

Telephone Company To Spend \$20,000,000 Each Year

FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS

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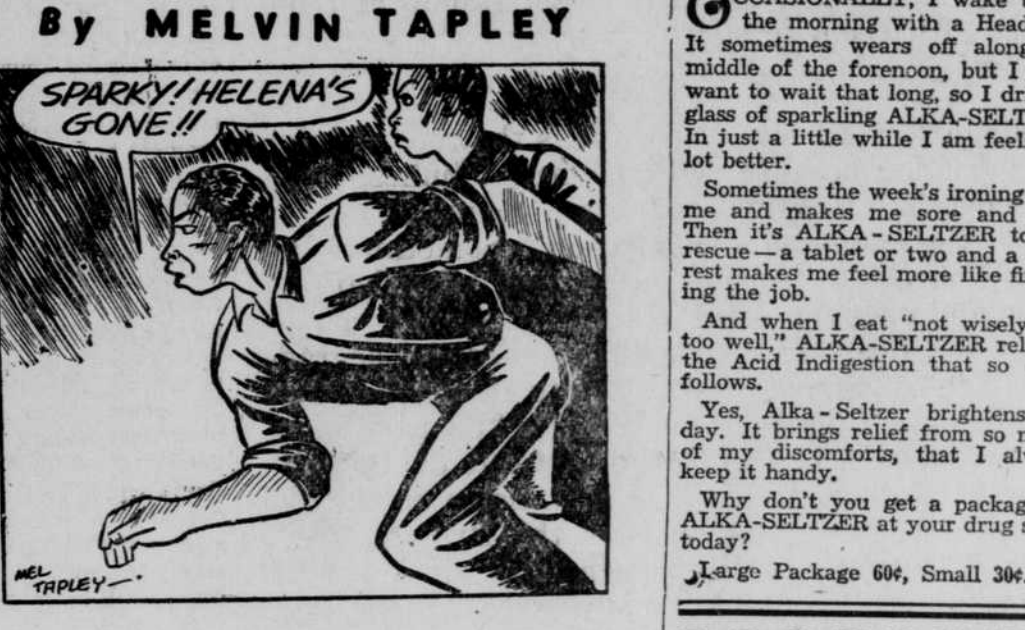
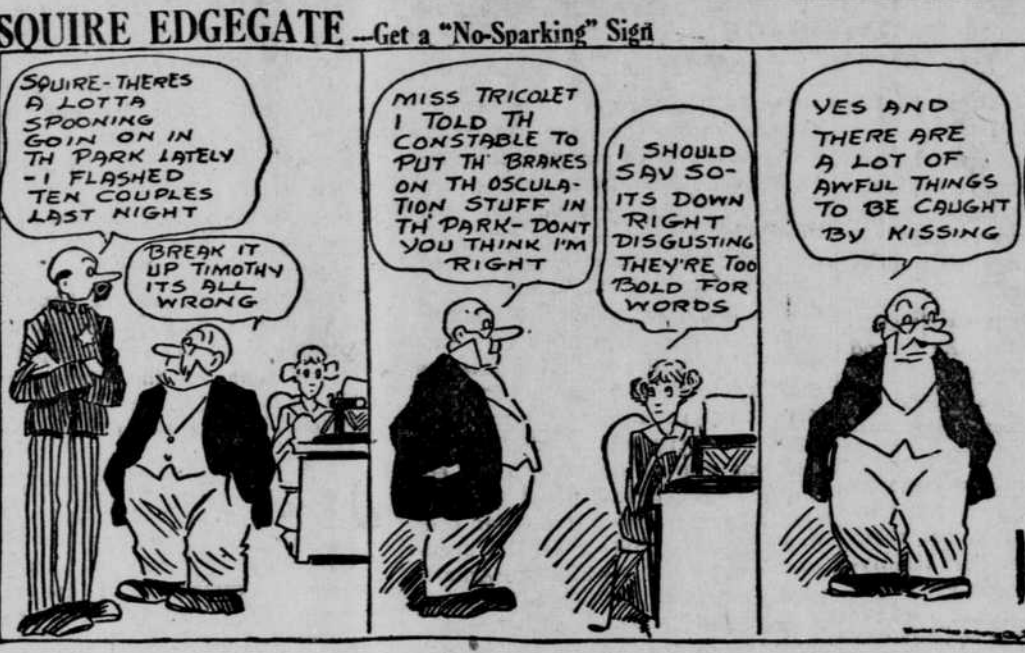
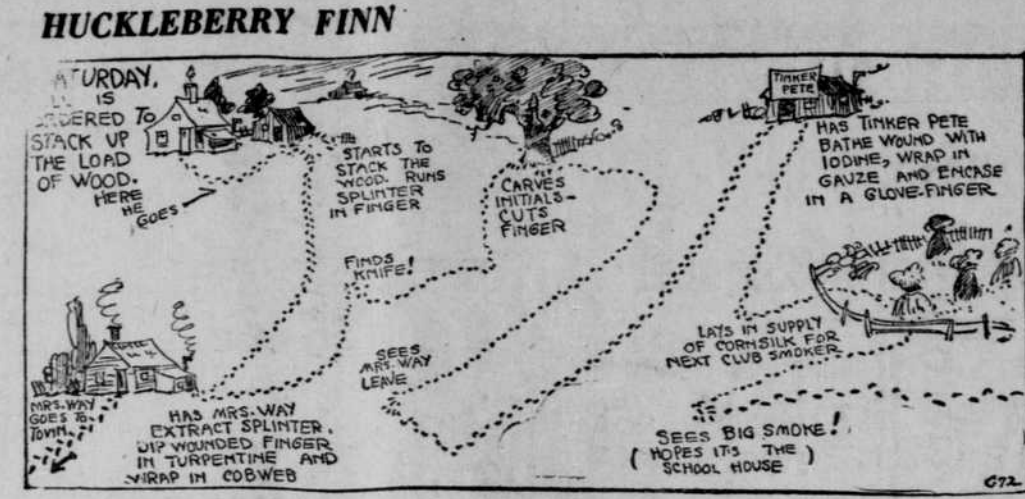
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The Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's construction program provides for an expenditure of about \$20,000,000 each year for the next five years for replacements, deferred during the war and for service improvements and extensions, according to C. D. Gietzen, District Manager of the Company here. The Company operates in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota. The Company's first aim will be to provide facilities to serve those who are waiting for telephone service. During the war, it was not possible to add enough telephone facilities to meet all non-military service needs. However, now that the war is over, the Company is acting as promptly as conditions permit not only to meet the backlogged demand for telephone service but also to resume service improvements, restore margins in its plants, catch-up on maintenance work, and make deferred replacements. Manufacturers of telephone equipment for several years have been producing specialized equipment for military purposes almost exclusively. Telephone factories are now being converted to meet the tremendous civilian telephone needs which have accumulated. Switchboards, wire, cable and telephone instruments will be produced rapidly as possible and installation work will be rushed to the limit. However, telephone equipment is complex and the task of manufacturing and installing it is time-consuming. Hence, a considerable period will be required to bring telephone service back to prewar standards. The more important projects the Company will undertake in the postwar period are: (1) Provide the equipment and lines necessary to take care of the unmet orders for telephone service. There are about 55,000 applicants for telephone service in communities where the Northwestern Bell Company operates, and about 2,000,000 throughout the Bell System, who have been unable to obtain service due to shortages of telephone facilities of various kinds. In order to stretch the existing facilities, many people are being served on party lines whose requirements are not fully met by this type of service. There is also a large number of residence customers who desire extension telephones which cannot be provided now. (2) Improve rural telephone service and make it available in areas not now being served. The present rural lines of the Company are so placed, that taking the localities where the Company operates as a whole, 80 percent of all rural families can be provided telephone service at the ordinary charges. In many districts, nearly all of the rural families now have telephone service available to them over these lines. It is the Company's intention insofar as reasonably and practicable to make telephone service available to every farm in the territory, it serves, and every practicable step is being taken to accomplish this as rapidly as conditions permit. The Company's farm service program may require expenditures as high as \$5,000,000. (3)Enlarge the telephone plant generally so as to restore the margins required to provide promptly the class of service desired and to furnish long distance service generally on a no-delay basis, as was done in prewar days. (4) Catch up on the maintenance work which had to be deferred dur-

ing the war. (5) Resume the program of service improvement which was interrupted by the war. These improvements will result largely from changes in central office equipment and outside plant and, for the most part, will be noticeable in the customer's use of the service. One out of six men who were with the Company at the beginning of the war went into military service. The Company's personnel is looking forward to the day when demobilization will permit all the men and women who have been in uniform to return. The anticipated program of activities will provide work for all of them. The Bell System as a whole has a two billion dollar postwar construction program. It calls for an estimated expenditure of a billion dollars very shortly and another billion dollars within a few years. At the peak, it is likely that expenditures for construction will be as great as \$650,000,000 a year, which is 50 percent higher than the highest year immediately preceding the war. Just when this peak will be reached depends upon how fast man power, materials, and manufacturing facilities become available. One very important thing in the program is money necessary to carry it out. In order to make these immense expenditures for new construction, very large sums of additional capital must be obtained from investors in competition with everyone else in the market for it. It, therefore, is vital that the telephone company's credit position be sustained through adequate earnings.

FOR LIBRARY REVEALS PAPERS ON KREM ELBOW INCIDENT Hyde Park, N. Y. (CNS) — Of the 2,000 cubic feet of manuscripts pertaining to the Roosevelt Administration that have so far arrived here for the Roosevelt Library from Washington, papers have been discovered which reveal the story of the late President's dispute with his distant cousin and cross-river neighbor, Howard Spencer. Spencer owned the estate, Krum Elbow, which was later sold to Father Leo, who was later sold to Father Leo, who was later sold to Father Leo. Spencer refused to give up the name, though offering to share it. Roosevelt referred the dispute to the U. S. Board of Geographical Names, a division of the department of interior, with the result that the name of Krum Elbow on the Roosevelt side of the Hudson, Spencer was angry and dismayed, and his case to the "Father" as a sure heaven for his followers.

COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION MAKING HEADWAY ON BIASED BASEBALL New York (CNS) Elmer Carter and Julian S. Reiss, members of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, assigned to probe jim crow baseball, is reported to be making some headway. The two members of the Commission are planning to confer with manager of upstate organized baseball teams. Carter has revealed that he and Reiss have held "preliminary and informal meetings" with Larry McPhail, Yankee's president and Branch Rickey, Dodgers' president and intend to confer with Horace Stoneham, Giants' head.



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