

NO RACE DISTINCTION AT NEW YORK TELEPHONE CO.

The company's standards are rigid. Not one in 10 job applicants is accepted. At present the company has a long waiting list. Yet, there are Negro employees in every one of a barrel-ful of job categories. The New York Telephone Company does not keep records on the number of Negroes, Jews, Catholics or whatever you that it employs. But the employment of Negroes has increased steadily in the last 10 years.

The New York Telephone Company is the largest of 22 associated companies in the Bell System. It's a link in the chain of nearly 600,000 men and women who are busy day and night. Because of the volume of traffic (14 million calls a

day in New York), and because of the tense international situation you can't tour any unit of the Bell System. If you could, you would probably be amazed.

Intelligent, Well-Trained Staff

The company tells its employees they have an essential job, one requiring a "big organization of intelligent, trained men and women, each one doing his or her job well." Supervisors emphasize they want efficient service that's also friendly and helpful. And apparently this army of employees has been sold on this policy. In New York the telephone company's vast machinery hums around the clock, 9,000 operators work quickly and quietly operating local and long distance switchboards, providing information and

other services to busy callers who regard telephone service matter-of-factly. Repairs and installations are handled by 13,000 plant men in every kind of weather.

The accounting department — 4,000 strong — prepares bills, keeps payroll records, studies business statistics and keeps books. The commercial department gives the "personal touch." It receives bill payments and prepares directory orders. One structure, the West Street central office and administration building, houses 6,000 employees.

The Bell System has come a long way since Alexander Graham Bell first sent an understandable sentence over an electric wire. At first telephones were released in pairs. You could speak to your neighbour but no one else. The commercial switchboard (1878) started mass communication.

Today there's a telephone for every three persons in the 230 largest cities in America. Telephone service is furnished by a "city" of about 6,500 buildings. More than 33 million miles of wire link this network. The facts are amazing. Almost as amazing is the unique telephone spirit. It prompts employees to volunteer for work in emergencies. It prompts them to serve in strange offices when disaster prevents them from reaching their own. It even inspires heroic deeds.

Despite what the onlooker might consider a taxing, confining job, the average telephone operator has been on the job from 8 to 10 years and likes it.

Wages, Condition Good

The company knows its workers must be happy if their service is to be given with a smile. For this reason wages are good, safety is stressed and benefits provided. Also it has a medical department, excellent cafeterias, recreation and educational programs.

Negroes have been employed by the New York Telephone Company for at least 30 years. The emphasis on "white collar" workers started in 1942 and progressed rapidly. In mid-1944 a survey found Negroes employed in a wide variety of white collar jobs. However, the first Negro switchboard operator wasn't hired until late in 1944. Always sensitive about morale and teamwork on its switchboards, the company had approached the hiring of Negro operators cautiously. Once they were hired fears and doubts in and outside the company vanished quickly.

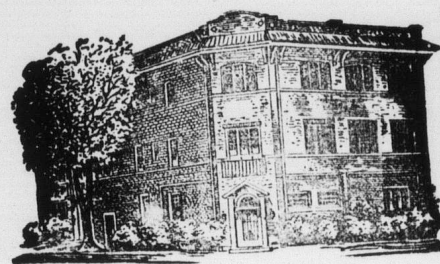
In April, 1946 the New York State Commission Against Discrimination and the New York Urban League gave the company a clean bill of health. At that time the company employed over 300 colored girls as switchboard operators and clerks. Since then the number has increased. When the Commission released its findings Carl Whitmore, president at the time, informed the whole company, candidates would be selected only in terms of job qualifications. Keith S. McHugh, president re-emphasized the policy and is carrying it out. You can see why Jimcrow gets a wrong number at the New York Telephone Company.

LONDON NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Earl's and son Thomas Jr. and Mrs. Wm. Green from Owen Sound were the guests of their sister and brother, Rev. and Mrs. B. A. Geard for a few days while in the city. They worshipped at Beth Emanuel Church.

Mrs. Geord has received word that her father, Mr. James Douglas of Chatsworth, Ont., has taken suddenly ill.

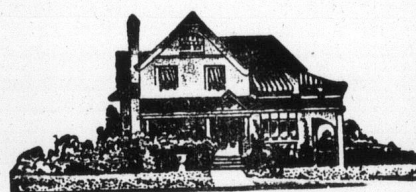
Mr. George Anderson visited his daughter, Georgina and sister, Mrs. John Hunt in Toronto over the week end.



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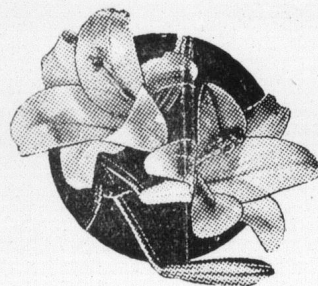
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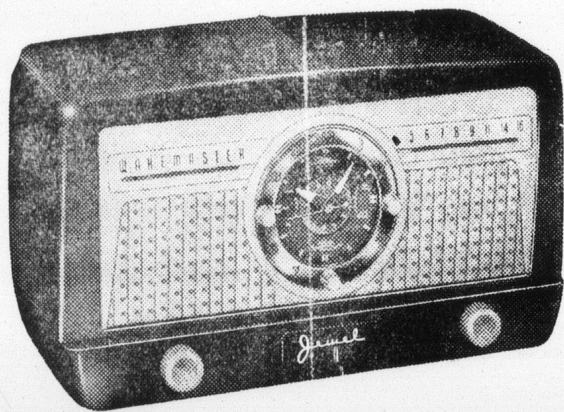
LONDON

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LONDON N

Palm Sunday at Church waws well at the morning and evening. Rev. Geard expressed at the Sunday School. Their hour is from 12 fives the children Sunday Schools time

On Easter Sunday a special service given by the children assisted by the Rev. B. A. Geard. A well prepared sermon. Prayer service held in various homes during the evening.

Mr. Clifford Phoebe in Westminster Hospital

Mrs. James Hill Hescing in her home St. We wish her ery.

Mr. James and A Toronto were guests Howson residence f

Baby Berry met with a dent falling from her head. She was taken to Victoria Hospital, attention and five stitches. Condition is good at the

Mrs. Margaret J the city to see her has undergone a session at the Children's Memorial

Miss Marion Jer in St. Joseph's Hospital. Lapse from pneumonia. Her recovery is speedy

Mr. Stanley And of his family for a he will start training League this spring success.

Mrs. Helen For a few friends at the downe St. in honor of her. Congratulations H

Mrs. Audrey Ch on March 31 at 8 her husband's birthday. Celebration on Hill St.

WINDSC

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd accompanied F. Howson, motor Saturday, March attended the wedding. Mr. and Mrs. F. bride, Erie, is the and Mrs. A. Jones bride received a white satin and adorned knee-length blossoms. She Mrs. D. Wright bride's cousin, was dressed in and carried a bouquet. Best man was from Detroit, Neville sang "Beautiful soprano voice" more a be trimmed with bouquet of pink bride's sister, girl and wore a and carried a flowers. Mr. and side in Detroit. Day Saints.