrative Office at present. We arrived in Longres about nine in the evening. At this point we changed cars for Paris. Longres is quite a place, and the streets like many French towns are very winding. We lost our way, and missed our train by about ten minutes. Think of a Bailey missing a train. I was rather glad afterwards for we have just so much time in Paris, and then we had a view in the morning from the town, which is built on a small mountain, with a wall running around it. A great lake at the base on one side, and the tents of a large American Hospital Camp on the other made a pleasing sight.

We arrived in Paris the next day just in time to get lined up for our stay there, and the next morning our sight seeing began with a trip to the Palace at Versailles. This trip takes the most of the day, but one could not well afford to miss it, as here one sees one of the greatest, said to be, the greatest palace in the world. It was constructed in the time of Louis the XIV. There are hundreds of rooms, and the paintings on the walls and ceilings of each and every one are Masterpieces of Art, and took years of time. We were on the balcony where Queen Marie Antoinette with a baby in her arms addressed the mob at the time of the Revolution. She was in hopes that this would appeal to the maternal instinct of the women present, and that she and her husband, Louis the XIV, would be spared, but France knew his character, and though she was a good woman, she met the same fate as her husband, who was beheaded. We saw the table on which, and the room in which peace will be signed, and the fate of the German Empire decided. The same place where the present German Empire was formed. The gardens at the Palace are a wonder. France has spent much money and time to restore and keep this Palace in its original beauty, and are succeeding very well.

The Palais du Louvre is the greatest Gallery in the world in Art and Sculpture. Here is the original of the Venus, and countless statues and paintings that money could not buy. And in this beautiful place was planned by Catherine de Medicis the massacre of St. Bartholomew; one of the most awful things recorded in history.

Near this is another palace. The Palace of the Tuileries; the home of Napoleon. It is not as large as that at Versailles, but is just as beautiful on a smaller scale. One of the most remarkable things is that through a long Gallery in this palace, running from one end to the other, one can see the setting sun exactly at the center of the Arch of Triumph, a half mile away, on the birthday of Napoleon. So you see Napoleon was an architect as well as a general. The body of Napoleon was brought from the Island of St. Helena in 1840, and placed in the tomb. It is in a great circular building, and one can walk around looking down on the tomb of Napoleon, a wonderful work in marble. Around the side are the tombs of many of his generals. The light above the tomb comes through great glass windows. The maker of these stained windows was never able to get the same color again, nor has it been attained since.

I would think that the Champs Elysees was the center of fashion of the world. Like our Fifth Avenue, New York, it is lined with the homes of the wealthy, and the day being ideal we saw wealth and fashion at its very best. You would not guess that only a few months ago this country was at war. So many soldiers too. No lack of Americans. It seemed to me that what Americans were left in France were out there that day.

I saw the picture of the war. A picture just finished that was begun five years ago. The canvas is circular, and as each country entered the war they were given a place with

France, and their notables were represented. Really painted from life or photograph. The space for France is large, and so real is the work, that people come with glasses and pick out the faces of their friends in the background.

Then there was Notre Dame. Napoleon was crowned Emperor of France in Notre Dame. It was built in 1182, and on Sunday, April 6, 1918, I was there at a service. Near by is the church of La Sainte Chapelle built by Saint Louis to shelter a nail and a piece of the Holy Cross, and also some thorns from the Crown of Thorns that was on the Head of Christ.

So many things too that one did not have time to see. You will know though from what I have written, what a wonderful time I had. The ferris wheel that was at the World's Fair in Chicago is in Paris. The Eiffel Tower is a wonder in construction, with a wireless station at the top, that among other things gives the time to France. Then the shows. Anything you want from grand opera down to the Casino. Something like the Gayety in Omaha, only a little lower in the scale.

This was to be a Paris letter. I see I have written quite a lot. No definite news as to when we will go home. Pershing was here just the other day, but no new developments as yet. Will save the rest for next time.

Am looking for letters from you. Love to all, Your Son, VERNE

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Whatever Your Question is - be it the pronunciation of a new name, the spelling of a puzzling word, the location of a place, the meaning of a word, futurism, air-sick, Diesel engine

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