

Big "Blizzard of '88," 50 Years Ago, Started Traditions of Phone Service

THE BOSTON DAILY GLOBE—SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1888



Left: An early print of the famous drawing, "The Spirit of Service," for which Angus Macdonald posed after having experienced the reality during the blizzard. Right, above: One of the first printed tributes to the spirit of service which is traditional with telephone men and women. Both Jack Stange, referred to as Starn in the clipping, and Angus Macdonald are

The "Great Blizzard of 'Eighty-eight," the storm which lashed the Atlantic seaboard fifty years ago, is to many people the yardstick by which to measure all subsequent snowfalls. It was during these dreary days of March, 1888, that the telephone and telephone people first demonstrated what they were capable of in a crisis.

All forms of communication—with one notable exception—were disrupted by the storm.

For—the long distance telephone lines between Boston and New York, and between that city and Philadelphia, had withstood the blizzard.

Newly built, these pathways for the spoken word were ready when the emergency came. And watching over these lines were men who were likewise ready—men like Angus A. Macdonald and Jack Stange.

Equipped with snowshoes Macdonald was a member of a telephone plant crew that worked out of Boston. On the night when the blizzard struck, nineteen of these men were quartered in a hotel at West Boylston, Mass., where they had been stringing additional wires on the New York-Boston Main Line.

To these men, on snowshoes, fell the task of keeping watch over a section of the vitally important line which linked New York and Boston.

Out into the drifts they fought their way, their faces set against the bitter winds, carrying heavy coils of wire, clearing snow from cross-arms, finding the breaks and mending them. Their fingers numb with cold, they worked on for hours—and the New York-Boston line did not fail!

Origin of a Famous Drawing Shortly after the blizzard, the general superintendent of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, whose headquarters were at New York, suggested that a drawing be prepared, showing one of these linemen, on snowshoes, patrolling the line during this first great emergency in which the telephone was a factor.

Frank T. Merrill, a Boston artist, was engaged to prepare the finished drawing. Angus A. Macdonald was selected to pose as the lineman.

It has been impossible accurately to determine when the picture was given its now familiar name. A reproduction of the drawing appeared in an advertisement of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company published in magazines of national circulation in March, 1914. The advertisement bore the caption: "The Spirit of Service."

Got the First News Through On March 13, 1888, Jack Stange had been "out on the lines" all day. He had returned to the Courtland Street headquarters of the American Telephone Company, in New York, early in the evening, and was promptly introduced to G. H. Dickinson, a reporter on the staff of the New York World and New York correspondent for the Boston Daily Globe.

Together these two men to face an experience that was to be a phone history. Together, they got the first direct blizzard news through between New York and Boston—by long distance telephone!

The report of that exploit appeared in a story, signed by Dickinson, which was published in the Globe on March 17, 1888. It bears the headline: "How We Got Tuzak!"

The Poles Were Standing Straight While the cross-country long distance wires were strung, all lines within the city were laid low, and Dickinson and Stange had to travel to the edge of the city to reach the Boston lines.

Early on March 14, loaded down with their paraphernalia, the newspaper man and the lineman caught an elevated train which took them to One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Street and there connected with the New York and Northern Railroad. Finally they reached their destination, Kings Bridge, about ten miles from the City Hall.

6:30 to discuss Scouting and, particularly, camping. The Redford pool will be closed for two weeks. Then the Scouts may continue their work in swimming and life saving.

An outdoor meeting is being planned for next Monday. The troop is to meet at the Scout room, then hike to the campfire. There will be a chance to tell some stories and sing songs around the campfire.

The registration cards are here. Several scouts have received their "Boy's Life."

BEAVERS CAUSE DAMAGE TO PHONE LINES IN MAINE Up in the Rangely Lakes section of Maine, beavers are sometimes responsible for damage to telephone lines. Occasionally, in winter, they dig service from Rangely to Stratton is interrupted when beavers fell trees and the trees drop across telephone lines and break the wires.

Copy Picked Up Promptly at Any Address On Telephone Call REdford 1183

LEGION TELLS HOW SOLDIERS BOOSTED FORMAL EDUCATION

The publicity committee of Groves-Walker Post No. 346 of the American Legion of Farmington submitted the following to the Enterprise:

The first American education was observed in 1931. The idea of a nation-wide observance of a program planned to interpret the needs, aims and achievements of the schools of the American public grew out of a series of conferences which began in 1919 between the Americanist commission of the American Legion and officers and committees of the National Education Association.

The great war disclosed the extent to which the human resources of the nation were handicapped by lack of knowledge and skill to serve the country adequately in a crisis. Citizens were appalled at the number of illiterate young men selected for military service from some of our states. Soldiers particularly were impressed by the large number of their comrades who could not understand the instructions given in the English language, read a newspaper, or write a letter home.

Immediately following the war the soldiers themselves took the initial steps in proposing a plan for citizen interest in the schools. The American Legion provided in its charter for the Americanist commission to pay particular attention to the education of the foreign born, and the illiterate in the nation. This commission sought the assistance of the National Education Association in establishing an annual event which would become a great nation-wide festival, in which the American people might dedicate themselves to the ideal self-government based upon an enlightened citizenry.

Thus American Education week began.

In this project the American Legion and the National Education Association invited the States Office of Education, now a sponsor of the event. Each year the general theme and the day by day topics of American Education week are selected by a joint committee of the American Legion, United States Office of Education, and the national Education Association. The program is adopted by states counties and cities. The observance is carried out each year during the week of Armistice Day.

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

A special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Farmington held April 12, 1938.

The meeting called to order by Mayor Warner at 12:20 p. m. Commissioners present: Hatton, Gildemeister, Oldenburg, Hamlin and Nacker.

Motion made by Hatton, supported by Hamlin that the Commission approve the application of Gust Pappas for a Class "C" Liquor License from May 1, 1938, to May 1, 1939. Roll Call. Carried, all yeas.

Motion made by Nacker, supported by Gildemeister, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Howard Warner, Mayor.
Harry Moore, Clerk.

Spice of Health During the Middle ages it was as drugs rather than medicines that spices were used, and as such were commercially of great value. They were also prized because of their aroma which counteracted the evil smells prevalent, for disease was commonly supposed to be the outcome of bad odors. Spices are a safeguard against disease, for now we know that they have a definite antiseptic value, says London's Pitt Magazine. Oil of cloves, for instance, acts as an antiseptic even in as weak a dilution as 2 parts in 1,000, cinnamon bark oil in a solution of 4 parts in 1,000, though a little acid excess to have any antiseptic value when 5.6 parts are mixed in 1,000 of water.

James Youngblood and Billie Checketts passed their packing test for Second Class Monday night. Fred Sieg passed his First Aid test for Second Class Wednesday. The First Class Scouts are helping the Tenderfoot Scouts and the candidates in their advancements. A candidate should ask Bud Norton for help. A dinner for Scout leaders was scheduled for Thursday night at 6:30 to discuss Scouting and, particularly, camping. The Redford pool will be closed for two weeks. Then the Scouts may continue their work in swimming and life saving. An outdoor meeting is being planned for next Monday. The troop is to meet at the Scout room, then hike to the campfire. There will be a chance to tell some stories and sing songs around the campfire. The registration cards are here. Several scouts have received their "Boy's Life."

Zinnia Is a Bold Beauty



The zinnia of today is a bold beauty and a striking improvement over its ancestors. Many new forms as well as new colors and color combinations have been developed by scientific plantmen. Zinnias like warm weather and the seed must be sown in warm soil. If the soil is cold they may decay and never germinate. If you sow the seeds of zinnias in the open ground where the plants are to remain, you will have early flowers, and sturdy plants.

Sow the seeds about 1/2 inch deep. Plants should be evenly spaced a foot to 18 inches apart, but may be sown more thickly and the extra plants moved to some other location. Firm soil over the seeds and in dry weather keep the ground moist until the plants emerge; this should be done by the florists' say "keep them on the dry side," but this does not mean they should not be watered thoroughly during drought periods. The dahli-flowered types are perhaps most popular. The flowers of these are of enormous size, up to 6 inches in diameter. The petals are slightly cupped and the stems are long with attractive foliage.

The California giants are other tall ones. They are excellent for planting in back of the dwarf and miniature zinnias, which grow like bushy border plants with hundreds of blossoms.

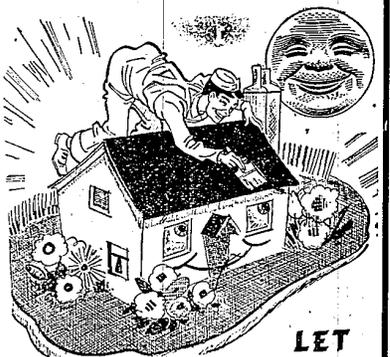
There is no more satisfactory flower for garden and for cutting than the zinnia, and for mass planting they are unrivaled. They are easily grown, bloom quickly from seed, and can be kept free of pests with an occasional dusting.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces open competitive examinations for the following positions: Head auditor, \$5,600 a year, Social Security Board. Poultry inspector, and senior, associate, and assistant poultry \$4,600 a year.

inspectors, \$2,600 to \$4,600 a year, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Bank note designer, \$17.28 per diem and \$3.24 per hour for overtime, Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Chemist, and senior, associate, and junior chemists, \$2,000 to \$4,000 a year.

Full information may be obtained from the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners, at the post office or customhouse in any city which has a post office of the first or second class, or from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

STARTED SPRING CLEANING?



LET PITTSBURGH PAINTS

Bring Gleaming Freshness Throughout Your Home!

You Can Depend on the Man Who ADVERTISES

Nine times out of ten you will find that the man who advertises is the man who most willingly returns your money if you are not satisfied.

He has too much at stake to risk losing your trade or your confidence. You can depend on him.

He is not in business for today or tomorrow only... but for next year and ten years from next year. He knows the value of good-will.

You get better merchandise at a fairer price than he could ever hope to sell if he did not have the larger volume of business that comes from legitimate advertising and goods that bear out the promise of the printed word.

Don't miss the advertisements. This very day they call your attention to values that tomorrow you will be sorry you overlooked.