

TELEPHONE GIRLS HEROINES AT FIRE

Stick to Posts at Merchantville Until, Overcome, They Were Rescued by Firemen

SERVICE IS PARALYZED

Telephone service in Merchantville, N. J., is paralyzed this morning as the result of the burning of the Merchantville exchange in a fire which destroyed Merchantville Hall at that place last night.

Repair crews from Philadelphia were rushed to Merchantville before the fire was extinguished last night, and began the work of restoring phone service at once. Work was said to be fully completed. Company officials said, however, that it will be several days before service is fully restored. Four hundred telephones are out of commission.

At 8 o'clock this morning what is known as an emergency service was put into operation. It consists of the police, fire departments and offices of physician.

Telephone officials said phone damage was done to the phone system by water than by the flames themselves, which destroyed the building in which the telephone exchange was located. Many cables which were saved by the firemen's streams will have to be replaced, it was said.

GIRLS BRAVE DANGERS

Four telephone operators who stayed on working in their posts as long as possible were honored this morning. They voted to leave the burning building until ordered to do so by firemen.

The fire was discovered by Miss Helen Simon, of Merchantville, one of the operators, who smelled smoke coming from the switchboard. With her companion, Mrs. Anna Venger, twenty-one years old, of Norristown, she ran across the burning building, shouting to all to get out.

The fire was discovered by Miss Helen Simon, of Merchantville, one of the operators, who smelled smoke coming from the switchboard. With her companion, Mrs. Anna Venger, twenty-one years old, of Norristown, she ran across the burning building, shouting to all to get out.

A few moments later Miss Simon, who is nineteen years old, and Miss Venger, twenty-one, ran across the burning building, shouting to all to get out.

Both returned to the burning telephone and continued to maintain telephone service in Merchantville as long as possible. Miss Simon was carried out three times, while once she ran back until firemen finally succeeded in getting them to abandon their posts.

HURRY CAD TO CANDEA

When the fire got beyond control, a local fireman, the telephone operators sent a hasty call to Candeia and fire-fighting apparatus from that city were sent to help.

Sixty members of the Merchantville Lodge of Odd Fellows were meeting on the third floor of the building when the fire was discovered, while on the second floor was a meeting of the Patriotic Order of American Legion, attended by about fifty persons. The former started was shocked with smoke, but those at the P. O. S. A. meeting were able to make their escape by that exit. Those at the Odd Fellows' meeting, however, claimed down the fire escape.

The fire, which started in the basement, quickly lit up the sky for miles and attracted hundreds of auto-mobilists.

On the first floor of the building was the office of the Merchantville Water Company, and Mr. D. Rutherford, president, The Bell exchange was on the third floor.

Damages amounted to about \$10,000. Members of the odd Fellows and of the P. O. S. A. said the damage sustained by the two lodges amounted to about \$40,000, each, which represented the value of their equipment. Members of both lodges were saved.

PICKET WHITE HOUSE AGAIN

Women Renew Demonstration for War Law Violators

Washington, Oct. 21.—An A. P. S. picketing of the White House grounds as a protest against continued imprisonment of women suffragists, which was renewed today by the National Committee, representing the Maryland Civil Liberties Union and the Pennsylvania Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners and the American Civil Liberties Union.

A picket line was maintained at the gates of the White House during the afternoon, while the picketers sang hymns and chanted slogans.

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Stuck to Her Post



WORLD'S FAIR COST PUT AT \$20,000,000

Details of Estimate to Be Submitted to Directors of Exposition Today

TO CONSULT STOTESBURY

Details of the estimate of \$20,000,000 is the cost of the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition to be submitted before directors of the Fair Association at a meeting this afternoon.

The estimate was announced yesterday for the first time by Paul Cret and E. B. Tamm, the engineers and architects engaged to work out a plan and cost in a meeting of a subcommittee of Finance Committee and Building and the Committee on Park, Sesqui and Buildings. It provides for a celebration of full international scope.

The \$20,000,000 figure is less than one-half the original estimated cost given to the public. The special Finance Committee was called yesterday about the method of raising the fund, but it was understood that the amount would be raised in a contribution of the citizens of the city in compensation for the \$20,000,000 fair.

While the city has assured it is prepared to meet the cost of the exposition, the State and Federal Government will add another \$10,000,000, and that the remaining \$10,000,000 will be raised by popular subscriptions to a loan fund and from concessions.

The day after the first hearing, Helen Bates, seventeen-year-old daughter, eloped to New York and married Harry D. Sherred, a business man, fifty years old, of New York.

Mr. Bates, who had been engaged to the Fair Association, was unable to find a bride, so he turned to his son, Harry, and his wife, Anna Venger, twenty-one, of Norristown, who was a member of the League of Women Voters.

Today, the special committee on finance will confer with E. B. Stotesbury before attending the meeting of the directors of the Sesqui-Centennial Association in the afternoon.

ALLIES MAY DROP BRUSSELS REPARATIONS CONFERENCE

Commission Believes Discussions Would Turn on Saving Germany

Paris, Oct. 24.—By A. P.—The opening of the proposed Brussels conference on reparations and allied issues is now uncertain. It was set for today, but it may be delayed a gathering to decide upon the best means of saving Germany from financial collapse.

The conference is to be opened by the British, French and Belgian delegations.

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