

ODD 'PHONE TROUBLES.
Inspector's Amusing Experiences
in the Country—A Woman's
Thirst for Gossip.

Chicago Inter-Ocean.

The introduction of telephones into the rural districts has produced many amusing as well as irritating incidents," said an inspector for the country division of a telephone company. "During the summer and fall I assisted in the installation of several circuits and looked after them for some time following. I was half amused and half angry during the whole period and I don't really know now whether I enjoyed the work or not.

"The people were eager to accept the telephone, but their ignorance regarding its use gave us some trouble at first. However, they soon learned to use the instruments, and then the real trouble and fun began. One of our circuits, which supplied about twenty subscribers, kept me on the run for some time.

"Shortly after it had been put in operation complaints as to inability to get connection with a part of the line came in, and I started out to find the cause of the trouble. I ran it down to the house of a certain farmer, and when I called the trouble was apparent as soon as he took me into the living-room. There sat his wife in a rocking chair. She was sewing, and tied to the back of the chair was the receiver of the telephone so adjusted that she could place her ear to it without changing her position. Of course this cut off the subscribers beyond her, but it enabled her to hear the gossip of her neighbors at the other end.

"Very convenient," I remarked.

"Yes," she said, "it is a comfort to hear what the neighbors are saying, and I can go right on with my work at the same time."

"I then remonstrated with them for this interruption of business, and they became indignant. They said they paid for the telephone and had a right to use it as they pleased. It took me some time to explain things, and I left them dissatisfied.

LISTENING TO OTHERS TALK.

"The curiosity which possessed the people of this line was astonishing. Calling up a number and listening intently, you could hear the click, click of several instruments as their neighbors cut in to hear what was said. Sometimes an eavesdropper would become so interested as to interrupt and join in a conversation.

"Two wagging young farmers, aware of the fact that several persons were listening, shamelessly talked of a mythical incident prepared for the purpose, and the result was to set the whole neighborhood by the ears and almost produce a slander suit.

"One day I received a complaint that it was impossible to get a response from a certain subscriber, so I rode out to visit him. I found the telephone bell muffled with a handkerchief so that it emitted no sound.

"You see," said the mistress of the house, "the noise of that bell wakes the baby, so I fast fixed it that way. When I want to talk to any one I take out the handkerchief."

"But," I remonstrated, "when any one wants to talk to you he can't attract your attention."

"Sure enough," she said, "but I never thought of that."

"A break in the line occurred one day and after considerable search I found it at a crossing, where it had been broken by a farmer with a load of hay. He had repaired the break satisfactorily to himself by tying the ends of the broken wire together with binding twine. When I took him to task for breaking the wire he excused himself by saying:

"I mended it right away. It wasn't open ten minutes."

"A short circuit being reported one day, I went out to find it. I found it at the house of a subscriber whose family used the instrument as a sort of bracket shelf on which to keep odds and ends. Among other things it contained a harmonica, which was placed so as to connect the binding posts of the instrument. The metal sides of the harp made a conductor which did the business.

REGULAR MONDAY LAY-OFF.

"A farmer complained one day that his instrument failed to work at times.

"It seems to take a sort of lay-off every Monday," he said. "Other days it works all right." So the next Monday I visited him. I discovered the trouble immediately. It was wash day, and the wires leading from the main line to the house were being used as a clothes' line. The wet, heavy clothes thrown across the wires spoiled the circuit. It was only on washing day that this trouble occurred.

"As people grew accustomed to the instrument and ceased to be afraid of it troubles frequently arose through the curiosity of the children, who loosened screws and drew out the wires. On one occasion the wire was filed through by a couple of boys, who lapped as to the size of the hole contained, they being under the

impression that the wire was hollow.

"How silly," I remarked, when the cause of the break was explained to me.

"How," asked one of the boys, "can you talk through a wire unless it is hollow?"

"The use of the system for some time produced rows among people. On these circuits as many as twenty subscribers used the same wire, and each seemed to think he had the right of way, and a farmer impatient to learn the price of hogs would sometimes break into a conversation between two girls gossiping over the last picnic, and feel himself perfectly justified, although the girls might feel otherwise. Of course trouble followed.

"It is not that country people are so much different from city residents, but the conditions on country and city systems are different. Each subscriber being isolated has fewer opportunities for discussing the telephone and must have time to learn the methods and to ascertain his own rights and the rights of others.

"On the older rural lines there is probably less trouble than in the towns, but until experience has brought its results the rural telephone inspectors will have a hard time."

Fifteen Years Ago.

U. S. Walker to St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

I was called to the telephone office of a certain farmer, and found a woman sitting at a table with a glass of water before her, and a telephone receiver to her ear. She was sewing, and tied to the back of the chair was the receiver of the telephone so adjusted that she could place her ear to it without changing her position. Of course this cut off the subscribers beyond her, but it enabled her to hear the gossip of her neighbors at the other end.

"Very convenient," I remarked.

"Yes," she said, "it is a comfort to hear what the neighbors are saying, and I can go right on with my work at the same time."

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Domestic Economy.

Poor Man—Well, did you get that book telling all about how to economize in the kitchen?

Wife—Yes, I've got it.

Poor Man—That's good. What does it say?

Wife—It's full of recipes telling how to utilize cold roast turkey—but we haven't the turkey.

Taking all Safe.

"Yes," said the Billyville widow, "I want to give John a good, heavy monument."

"A heavy one?"

"Of course. Nothing less than three tons will ever hold him down. I want to be quite sure of him."

Grammatical.

Mr. Gallow—Er—beg pardon, Miss Snappe, but can I smoke?

Miss Snappe—Pm sure I don't know, but if you've never tried before, please don't begin here.

The Man Who Ate the Grass.

In the Sunday school that he has organized for the cotton mill children Rev. George H. Atkinson of this city has a simple but forcible method of teaching. Sunday, a fortnight ago, he told the members of his class about Nebuchadnezzar, and he sought to impress upon their minds the history of this ruler by describing him as a man who ate grass. "Remember Nebuchadnezzar, the man who eats grass," said he; just as one might profanely say, "Remember Roscoe, who eats 'em alive."

"Now, who was the man who ate the grass?" queried Mr. Atkinson last Sunday, and all the scholars looked blank except one little tow-headed chap, who said he knew the man.

"Who?" said Mr. Atkinson.

"Capt. Brenizer," was the reply. "So much for phonetics; so much for tribute to Capt. A. G. Brenizer, cashier of the Commercial National Bank."

Thirty Days Was My Life's Limit.

Agony From Inherited Heart Disease.

Dr. Miles' Heart Cure Cured Me.

One person in every four has a weak heart. Unless promptly treated a weak heart will easily become a diseased heart. A little extra strain from any cause is sufficient to bring on this deadly ailment, the most common cause of sudden death. Dr. Miles' Heart Cure will tone up the heart's action, enrich the blood and improve the circulation.

"My trouble began with catarrh and I have always supposed it caused the trouble. I have experienced with my heart. I had the usual symptoms of sleeplessness, lost appetite, constipation, palpitation of the heart, shortness of breath and pain around the heart and under left arm. My mother suffered in the same way and I suppose mine was an inherited tendency. At one time I was in agony. I suffered so severely and became so weak that my doctors said I could not live thirty days. At this time I had not slept over two hours a night on account of nervousness. The least exercise, such as walking about, would bring on palpitation and fluttering of the heart so severe that I would have to give up everything and rest. Nerve and Liver Pills cured me of constipation and heart symptoms disappeared under the influence of Dr. Miles' New Heart Cure. I am in better health than I have been in twelve years and I thank Dr. Miles' Remedies. I think they are the grandest remedies on earth and I am constantly recommending them to my friends.—Mrs. L. J. CANTRELL, Waxahatchie, Tex.

All druggists sell and guarantee first bottle. Dr. Miles' Remedies. Send for free book on "Heart Disease." Address: Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

Stock Horse!

The Stewart Horse, from Cleveland Bay sire and Speculator, will be at my stables (old Ogburn stables) in Monroe for this season. This is a splendid combination horse.

J. C. WILLIAMS,
Phone 94. Monroe, N. C.

A Heavy Tragedy.

Charlotte Observer.

Visitors from Burlington brought the intelligence to Charlotte yesterday of a very tragic occurrence that took place in that city a few days ago.

In a trial in a magistrate's court Mr. Daniel Hugh McLean, secretary and treasurer of the North Carolina Railway and a well known lawyer, and Mr. Carroll of Burlington, also a lawyer, accused each other of unprofessional conduct.

A printer by the name of Hargh-ton, who bears some reputation for being a wag, told both Mr. McLean and Mr. Carroll that each had threatened to shoot the other on sight.

A few days later Mr. McLean and Mr. Carroll, suddenly turning a corner, confronted each other.

Mr. McLean reached for his hip pocket and said:

"Sir, if you possessed another step I will ridle you with bullets."

"I perceive," said Mr. Carroll, "that you are armed. But if you move on me, sir, you are a dead man."

Horrified citizens and a policeman interfered, and the belligerents were searched as a precautionary measure.

Both were unarmed.

James Hollaway, Democrat, was recently appointed carrier on a rural free delivery route from Louisburg, having won the appointment through a civil service examination. Judge Timberlake, Republican, very much objected to Hollaway and went to Washington to have the appointment revoked. He alleged that Hollaway was an offensive partisan and as Democratic registrar had denied duly qualified Republicans the right to exercise the elective franchise. Superintendent Machen, of the rural delivery service, very properly decided that constitutional questions did not enter into the qualifications of a mail carrier and Hollaway got the job.

Accomplished.

Mrs. Gump—Is Miss Satcher much of a dressmaker?

Mrs. Piping—Splendid. She never has to make a dress over more than two or three times.

Too Inquisitive.

Wife—Such a dream as I had last night, dear.

Husband—May I hear about it?

Wife—Yes, I dreamed that I was in a great establishment where they sold husbands. There were beautiful things in glass cases and marked off at fearful prices, and others were sold at less figures. Girls were paying out fortunes and getting the handsomest men I ever saw. It was wonderful.

"Did you see any like me there, dear?"

"Yes. Just as I was leaving I saw a whole lot like you lying on the remnant counter."

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CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency, it assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS
Bears the Signature of
Chas. H. Fletcher
The Kind You Have Always Bought
In Use For Over 30 Years.

YOUR RESIDENCE

May not contain the latest style Furniture that you would like for both beauty and use, and, if not, it will pay you to examine our line of

China Closets, Side-boards, Extension Tables, Chairs, Suits and Single Pieces of all kinds. We can make you prices on these goods that will interest you.

T. P. DILLON,
Furniture Dealer and Funeral Director.
Store Phone 7; Residence Phone 54.

Carolina Marble & Granite Co.,
INCORPORATED

Special Designs in Marble and Granite Monuments, Tombstones, Monuments, Iron Fences, Etc.

We have just received our first car of Marble, consisting of a real nice line of finished Monuments, Tablets, etc., and cordially invite anyone in need of work in our line to call around at our yard and we will take pleasure in quoting prices. It shall be our aim to do first-class work and at the very lowest prices.

Remember we guarantee entire satisfaction and have come among you to stay, and all we ask is to be sure and see us before you buy.

Respectfully,
J. E. EFIRD, Mgr., Monroe, N. C.
Yards at Statesville, Salisbury, North Wilkesboro, & Monroe, N. C.

REAL ESTATE OWNERS

who have land to sell should list it with us and thereby have it advertised in the newspapers free of cost.

Buying and selling land is our business and we can handle property which you may have been unsuccessful with yourself. We will also collect rents and buy mortgages and judgments on land. Several farms, temporary tracts and town lots on hand for sale on easy terms. Quit paying rents and buy a home with rent money. Will buy for ourselves any real estate in the county, if for sale at a bargain.

Union Real Estate Co.
Office: Armfield & Williams. — E. C. WILLIAMS, Manager.

LOST!

Last week between Monday morning and Saturday night, one golden opportunity to visit our store. You were the loser.

REWARD!

If you will visit our store this week and inspect our lines you will be rewarded.

SIKES & WINCHESTER.

WET FEET

make doctor bills; dry feet make happy, comfortable people and saves taking medicine. Lots of sick people around now because they have not bought our Hamilton-Brown,

Battle Axe and Stone Crusher Shoes.

This store is noted for good shoe values. Our shoes never fail to give good satisfaction. We have a lot of dry goods and notions that I will sell cheap. Men's Fine Sunday Shoes for 98c.

No house in this town has a greater reputation for good shoe values than this store. We have a complete line of Dry Goods, etc.

J. Y. DOSTER,
AT WINCHESTER'S CORNER.

ASHCRAFT'S
Eureka Liniment.

This Liniment will remove spavin, splint, ringbones, and all cartilaginous growths when applied in the earlier stages of the disease. One of the most common lamenesses, however, among horses and mules is sprain of the back tendon, caused by overloading and hard driving. Ashcraft's Eureka Liniment is a never-failing remedy. The Liniment is also extensively used for chronic rheumatism, and stiff joints of all kinds.

For chronic scratches Ashcraft's Eureka Liniment is without an equal. Three or four applications will cure this disease in its worst form.

Owing to the wonderful antiseptic qualities, the Eureka Liniment should be used in the treatment of all tumors and sores where proud flesh is present. It is both healing and cleansing, entirely destroying all parasites and putrefaction.

Users of Ashcraft's Eureka Liniment must remember it should not be used on feverish parts as it acts as a counter-irritant and stimulant.

Price 50c. Bottle. Sold by

The English Drug Company.
"Let the GOLD DUST twins do your work"

A Little Side Talk on
Watches and Jewelry

We have just received a new supply of watches and jewelry and those wanting to purchase a watch, now is the time. We want you to compare the prices we name below and see if we do not save you from 20 to 25 per cent.

18 size 7 jewel Elgin in solid nickel case at \$4.98
18 size 7 jewel Seth Thomas in solid nickel case at \$3.98
18 size 7 jewel Elgin in 20 year Fay's case at \$9.75

We also have other sizes at prices that will save you money. We have in stock the celebrated 1-10th gold chain at a big reduction. Don't fail to give us a call.

The W. J. Rudge Co.

All Aboard for
Good Bread.

Many a well-meant, well-planned attempt at bread-making is wrecked on the shoals of poor flour. Cheap flour is bad flour—its low price is the maker's excuse for the inferiority of his product. Good bread is not hard to make. Half the voyage is over when you get good flour. Whiter, stronger, sharper, purer flour than ours cannot be made. Therefore we caution you to ask for the "GOLDEN ROD" and "INVINCIBLE" brands. These brands are sold at the lowest price for which really first-class flour can be sold and its price is the highest you need to pay in order to get the best. Beware of bad flour and short weights. Our quality and weights are guaranteed.

Henderson Roller Mills Company,
J. E. HENDERSON, Manager.

BATTLE AXE SHOES

WE TRY THE WORLD!

STEPHEN PUTNEY CO.,
RICHMOND & MANCHESTER, VA.

AND OTHER LEADING BRANDS.

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When you take Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic because the formula is plainly printed on every bottle showing that it is simply Iron and Quinine in a tasteless form. No Cure, No Pay. 50c.

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R. W. LEMMOND,
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will practice in all the State and United States Courts. Special attention given to the settlement of estates for Guardians, Executors and Administrators, and the collection of claims. Reasonable charges. Also agent and local attorney for the Panther City Home Company, from which loans may be obtained on real estate. Office one door east of M. L. Flow Co's store. Phone No. 203.

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O. P. HEATH, President.

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DR. B. C. REDFEARN,
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Charges reasonable. Satisfaction guaranteed. Office over English Drug Co's.

MONROE, N. C.
Will be at Marshallville, N. C., on first and third Mondays of each month, and at Matthews on second and fourth Mondays. Phone 232

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Solicits the patronage of the people of Monroe and surrounding community. Calls answered in day from English Drug Store; at night from residence on Church street. Phone No. 45.

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Attorney-at-Law,
will practice in all the State and United States Courts. Special attention given to the settlement of estates for Guardians, Executors and Administrators, and the collection of claims. Reasonable charges. Also agent and local attorney for the Panther City Home Company, from which loans may be obtained on real estate. Office one door east of M. L. Flow Co's store. Phone No. 203.

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Office in Fitzgerald Building.
Office hours 11 to 12, A. M. Phone 141.

JOHN P. MONROE, M. D.,
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Day calls answered from Houston's drug store and office, phone 229. Night from Commercial Hotel, phone 230.

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Office up stairs, Fitzgerald Building, Northwest of Courthouse, Monroe, N. C.

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