



Unfavorable weather conditions caused construction work on the new Community Telephone Company building to fall three weeks behind schedule according to Luther Davis, construction superintendent.

However, he expects that if the current pleasant weather continues, work on the East State Street, Quarryville structure will soon be caught up. (Staff Photo.)

Area Telephone System Involved In Proposed Company Merger

An application has been filed by the Commonwealth Telephone Company of Dallas with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for approval to merge its two subsidiary companies, Pennsylvania Community Telephone Company and Blakeslee & Fernridge Telephone Company with Commonwealth.

The merger of the two subsidiaries with Commonwealth is a necessary step leading toward a permanent financing program.

Such permanent financing, it was explained, is required to continue the large scale construction program that is presently in progress throughout the companies' service area.

In late Spring or early Summer, Commonwealth Telephone Company in the past ten years has been committed to a program of modernization and mechanization of its facilities. A similar and intense mechanization program has been in process since January, 1955, in the Pennsylvania Community Area.

It was stated that the companies' merger plans provide that the Commonwealth Company upon approval of the merger, will file a tariff supplement adopting the existing rates to subscribers in the Pennsylvania Community and Blakeslee & Fernridge territories.

The two subsidiary companies, which are to be merged into Commonwealth, are owned by Commonwealth. Consolidation of operations in a single company will avoid duplication of administrative operations and operating companies affected. Greater flexibility will likewise be provided in the use of capital, supplies and equipment of a single company.

As of Feb. 29, the three companies served a total of 55,557 stations as follows: Commonwealth, 38,155; Pennsylvania Community, 16, 941 and Blakeslee and Fernridge, 461. Together, they compose the third largest

of the more than 100 independent telephone companies in the State and are 30th in size of 5,100 independents in the nation.

Commonwealth Telephone Company acquired the Pennsylvania Community Telephone Company in August, 1954, and the Blakeslee & Fernridge Telephone Company in July, 1955.

Pennsylvania Community operations encompass three districts in eastern Pennsylvania with district offices in Bangor, Elizabethville and Quarryville. The Blakeslee & Fernridge Telephone Company serves the Pocono Preserve, Pocono Crest and Blakeslee Area.

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In 1955, total construction expenditures for the three companies were \$2,990,160. In 1956, \$4,555,100 has been programmed for the continued improvement of plants, service and the conversion of eight more exchanges.

By the end of 1957, all seventeen Pennsylvania Community exchanges will have been converted to dial operation. When acquired in 1954, Pennsylvania Community system was entirely manually operated.

From both an operational and financial standpoint, the merger effect will further economies of operation and allow a permanent financing program designed to meet the requirements of Commonwealth's programmed construction.

The boom in credit is seen as simmering down.

It's The Law

"It's the Law" with simple answers is offered by LANCASTER FARMING in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Bar Association. General interest questions are welcomed, and will be answered as soon as possible. Letters must be signed. Answer will not be published on a specified, requested day. Questions cannot be answered by mail, and LANCASTER FARMING will reject any inquiry which is not of general public interest. Address all inquiries to "It's the Law," LANCASTER FARMING Quarryville, Pa.

Q At what age does support for a child by a former marriage cease in Pennsylvania? Is the father required to support that child through college if he is over the age limit? C L.

A. The requirement to support a child by a former marriage generally is said to cease when that child reaches majority or prior thereto in the event the child becomes self-supporting. The duty to support children is imposed by law upon the father. It is possible also that this duty may of necessity continue after the child attains majority in the event of illness or infirmity of the child. If the child pursues additional education even after attaining an age where the child might be self-sustaining, an order to support may be continued upon the father.

Q Is there a law against renting a third floor apartment to a blind person or persons? H. S.

A. No. It might be imprudent, heartless or improper but it is not illegal. In case of personal injury to such person, the landlord would be faced with possible suit for damages because of negligence.

Q. My brother owned several houses, and made a will for these houses to go to his two children, a daughter and a son, but the deed of the house has my name on it. I am his sister. He has been dead three years. What are my rights?

A. The answer to your question depends on the manner in which your name appears on the deed. If only your name appears, your brother's will could not affect your rights and you are still the sole owner. If both his and your names appear, and nothing else, then a half interest in the houses passed to his children, and you are still the owner of the other half interest.

If both names appeared along with the words "as joint tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common," or similar language, then your brother's interest passed automatically to you upon his death, and you are now the sole owner of the houses. It would be a good idea to have your attorney investigate this matter promptly and make a determination as to your rights with respect to the houses.

Spring Crops in State Cover Five Million Acres

HARRISBURG—Spring crops will be planted by Pennsylvania farmers this year on nearly five million acres, a moderate increase over last year, but 155,000 acres above average, Dr. William L. Henning, State Secretary of Agriculture, announced today.

A Federal-State survey of farmers' intentions to plant the seven major crops gives a total of 4,943,000 acres. It compares with 4,926,000 acres planted in the spring of 1955 and with the 10-year 1945-54 average of 4,788,000 acres, Dr. Henning said. Plantings for all field crops except corn and potatoes will be larger this spring than a year ago, the survey showed. Wheat was seeded last fall for harvest this summer on 656,000 acres, 2 per cent below a year earlier. Rye plantings totaled 55,000 acres, an increase of 11,000 acres.

Corn Off Two Per Cent Fulfillment of the March 1 spring crop intentions of Pennsylvania farmers may depend to a large extent on weather and soil conditions at planting time, the Secretary explained. Acreage actually to be planted also will include farmers' reactions to their corn acreage allotments in the 29 designated commercial corn growing counties of the State, he added.

Early indications are for a reduction of two per cent in corn acreage this spring to a total of 1,372,000 acres. Barley at 235,000 acres is an increase of 2 per cent and oats will be planted on 838,000 acres, also an advance of 2 per cent. The barley acreage includes that which was seeded last fall and will be record high for the State, if intentions are carried out.

Soybeans Stand as Leader Hay, which accounts for almost one-half of the combined total acreage, is expected to be increased by 1 per cent to a total of 2,344,000 acres.

Potato growers reported intentions to plant only 53,000 acres this year, the smallest acreage ever known in the State and 11 per cent below last year's 60,000 acres. The 1956 tobacco acreage is indicated at 29,000 acres, about the same as

in 1955. Percentagewise, soybeans stand out this year as the leader in acreage expansion. Growers plan to plant 55,000 acres which could be the largest since 1947.

Nationally, spring planting intentions come to about 352 million acres for the 59 principal crops on which reports were obtained. This is 34 million acres less than last year.

Holstein Meet On June 5 to 8 At Milwaukee

Holstein breeders from all 48 states will see Wisconsin's finest dairy animals on parade during the 71st Annual Convention of The Holstein-Friesian Association of America at Milwaukee June 5-8.

Wisconsin Holstein breeders are grooming the cream of their herds for the Black and White Show scheduled for the first day of the event.

The show, incidentally, will be the first statewide event of its kind ever held in "America's Dairyland" apart from the Wisconsin State Fair.

Female Classes Split Another Black and White Show precedent will be set with the splitting of all classes for females, two-years-old or over. Under the new plan, separate classes will be provided for milking and dry animals in each age bracket.

Site of the competition will be Pabst Farms, world-famous Holstein breeding establishment at Oconomowoc. Merle Howard, Dairy Superintendent at Mooseheart Farms, Mooseheart, Ill., will place the classes.

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