

HEADQUARTERS OF NEW YORK POLICE IS A BUSY PLACE; NO VOICE WITH A SMILE ANSWERS

(The New York Sun)
High up under the roof of Police Headquarters in Center Street in a long room which is a bee hive of activity every hour of the day and night, every day and night in the year. It has been that way since 1908, when the present building was span new and opened for the first time, and before that a somewhat similar room at old "300 Mulberry" was almost as busy for many, many years.

The room houses the telegraph bureau of the Police Department. It's not really a telegraph bureau any more, and hasn't been for years. It's a telephone bureau now, actually, for the last telegraph instrument was removed from it six or seven years ago. But back in the old days when the system of communication between headquarters and station houses was by means of a telegraph system, the name was correct of course.

The telegraph bureau always has been the eyes and ears of the department, and many times it has been the brains of it when some quick-thinking operator has used his wits and acted promptly to save life, despatch help to those in dire need of it, or act to bring about the quick capture of some criminal.

Down through the center of the room there is a long "twelve position" board at which sit operators with head-set to their ears and mouthpieces strapped in front of them. The operators are all policemen and they are picked men. Picked for their general intelligence; their knowledge of the city; coolness of head; disposition—a very important matter to a busy phone operator—and all other matters that a person must have to efficiently perform the duties of operation on a board that is of such importance.

This board is the "administration board," through which all the telephone business of the department is transmitted, such as calling the station

houses, the various bureaus housed in Headquarters and the Police Academy in Broome street across the way. Another board about the same size, takes care of all the outside calls both incoming and outgoing.

Well Known
For years the telephone number of Police headquarters has been known to almost all of the city—Spring 3100. However, Headquarters has another number which is Canal 2000, and it is through this latter exchange that most of the "administration" or business of the department calls are transmitted. A citizen by calling either department will get headquarters equally as fast and with the same result.

When one calls Headquarters on the telephone one of the first things that usually impresses the caller is the speed with which the call is completed. That's due to two things. The efficiency of the policemen operators in answering all calls promptly and the co-operation of the telephone company in speeding the call through to Headquarters. It has been said that the "voice with the smile wins" but one is not greeted with any sugary, "Good morning this is police headquarters" 7, 8 or 10 or whatever is the position number of the operator who is taking the call. There's something fine-sounding about that voice when you hear it coming over the wire. Alert, reassuring and just the sort of a tone that one would like to hear in an emergency case. One feels that there is a world of efficiency behind that voice, and there is. It is the efficiency of a finely trained group of operators and the efficiency of an entire department.

Many Operators
There are fifty operators assigned to Headquarters. They work in eight-hour tours the same as policemen who are patrolling the streets. They are all men who have been in the department long enough to have had experience on patrol and know what the

man out on post is confronted with and are thus of great help in giving proper advice. The number actually on duty varies according to the amount of business on the boards. From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. there are at least eighteen operators working on the board. From 4 p.m. to 12 midnight there are always twelve on duty and the same number from 12 midnight until 8 a.m. An acting captain is always in charge of each tour. Besides this officer there is always a supervisor, a sergeant, who can plug in on any position in each board and overhear any conversations and generally supervise the work of the operators.

In the Police Headquarters of the other four boroughs there are telephone switchboards, which in turn are in direct connection with the main Headquarters bureau. The operators in the other boroughs are policemen also and are under the direction of William Allen, who is superintendent of the telegraph bureau. The high point of efficiency of the bureau is largely due to the ability of Superintendent Allen. He has been a member of the department since 1889. He was a telegraph man before he entered the service of the city and upon his appointment was assigned to the telegraph bureau. He steadily rose through the various grades until he reached the post of assistant superintendent in 1909. He was made superintendent by Commissioner Mulrooney on January 26 last. He ranks as an inspector.

DAFFODIL CAKES

1 cup butter
2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
8 eggs
1-2 teaspoon salt
1-3 teaspoon soda
Grated rind of 1 orange
4 tablespoons orange juice
Cream butter, add sugar and beat in the eggs, one at a time. Sift flour with salt and soda, beat into mixture, add rind and orange juice and beat thoroughly. Bake in small muffin or cup cake tins in oven 375 degrees F. for about 2 minutes. Ice with orange icing.

BIRCH BARK CANOES ARE VERY SCARCE

The Star published in Sault Ste. Marie in Northern Ontario says: A writer in the Montreal Gazette has the mistaken notion that the making of birch bark canoe is a lost art. These are still in Algoma, the last outpost of the Ojibway. The proof is that there are two birchbarks hanging in the Sault Star office both of them made by Ojibways in the last year or so.

Toronto University has a small birch-bark canoe in its museum, and other museums are acquiring these. Apparently these fragile vessels are only made in Algoma and even in this district it requires some persistence to have one made. It took the Star some years to find Indians who knew the art of making canoes, and then another year or two to get the canoes made. The builders do not know that museums want their work. But if one of these canoes are desired by a good Canadian the Star will try to fill the order.

The birch bark canoe, the invention of the Ojibway, was the greatest Indian contribution to civilization. Only by it could the continent be explored in the old days. Every traveller used the birch bark up until about 50 years ago. There was a canoe regatta at Orrilla in 1876, at which nothing else was used. Some of the racing canoes used on that occasion were about 25 feet long and just wide enough to permit a traveller to get his knees into them.

What drove the birchbark off the market was its fragility, its proneness to leak if it touched anything. As a general rule its floor was too round so that it upset too easily. But as a handy means of transportation in the old days it was perfect, its lightness on the portage and its ease of construction giving it a universal use. Here and there it is still used.

What finer decoration for a canoe club—or any other kind of a club for that matter—than the distinctively Canadian birch bark canoe? Many Canadians recall the happy birch bark days of their youth when they knelt on cedar boughs that were generally damp, and paddled into the land of romance. It is comforting to know that such voyages are yet possible.

IS DEFERRED

New York, April 6—Election of a successor to the late Ernest S. Barnard as the president of the American League will be deferred for several months, baseball men predicted yesterday.

Among the men active in baseball who have been mentioned for the position are Edward G. Barrow, general manager of the New York Yankees; Robert Quinn, president of the Red Sox; Billy Evans, former umpire and now manager of the Cleveland Indians and Frank J. Navin of Detroit, Vice-president and Acting-president of the league.

An inactive baseball man considered as a possibility is Joe L. Markham, Butte, Montana, published who is chairman of the Montana State Athletic Commission.

A Frank and Simple Friend

From the Washington Star
As Father Time goes on his way
We do not undertake to say
Just how he travels, fast or slow;
For Einstein these are left to know.

Yet while no mathematic skill
Lends us an intellectual thrill,
We know that Father Time will bring
His way at last 'mid blossoming,

We know that as just now he goes
His trail will lead us through the snows.
Of "time dimensions" we can't tell,
But what we know still 'serves us well.

PHILANDER JOHNSON.

"He's a very clever detective. Isn't he?"

"Yes, indeed. He could find thumb-prints even on a finger-bowl."

"They say he is a great leader of men."

"Perhaps, but I'll bet he can't get ahead of his wife and his mother-in-law."

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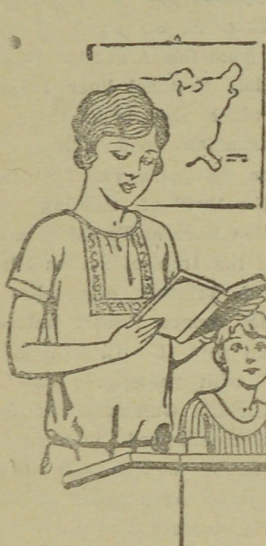
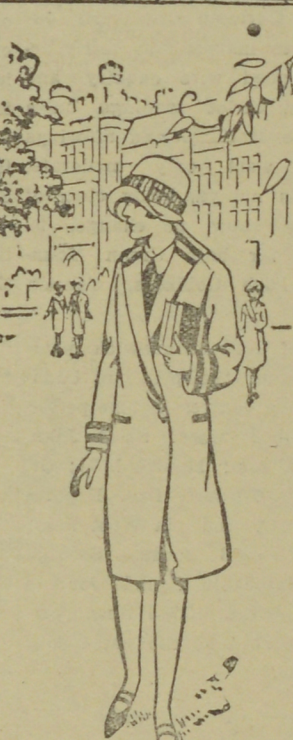
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SICK AND WEAK
Camden, New Jersey:—"When my daughter was twelve years old she was hurt at the playground. She was sick and weak for some time after that and was not able to go to school regularly. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has helped her wonderfully, and she now goes to school every day. She has gained in weight and has a better appetite than she had before taking it." Mrs. Ada McKim, 1044 Linden Street, Camden, New Jersey.

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