

Heroes of Switchboard Receive Awards

SIX IN STATE AWARDED VAIL MEDAL FOR 1926

TWO WOMEN AMONG TELEPHONE WORKERS RECEIVING RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE

OUTSTANDING ACTS NOTED

Hadley Manager and Operator Help Capture Armed Robbers—Three Others Commended

Six Michigan telephone people have been awarded the Theodore Vail Medal for 1926, for outstanding acts of noteworthy public service performed in the line of duty, according to announcement by Burch Foraker, president of the Michigan Bell Telephone company. Two are women, and two, a man and a woman, are employed by the Hadley Telephone company, of Hadley, Mich.

the Hadley Telephone Exchange, Benjamin F. Hadley and his wife, Edna Ann Hadley.

When the carload of armed thugs tore into the village, Mr. Hadley, who was outside the telephone office, was attracted because of the foreign license plates on the machine. When the car parked, motor running, a block from the bank, three of its occupants going into the bank, he became more interested. Then, noting that the curtains of the bank were pulled down, he rushed to the telephone office and called the deputy sheriff, telephoned a hardware dealer and ordered arms and ammunition to be made ready, and then endeavored to reach the sheriffs of Lapeer, Genesee and Oakland counties. The bandits had cut the long distance wires, so Hadley called out over a farm line and had a switch made at a farmer's home to route his call through another small town, thus reaching the officers.

Then, armed with a rifle and shotgun, Hadley helped organize the posse that attacked and captured the bandits. As the thugs fled from the bank, they were faced by a growing crowd of men with business like looking guns who were springing toward them

employees of the Michigan Bell Company.

While supervising the work of a tree trimming crew near Washington, Mich., September 1, William T. Frumveller was directed, by the cries of a woman, to the body of a boy high up in a tree. Frumveller climbed into the tree and found that the lad had come into contact with a power line which carried 500 volts. The telephone man secured rubber gloves from the crew's truck, attached a rope about the boy's body, broke the contact with the power wire, and lowered the child toward the ground. Recalling his first aid teaching, Frumveller decided that a counter-shock would assist the restoration of consciousness and let the body drop when it was about three feet above the grass. Signs of returning consciousness were discerned immediately. Frumveller treated the lad's face and hands for severe burns, bandaged them, and then ordered that he be rushed to a doctor. The physician declared Frumveller a man of resourcefulness and courage and said his prompt work had saved the boy's life.

The story of the act of Miss Reeta Howe, Grand Rapids night

following their rescue, and the physician credited Miss Howe with saving their lives.

Three other Michigan Bell employees, William Schmidt, senior lineman, R. Hellingier, line installer, both of Battle Creek, and Mrs. Nelson, operating agent at Gales, have been recommended by the Vail medal committee for letters of special commendation for outstanding acts of service.

Schmidt and Hellingier, while at work, saw an elderly woman fall and break a bone of her leg. They carefully carried her to a nearby residence. Applying their first aid knowledge, they restored her to consciousness, and called a physician, who praised the two for their efforts and the excellence of their treatment.

The morning of July 12, while Mrs. Nelson was going to the State Bank in Gales, she saw a band of robbers flee from the establishment furnished information to the authorities which enabled them to take the trail almost immediately. Hurrying to a telephone, she called the police at Niles and, within five minutes, the officers of Niles, Buchanan, and St. Joseph were on the highway and surrounding the district in which it was believed the bandits had hidden. The bandits finally were cornered



Two women, six men, telephone employees, receive coveted recognition of outstanding acts of public service. Upper left, Miss Reeta Howe, Grand Rapids; upper right, Mrs. Edna Ann Hadley, Hadley, Mich.; lower left, William T. Frumveller, Port Huron; center, Rudolph A. Hansen and Harold J. Hausbeck, Saginaw; right, Benjamin F. Hadley, Hadley.

In every direction. Firing upon the closing posse and holding it in check momentarily, the trio backed toward the car, but was cut off. Blinding the armed townsmen, they secreted themselves in a small shed. There they were aided by Mrs. Hadley from the telephone office. She, brave woman, notified the posse, and continued to arouse the countryside by calling the citizens of the town.

The bandits, finally routed from their hiding place, shot their way out of town, but were shot down and captured before going far. Two bandits and two members of the posse were wounded.

Rudolph A. Hansen and Harold J. Hausbeck are credited with saving the life of a workman in a trench in Saginaw, July 2. Coming upon a group of workmen and curious passersby standing about the form of an unconscious man, Hansen and Hausbeck, after summing up a physician, worked in turn for 35 minutes, to restore consciousness by means of artificial respiration. The physician declared that they had saved the life of the workman. They had put to practical purpose principles they had learned in the first aid classes conducted for the plant

operator, is one of a woman's quick thinking, initiative and resourcefulness. Answering a switchboard signal from a country line, March 6, 1926, Miss Howe heard a faint whisper, "a doctor." Then she heard the receiver drop, and not a farther sound. She did not even know whose telephone it was that she had answered.

Quickly searching the records, the operator found that it was a two-party line, with one telephone a mile southwest of Grand Rapids, and the other in a residence. She aroused the people in the residence and told what she had heard, requesting that someone go to the gasoline station as she believed a man was in trouble or ill there. The family, however, feared that Miss Howe's call was a ruse of burglars late of an attempt to rob the house.

Finally the girl's persistence prevailed, and someone was sent to the filling station. She located a physician, told him the situation and asked him to hurry to the oil station. There two unconscious men were found, victims of coal gas escaping from a small stove. One had been awakened by the fumes and was barely able to crawl to the telephone and to whisper his two words to the operator. The man laid in stupor several days.

Finally, he is reconciled to married life. "I think so. I called on him recently and found him sifting ashes through an old tennis racket."

"Rose," a Holstein cow belonging to G. C. Seber of Hubbard, O., gave birth to four healthy calves weighing about 50 pounds each.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, on the 11th day of March, A. D. 1927.

Present: Hon. Ross Stowell, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of John S. Brooks, Deceased.

John S. Brooks having filed a petition praying that an instrument filed in said Court be admitted to probate as the last will and testament of said deceased, and that administration of said estate be granted to Mae Brooks, administratrix, with will annexed, or to any other suitable person.

It is Ordered, That the 2nd day of May, A. D. 1927, at nine a. m., Eastern Standard Time, of said Probate Office, is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy hereof, for three consecutive weeks prior to the said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ROSS STOWELL, Judge of Probate.

A true copy. FLORENCE DOTY, Deputy Register of Probate. 5-1

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Mr. F. A. Eastwood, Manager, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, Lansing, Michigan.

My dear Mr. Eastwood:

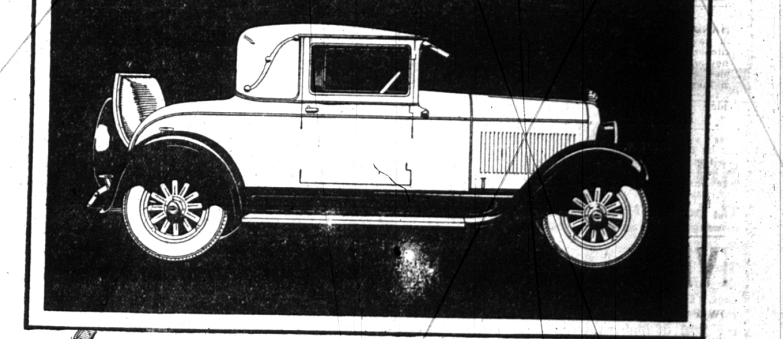
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