

### Rock Island Reminiscences Telegraphy.

(WRITTEN FOR THE ARGUS.)

Telegraphy in the beginning dates back to 1844, and less than 10 years thereafter there was a wire in operation in this city, the line running from Chicago to Muscatine and operated by the Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph company (known as the Caton lines). This company virtually had a monopoly of the business in the west up to the summer of 1865, when they consolidated with the Western Union



MARVIN HUGHITT.

Now president of the Chicago & Northwestern railway, an early telegraph operator in Rock Island.

company. There have been several companies in existence within the last 35 years, one of which was the Great Western, which sold out in 1868. This company was followed by the Atlantic & Pacific, Mississippi Valley, The Pacific & Atlantic, and lastly the Postal Telegraph & Cable company. Two of the companies named—namely the Pacific & Atlantic, developed into a strong competitor of the old company, and during its existence consolidated with the Mississippi Valley and Atlantic & Pacific, the wires of the company covering all parts of the country. All opposition companies were bought up and consolidated with the Western Union company during the year 1874.

I can remember when the main Chicago telegraph office was located on the second floor corner of Lake and Clark streets. The Western Union and Caton lines used the same operating room, separated by a glass partition. The combined office force on duty did not exceed 30. The instruments were crude in comparison to this day. The switch board was of the old strap and lever style, and other instruments were of heavy construction. The manufacturer seemed to have lasting qualities in mind. The only repeater then in use was known as the "button repeater."

#### Some Early Operators.

The pioneers of telegraphy in Rock Island were William Bailey, Holmes Hakes, William Boyle, Isaac Negus, S. S. Guyer and John Spencer. They, together with a few of the older citizens, were the promoters, and through them the first line was brought to this city. They were liberal subscribers to the stock and worked up the interest in this vicinity, which secured telegraph communication in the early days. The writer in 1865 bought their stock in the Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph company for Chicago parties, paying them a good advance on the original cost to them. The headquarters of the last named company was located at Ottawa, Ill. I do not remember the exact date of the opening of the first office in this city. It was in the early 50's. E. D. L. Sweet was the first operator, with office on the second floor of what is now T. H. Thomas' drug store. Mr. Sweet was afterwards superintendent of the company, with an office at Chicago, Marvin Hughitt, Fred Benson, E. B. Chandler, J. J. Bates, William T. Lindley, William Woodring, Charles A. Seaver, George H. Briggs, E. Humphrey, Charles W. Cropper, Ralph Slaymaker and Thomas L. Clin-

ton were among the early managers of the telegraph company in this city. A majority of the above named held the office for a long time.

The first wire in operation was considered to be one of the heaviest worked running out of Chicago, the railroad, commercial and government business all going over one wire. The government business during the war was extremely heavy. The 15,000 prisoners on the island, with the two to three regiments on guard duty, and the fact that Davenport was the military headquarters for the state of Iowa and where Adj. Gen. Baker had his office, made the military business alone a large source of revenue to the telegraph company. Military men did not pay much attention to brevity in writing telegrams, and it was rare to handle one with less than 50 words.

#### The Old Time Office.

The old time telegraph office had no covered wire or other conveniences. The bare wire ran down the window with a flummie screw in which the operator inserted the wires when he wanted to cut out for the night. The relay was removed from the operating table as a precaution. Lightning was a disturbing element, and during a storm it was necessary to cut out the office, lightning arresters being unknown. The telegrapher had repair duties to perform, climbers, pulleys and tackle, pliers and nippers being a part of the outfit of his office. When trouble existed on the line he had to go out and do repair work. The Rock Island manager had a short distance to look after, the city to the east end of the bridge being his territory. The telegraph rates before and during the war were high, a message to Chicago cost- ing 85 cents for ten words, St. Louis \$1.05, New York \$2.35. The only cheap service was the press. The Argus reports being \$1 per day for telegraph tablets consisting of 1,500 words. The grain and stock business figured well in the company's revenue. A. Shaw & Bros., Kellerstrass & Vogel, the Warner flour mill, located at the present site of the Rock Island Stair works, the Leas flour mill (afterward owned by Har- wish Bros.), located on First avenue between Ninth and Tenth streets, the Johnston mill, and one other at Milan, all being liberal patrons. A. Shaw & Bros. and Kellerstrass & Vogel averaging over \$100 per month each. There was no office at Moline, Milan or on the island. The messenger boys had a snap. With a salary of \$20 per month, they collected 50 cents for island delivery, and 50 to 75 cents for Moline and Milan.

The company was slow in opening an office at Moline, the first being opened in the postoffice on Wells street (now Second avenue), near the corner of Sixteenth street, during the fall of 1865 or 1866. Judge John M. Gould and several business men had to guarantee the operators' salary until the office was self sustaining. Judge Gould paid the difference out of his own pocket. The office paid well after a few months. Train dispatchers were not on the pay roll of the Rock Island route at this time. When trains were delayed, the superintendent of the road would help them with train orders and when he would get them on time they would be instructed to go by the time card.

#### In War Times.

The time of the war was exciting and profitable to the manager of an office in a city like this. The bulletin service was good, all battles of importance were chronicled in this way. The company would assess the office so much for bulletins if wanted, and all collected over this amount went to the manager for his extra work. The company's charges were very reasonable, and as a result the office would make more out of it than the company. The writer has witnessed many exciting scenes in and about his office during war times, notably at the times of the battle of Shiloh, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Vicksburg—in short, during the time of every important engagement. The in-

terest of the people was great. When the regiments raised in whole or in part in this county were engaged in battle, the family and intimate friends of the soldiers besieged the office for news of the killed and wounded.

The most joyous time I ever remembered and in which all classes of citizens took part was the surrender of Gen. Lee and his army. The manager of the office had a wire in his room, third floor of the Bailey & Boyle block (now Mitchell & Lynde). Sunday evening shortly before 9 o'clock word went over the wire that Lee had surrendered. This was quickly followed by a war department bulletin. The operator went on the street and the first people he met were Alex Steele, Judge Ira O. Wilkinson, Charles M. Hardy, Holmes Hakes and Maj. J. M. Beardsley. The group broke up, going to the different churches, and when the Central church bell rang out it was the signal for all to ring. It was not long before Second avenue was crowded with people. A celebration was planned on a large scale, and continued for three nights and two days. Every one seemed to be more or less under the influence of liquor, men who were never known to take intoxicants joining the crowd. On this Sunday night the writer marched with a company of more than one hundred to the home of Holmes Hakes (the present residence of Mayer Rosenfield) where a barrel of Kentucky whisky was rolled out. This Mr. Hakes said he had on hand for a long time, and was not to be tapped until the war was over. Many amusing incidents could be told of this and other exciting times from 1861-65.

#### The Assassination of Lincoln.

The saddest event I can call to mind was the assassination of President Lincoln. The news of the shooting was received about 19 o'clock Friday evening. When the writer went to the telegraph office Saturday morning the crowd was so dense he could scarcely reach the office. It was not long before a bulletin was received announcing the death of the president. Men wept, turned away with tears running down their cheeks as if they had lost one of their immediate family. Business was suspended and all business houses and public buildings were heavily draped in black. Church and private residences also displayed black. This intensity of feeling lasted some time. The day of the funeral services were held at all the churches and the day generally given over to mourning for the late president.

The second wire to reach the city was the one over the Western Union railway (now Milwaukee railway) in the year 1867. Previous to this time the business had grown so large that the regular press reports were at times cut down and frequently delayed so as to be of little use to the evening newspapers. After 1868 new wires were strung on the Rock Island, Milwaukee and other roads, so that business was handled with ease and quickly.

A FORMER TELEGRAPHER.

### GENTRY SHOWS IN ROCK ISLAND TODAY

Three Combined Because of Fever Scare in South and This City Gets Benefit.

It is the Gentry circus today. Not the Gentry dog and pony show any more. The dogs are there, the ponies are there and so are the monkeys—all the great features which have made Gentry Bros. famous, are still present—but, and that is a big word—no more can it be said as you going to the dog and pony show? That is a thing of the past. The Gentrys have consolidated and the consolidation took place a few days back. Three shows in one—mighty good value for the money, but that is the answer. Fever in the south compelled the cancellation of the southern tour—shown are not immune from this disease—and the two shows routed in Dixie started home last week. Figuring on the matter the Gentry Bros. decided to make a daring experiment. They determined to unite their shows and present three in one at regular prices of admission. Big business must follow, but Rock Island has always been a good Gentry town. The parade this morning was most creditable, and despite the fact that is the latter portion of the tented season every wagon looked fresh and bright and the stock—including dogs, ponies, monkeys, elephants, camels, etc., were in the pink of condition, as they say in pugilistic parlance. The matinee is in progress this afternoon and from the attendance present the Gentry's seem justified in offering a united exhibition, or a triple offering, either one of which would be worth the money. Owing to the length of the performance the evening exhibition commences promptly at 8 o'clock. The circus grounds are located at Twenty-fifth street and Fifth avenue.

#### Numerous and Worthless.

Everything is in the name when it comes to Witch Hazel Salve. E. C. DeWitt & Company, of Chicago, discovered some years ago how to make a salve from witch hazel that is a specific for piles. For blind, bleeding, itching and protruding piles, eczema, cuts, burns and bruises and all skin diseases, DeWitt's salve has no equal. This has given rise to numerous worthless counterfeits. Ask for DeWitt's—the genuine. Sold by all druggists.

One of nature's remedies: cannot harm the weakest constitution; never fails to cure summer complaints of young or old. Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry.

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Our Furniture has an individuality about it that at once appeals to one who is looking for something good, something that will last and look well while it lasts. This is the sort of Furniture we are selling.

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### MOLINE MENTION.

Seen Again. — Moline's reign of terror, "Overcoat Jack," still continues in the city and his last appearance was on the corner of Nineteenth street and Sixth avenue, Thursday night, and his latest victims are Miss Julia Gettemy and Miss Edith Broomhall, both teachers in the Moline high school. They were returning to their rooms at 6:45 from Miss Reid's boarding house, corner of Eighteenth street and Sixth avenue, and were walking on the north side of the avenue. Just as they were about to step off the sidewalk onto the pavement of Nineteenth street they saw a man clad in long overcoat approaching from the opposite side. When directly in front of the ladies he opened his coat and walked past them.

Has Eye Removed.—Earl J. Altz of 831 Fifteenth street underwent a delicate operation performed in Iowa City by an eye specialist, who found it necessary to remove the right eye in order to save the sight of the left one. Years ago when a youngster he injured the eye by jamming the points of a pair of scissors into it.

Bowlers Organize.—The Moline city bowling league was organized at Stouffer's alleys Thursday evening, when officers were elected and preparations made for the schedule which will cover a period of 18 weeks, beginning next Monday evening. The following officers were elected: President, A. C. Stouffer; secretary, Dr. Fred Graffund; treasurer, Ben Webber. The following are the teams with their captains: Blue Blazers, Dr. Graffund; Remman's, Clarence Wanner; Centurys, J. E. West; Colts, C. J. Wright; Pile Drivers, H. N. Williams; Kids, A. C. Stouffer; Indians, G. E. Hunton; Tigers, Charles Haller; Owls, Frank Donahoo; Mike's, Ben Webber.

Paving Resumed.—Yesterday morning the paving inspecting party composed of Mayor Andrew Olson, Alds. E. H. Sleight, C. L. Pope and Clark Anderson, arrived home from their trip to Chicago and St. Louis. Immediately after their arrival here the McCarthy company began work on the Seventeenth street job and will undoubtedly complete the work according to contract.

Mrs. Youngberg Dies.—Mrs. Charles Youngberg, wife of the plowfitter at Deere & Co.'s, died at the family home at 1811 Eighteenth street, Thursday afternoon after a long illness with can-

cer trouble. She has been ill for seven months. She was born in Sweden June 26, 1857, and came to Moline in 1882. She leaves her husband and seven children, who are Carl, Oscar, Henry, Herbert, Ellen and Ruth at home, and she also leaves four brothers and two sisters. The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock from the home Sunday afternoon.

Made Life Deacons. — Permanent deaconships were voted by the First Congregational church Thursday evening to Deacon Anson M. Hubbard and Deacon J. M. Hall. They have voice and vote in the board of deacons, but will be relieved from the active duties of the office.

Former Moline's Wed. — At home cards have been received here by a number of people from Dr. and Mrs. Hett Bisant, who were married Sept. 26. Mrs. Bisant was formerly Miss Anna Edna Hogg and was one of the highly respected young ladies of Glen Jean, W. Va. They will reside in Ada, I. T.

Clausen-Fink.—Henry Clausen and Miss Anna Fink were married Thursday night at the Grace Lutheran parsonage. It was a surprise to friends. The groom works for Fred Peters, the butcher. They are now living at the home of the bride, Sixth street and Fifth avenue.

Mordhorst-Rettig.—Miss Tillie Rettig and Fred A. Mordhorst both formerly of Estherville, Ind., but residing in this city at the present time, were united in marriage at the First Methodist parsonage at 8:30 Thursday evening by Rev. M. V. Crumbaker. They were unattended and after the ceremony they went to the home of the bride's sister. The groom is employed at Deere & Mansur company's and they expect to live in this city.

High School Playing.—The high school football eleven is playing the first game of the season this afternoon with the alumni team.

Strikes Hidden Rocks. —When your ship of health strikes the hidden rocks of Consumption, Pneumonia, etc., you are lost, if you don't get help from Dr. King New Discovery for Consumption. Dr. J. W. McKinnon, of Taladega Springs, Alabama, writes: "I had been very ill with pneumonia, under the care of two doctors, but was getting no better when I began to take Dr. King's New Discovery. The first gave relief, and one bottle cured me." Sure cure for sore throat, bronchitis, coughs and colds. Guaranteed at Hartz & Uhemeyer's drug store, price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

### DAVENPORT DOTS.

Doctors and Lawyers Playing.—The annual ball game between the doctors and lawyers is being played this afternoon at the Three-Eye league park.

Stealing Much Coal. — The officials of the Davenport, Rock Island & Northwestern railway company are complaining of petty thievery which are constantly going on in their yards on the river front. They insist that the people in the neighborhood secure all the coal they use the year round in the yards. The officials of the road say that they have received notice from consignees whose coal had been lying in the yards for some time that there has been shortages as great as 15 tons in single cars.

Adopts Own Children. — Frank Juksch has filed a deed of adoption with the county recorder whereby he adopts as his own children, his two step-daughters, Ruby and Mildred Juksch, formerly Ruby and Mildred Carland, being daughters of his present wife by a former marriage. These with the consent and approval of his wife, are adopted as his own children and in return Mr. Juksch agrees to bestow upon them all the rights, privileges and responsibilities which would pertain to his own children and to educate them in the best possible manner. Previous to this deed of adoption the children were merely stepchildren and therefore had a different status under the law.

Locked Burglar in Hall.—A successful burglary was worked at Lahrman's hall on Second and Ripley streets yesterday morning. The man who did the work did it well and ran off with a considerable sum of money. As yet no clue to the perpetrator of the deed has been found. It is supposed that the man secreted himself in one of the rooms upstairs before Fred Ruhl, the present proprietor, locked up Friday night. In the morning Mr. Ruhl was awakened by the noise made by the man in escaping and went down stairs only in time to find that the burglar had been successful.

Fire at Stone Quarry.—Fire at the Linwood quarry, just back of the hotel there, burned the engine house owned by the People's Construction company of Davenport yesterday. The building destroyed was 40 feet square and a loss of \$500 resulted, and is covered by insurance. For a time the fire threatened to carry off the other buildings of the vicinity, but they were saved.

Elects Officers.—The Workmen's In-

dustrial Home association met Thursday evening in the Industrial Home Building at Third and Scott streets. There was a very large attendance and the election of officers to fill vacancies took place. It resulted as follows: President, Charles Odren; vice president, A. Lanjar; chairman of the building committee, W. M. Harney.

Gives Clear Title.—The overruling by the Iowa supreme court of the application for a rehearing in the Parker will case, will prove of more interest to Davenporters than is generally known at the present time. The ending of the case by the refusing of a rehearing, gives the new Davenport Commercial club a clear title to its building site at the northwest corner of Fourth and Main streets, which was sold to them by the Parker estate upon condition that the supreme court refused to reopen the contest begun by the two illegitimate children of the son of the late James Monroe Parker.

Child Dies. — Yesterday morning at the home of its parents, 508 East Eleventh street, occurred the death of Una Marie Robins at the age of one year. Death was due to pneumonia.

### MAXIM'S MAXIM.

Modest Claims Often Carry More Conviction Than Loud Boasts. —When Maxim, the famous inventor, placed his gun before a committee of judges, he stated its carrying power to be considerably below what he felt sure the gun would accomplish. The result of the trial was therefore a triumph of surprise instead of disappointment as it might have been if he had overestimated his gun's efficiency. Our claim regarding Newbro's Herpicide is based on actual scientific facts. If a living germ is causing your hair to fall out its the most sensible thing to kill that germ. Newbro's Herpicide does this quickly and effectually. Destroy the cause you remove the effect. Sold by leading druggists. Send 10c in stamps for sample to The Herpicide company, Detroit, Mich.

Always Successful. —When indigestion becomes chronic it is dangerous. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure will cure indigestion and troubles resulting therefrom, thus preventing catarrh of the stomach. Dr. Newbrough of League, W. Virginia, says: "To those suffering from indigestion or sour stomach, I would say there is no better remedy than Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. I have prescribed to a number of my patients with good success." Kodol Dyspepsia Cure digests what you eat and makes the stomach sweet. Sold by all druggists.

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