

"There is a Style of Glasses That Best Befits Your Face"

SEE DR. NORMAN R. BECKER OPTOMETRIST



Formerly of Square Deal Miller in the capacity of manager and optometrist in the optical department.

Complete modern optical laboratory on premises with an optical technician in attendance at all times, for quick repair service.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tel. 2328
129 E. MAPLE



By Gene Allaman

When the boys came marching home, \$20,000 strong, they returned to a Michigan beset by so many problems and plagued by a babel of confusion. The "new world" that was to be has finally dawned. Clouds are many; silver linings are few. As we look at the soiled and frayed edges of our new world, the anticipation of glamour is suddenly replaced by disillusionment. We sigh; we experience an emotional

long since vanished into thin air by new increases in the cost of living. And the days of lost wages are numerous.

The A-1 war hangover in Michigan, as elsewhere, is inflation. Remember how worried we were about the post-war adjustment period when thousands of Michigan workers were expected to be without jobs? Labor leaders predicted hard times; they insisted upon federal unemployment compensation of increased sums for war workers. Veterans were provided with \$20 jobless benefits for 52 months. We all shuddered at the prospect of great economic stress until factories had reconverted back to peacetime production. While Henry Wallace proclaimed the doctrine of government-supported full employment as an immediate need, private industry went to work. Michigan

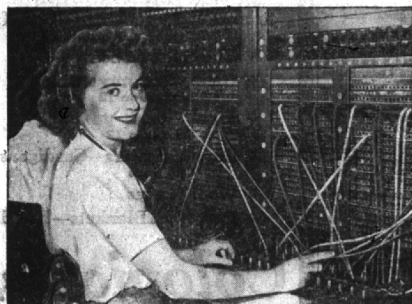
were soon humming. The post-war slump never materialized.

The spiral of new wage increases to make possible new purchasing power was pushed higher by a demand for stacks of dollars and war bonds in the bank. Famine for goods during a long wait for the Americans was anxious to buy a new automobile, a new radio, a new white shirt and everything else that goes to constitute modern living. The net result: soaring prices. Inflation in prices led to an illusion of ease. The public received at Lansing. Taxpayers arrived at the suspicion that the State of Michigan was not doing its best hands that it actually needed. While Governor Harry F. Kelly and other members of the public officials envisioned the time when public funds would be hard to get and when unemployment might be eased by public works financed by wartime savings, the Michigan taxpayer became restless at the prospect of idle money in the treasury at Lansing.

states, the world picture seems dark, indeed. Little wonder that our industrialists are apprehensive over the future of American free enterprise when England has already nationalized the Bank of England, all coal mines, all aviation, and is now moving to nationalize in a host of transportation and electricity, telecommunication and possibly petroleum. Private industry—textiles, tires, ceramics, hosiery, boots and shoes and others—will be under strict governmental control and regulation if not outright ownership. A hungry world depends upon American grain for much of its hope of survival. American responsibility as a world power has never been greater. As Secretary of State Marshall recently declared, we face many and grave problems—the greatest of which probably is the role of American democracy in the survival of western civilization and undertake the staggering task between democracy and communism. This is the world struggle of the post-war world, that "new world" which we have awaited so eagerly. In contrast to this the problems of the Michigan home front seem puny and small. We have our homes and our families, and our pantry shelves are not bare. Our prospect of new taxes seems to fade away to the vanishing point when we look over the horizon and see what confronts the rest of a weary world.

Michigan Bell Reports on 1946

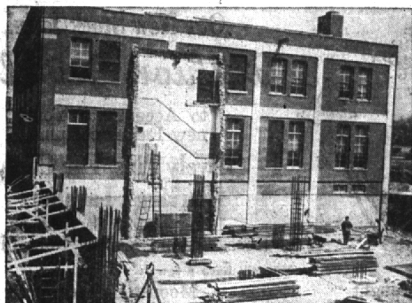
During 1946, Michigan Bell installed more telephones, served more telephones and handled more calls per telephone than ever before. Total revenue was larger, too. But so were expenses. Earnings on investment were more than in 1945. But in the second six months, due to rising costs, earnings were on a downward trend.



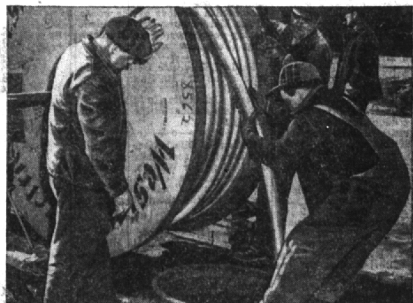
ABOUT CALLS—On the average business day there were 7,304,000 local calls, and 197,000 long distance calls . . . increases of 22% and 23% respectively over 1945. Although at times some calls were delayed by insufficient facilities, telephone people gave more good service than ever before in history.



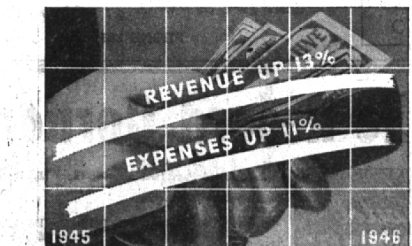
ABOUT TELEPHONES—Michigan Bell installed 34,000 telephones a month, double 1945. A net gain of 204,000 telephones brought the total in service to a record high of 1,378,000. However, it was necessary to give party-line service to many thousands who would have preferred individual lines. And 65,000 others were waiting for telephones at year's end.



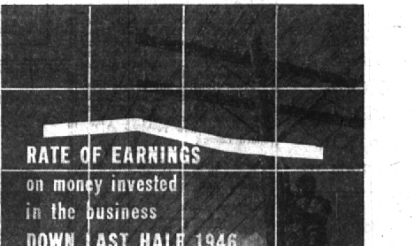
ABOUT CONSTRUCTION—\$36,000,000 worth of buildings and equipment were added. This investment, all-time high for one year, would have been much greater but for continuing shortages of materials. Increasing demands for service and higher labor and material costs have raised the estimate for our 5-year post-war construction program to \$220,000,000.



ABOUT JOBS—Michigan Bell's force rose 6,000 to more than 22,000 people, about one-third of whom had less than a year's experience. Nearly half of all Michigan Bell men were returned veterans of World War II. Wage adjustments, made early in 1946, amount to \$8,461,000 a year. Payrolls totaled \$5,445,000, up 50% over 1945.



ABOUT REVENUE AND EXPENSES—We took in more money than ever before—\$91,000,000, or 13% more than 1945. But expenses also increased. Operating payrolls were up 39% for the year. Total expenses, excluding taxes, were 25% over 1945. Total cost of giving service, including taxes, was \$79,000,000—an increase of 11% over 1945. Revenues in 1946 include \$3,500,000 subject to refund to customers if the pending rate reduction order of the Michigan Public Service Commission is upheld by the court.



ABOUT EARNINGS—Earnings for the year were \$12,000,000, or 7.2 cents on each dollar invested in the business. If the Public Service Commission's rate reduction order is upheld, 1946 earnings will drop to 5.9 cents, insufficient, we believe, to attract the new capital needed for expansion and improvement. As it was, during the last half of the year, rising costs sent the earnings rate on a downward trend, which pointed to the possibility that higher rates might become necessary to assure financial stability of the business.

THE PROSPECTS—Our objectives in 1947 are to provide as quickly as possible: 1. Enough telephone plant to take care of all unfilled orders for service and to care for future demands; 2. Facilities to furnish promptly the type of service the customer desires; 3. Improvements in local and long distance service; and 4. Extension and improvement of rural service. Present indications are that shortages of needed materials will

continue to handicap us in 1947. But, we expect by year's end to have filled most requests for service and to have made progress in further improving the quality of service. Telephone men and women turned in a record-breaking performance in 1946, and we have confidence that in 1947 they again will surpass all previous accomplishments and give to Michigan continuing telephone service of the very highest order.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

ASK FOR A COPY OF OUR ANNUAL REPORT AT ANY MICHIGAN BELL BUSINESS OFFICE



They watch him stride to the star of hope
And they see themselves there, too,
For that star will be a reality
With the help that comes from you

BUY EASTER SEALS

This Advertisement Contributed By
Williams Boot Shop

115 W. Maple

Phone 117

THE RIGHT APPROACH to Easter



Tomorrow is the first day of Spring and Easter is Sunday, April 6. Welcome the new season and step into the Easter Parade in fashion. We have put a lot of effort into selecting the finest quality merchandise made by the famous makers listed here.

HART-SCHAFFNER & MARX and STEINBLOCK

- SUITS and TOPCOATS
- Stetson HATS
- Manhattan SHIRTS
- HOSE by Interwoven
- Cheney NECKWEAR
- HICKOK
- BELTS and JEWELRY

We have a fine selection of SLACKS and SPORT SHIRTS

Dickinson's

IN THE WABEEK BUILDING
Fine Apparel for Gentlemen

B. E. 50,992
STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held in the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, on the 18th day of March, A. D. 1947.
Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.
In and to the Estate of Lena M. Baxter, Deceased.
D. Made Ode, sister of said deceased, having filed in said court a petition praying that the administration of said estate be granted to Howard C. Baxter or to some other suitable person.
It is Ordered, That the 14th day of April, A. D. 1947, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.
It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, newspaper printed and circulated in said county.
ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

OLIVER H. KIRK,
Attorney at Law,
Wabek Building,
Birmingham, Michigan. 5132-53

Village Nursery
School
7400 Franklin Road
Franklin Village
Exceptional Advantages for the Pre-School Child
Five Well Trained Teachers
Reasonable Tuition
PHONE BIRMINGHAM 3409J3 or 3409W3