

Commonwealth Subsidiaries Ask To Merge

Three Companies Would Serve Some 55,557 Stations

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 Commonwealth 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 plans to make public offerings of securities upon approval by State regulatory authorities of the merger and State and Federal authorities of the company's financing program. 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 operating 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.

Serve 55,557 Stations

As of February 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 comprise the third largest of the more than 100 independent telephone companies in the State and are 30th in size of 5100 independents in the Nation.

Commonwealth Telephone Company acquired the Pennsylvania Commonwealth 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.

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. 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 plant, service and the conversion of eight more exchanges to dial service. 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

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Sure-Fire Recipe For Attracting Martins Is Needed By Bird Club

'Anybody who knows how to attract martins to a nice new martin house will confer a favor on Felix Weber and George T. Bowen, both of Elmcrest. At considerable expense, both men constructed bird houses according to the latest design. The quarters are ready, but the tenants are lacking, and starlings are taking over, turning the place into a slum in need of a clearance project.

Mr. Weber and Mr. Bowen attended Thursday night's Bird Club meeting in the Library Annex, to compare notes with bird lovers and see if something could be done. Martins, they say, have been heard going over Druid Hills in Shavertown, but they are reluctant to stop.

Everything is ready for them. There is a pond and a little stream, to insure a supply of fresh water.

Bird Club members had no suggestions to offer.

Harry Allen reported Brewster blackbirds at his feeding station, a statement which was followed automatically by an "I doubt it," from the president, Edwin Johnson. Bird watchers always doubt it. Bird counts have to be made with two or more authorized ornithologists doing the viewing, to keep each other honest.

Mr. Allen said it was a sure enough Brewster, white eyes, purple head, bobbed tail. Mr. Allen's rare Oregon junco, which wintered at his place at the Lake, was finally accepted as such by bird watchers and placed on the rolls of winter visitors.

Members were reminded that bluebirds won't stand for any kind of litter in their houses. Bluebird houses have to be cleaned of every stray straw and stick before a couple will set up housekeeping. A house with a hinged bottom, secured by a bolt, was suggested, to facilitate emptying.

Mr. Johnson reported that he and Harry Brown frequently went birding Sunday mornings. Because of

the beginning of fishing season on Sunday, last Saturday was designated as a bird-watching day.

On the roster of spring birds have been seen: Loons at Harveys Lake; pied-bill grebes, mallards, black ducks, swans, Canadian geese, some of the geese appearing before the ice went out; wood-ducks at Lehman; ring-neck ducks, lesser scaups, bufflehead, ruddy duck, Mergansers, hooded, American and red-headed.

Hawks, marsh, sparrow and pigeon varieties; ruffed grouse, and pheasants, Bob Whites at Joe Parks; coot, killdeer, Wilson snipe, herring gulls, mourning doves, white owl, screech owl, pileated woodpecker, cedar waxwings, flickers, shrike, field sparrow, song sparrow, for sparrow, meadow lark, horned lark, red-wing blackbird, cowbird, catbird, swallows, tree, barn and cliff; phoebe, wood thrush, robin, blue birds.

Present were Edwin Johnson, Frank Jackson, Harry Allen, Mrs. Arnott Jones, Mrs. William D. James, Mrs. Ellis Weaver, Mrs. T. M. B. Hicks, Richard Joose, George T. Bowen and Felix C. Weber.

Pvt. Oney In Germany Says The Trip Was Fine

Pvt. William R. Oney, Shavertown, left for Germany March 28, after finishing basic training at Fort Bragg, S.C. and Fort Devens, Mass. He joined the army in October. A graduate of Westmoreland high school, he is now 21. Writing to his mother, Mrs. Bessie Oney, Bill said the Navy certainly came across with the eats while on the way across, and that the meals did him a lot more good than they did some of his buddies, who got seasick the first day out. The storms didn't disturb Bill in the slightest. He had the letter all ready to mail the instant the ship docked.

Wyoming Valley Hospital Auxiliary Wednesday at 2

Wyoming Valley Hospital Auxiliary will meet with Miss Frances Dorrance Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m. to sew for the hospital supplies.

Banquet Honors Worthy Matron

Eastern Star Hears Rev. Robert Webster

Mrs. Myrtle Rineman, Worthy Matron, and Charles James, Worthy Patron, were honored at Tuesday night's annual banquet of Dallas Order of the Eastern Star, held at Irem Temple Country Club.

Rev. Robert D. Webster, Doranetown Methodist Church, formerly pastor of Truckville Methodist, was the speaker. Rev. Ruth Underwood gave the invocation, and Jean Kuehn was toastmaster. Annjane Layau gave a reading of "The Robe", and the choir sang. Eva Ray was song leader, Virginia Swan-

Turkey Supper

Meeker W.S.C.S. will sponsor a turkey supper at the Church Wednesday night starting at 5:30. Homemade pies will be served. Committee members are Edna Rebenack, Minnie Rebenack and Marie Wolfe.

Decorations were carried out in red and white, carnations, snapdragons and tulips forming the centerpiece for the head table, flanked by red tapers, with silver stars to carry out the theme of the speaker, "Behold the Stars."

Guests numbered 121. On the committee were: Elizabeth Layau, Ann Roberts, Mildred Garinger, Gertrude Davies, Elma Price, Mildred Lutes, Laura Dymond, Cleona Fritz, and Doris Straley.

Information On Retired Personnel Benton Air Force Station Seeking

United States Air Force is interested in contacting retired Air Force personnel residing in this vicinity. A Retired Activities program has been established to provide retired Air Force personnel with assistance and information on all matters pertaining to their rights, privileges and benefits.

The program will also furnish greater access to information concerning major changes in Air Force techniques and developments.

Retired personnel are invited to write or call the Information Services Officer at Benton Air Force Station, phone Sweet Valley 7-2811 to avail themselves of assistance

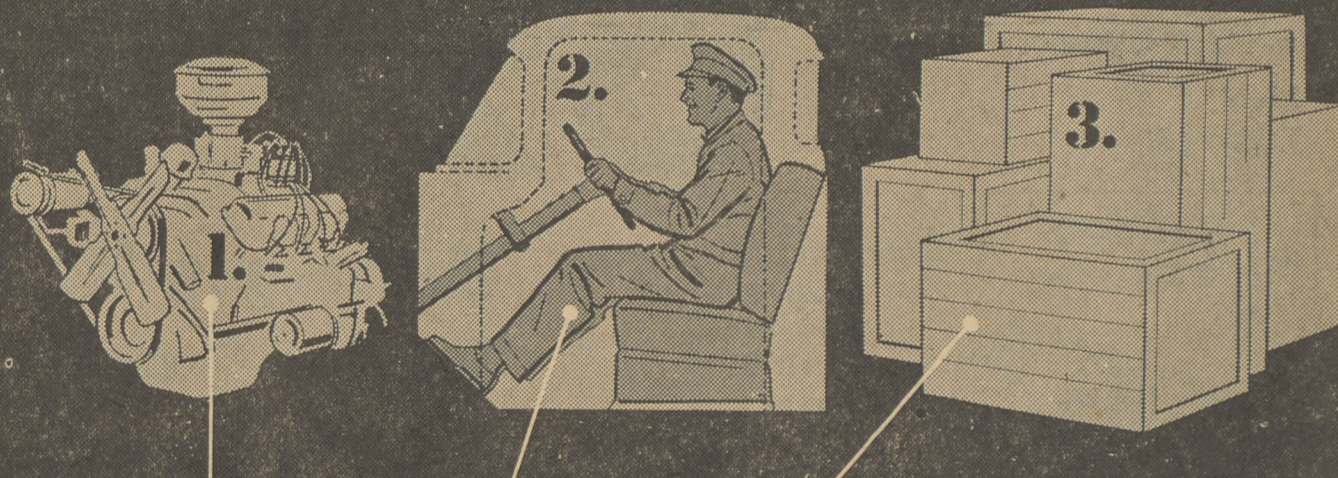
and information that is theirs under the Retired Activities program.

Shavertown Branch Luncheon May 4

Shavertown Branch, Nesbitt Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, will hold its annual spring luncheon May 4 in the social rooms of the Shavertown Methodist Church at 1 p.m. Mrs. Walter Cook will head the WSCS committee which will prepare and serve the luncheon.

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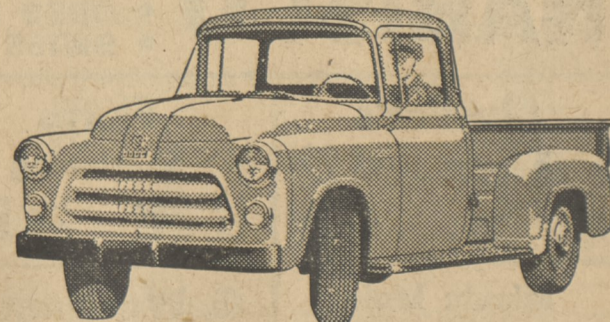
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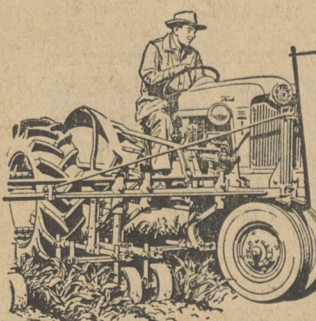
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