

Doing Fine
"Put up your hands!" commanded the larger of two bandits who had stopped the bus. "We're going to rob the cents and kins all the ladies."
"No," remonstrated the smaller

one, gallantly. "We'll rob the cents all right, but we'll leave the ladies alone."
"Young man," snapped a woman passenger of uncertain age, "mind your own business! Your friend's managing this hold-up."

BIRMINGHAM VETERANEWS

Compiled from Various States and National Veterans Institutes Centers

The office of Veterans' Affairs was instrumental in establishing a standard order of procedure for sanatorium superintendents for use when admitting veterans to tuberculosis sanatoria. This procedure was accomplished by enlisting the aid of the Federal Veterans Administration, the State Department of Health and the Executive Office.

The procedure protects both the veteran and the state. It protects the veteran by causing the execution and filing of Veterans Administration Form 10-F-10, which is an application for hospital treatment or domiciliary care at the expense of the federal government, within 72 hours of admittance. It also requires the preparation and filing of a tuberculosis medical certificate within the 72 hour period.

If the application is adjudicated to be services connected, the veteran becomes a patient of the federal government. This adjudication forms the basis for a pension in the amount of \$138 per month during the time the veteran is hospitalized, thereby relieving the care for veteran's family. The VA's completed, the application for adjudication is not made within a reasonable time.

A check-list of timely suggestions to veterans contemplating the purchase of homes under the GI Bill has been prepared by the Veterans Administration Branch Office in Columbus, Ohio, for distribution in Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky.

Urging veterans to make a wise selection of any home they purchase, the check-list emphasizes that veterans have until 1957 to use their loan guarantee benefit.

"The VA guarantees your loan—not your house," the list points out. "It's up to you to find one that suits your needs and your pocketbook."

The check-list cautions veterans to deal only with reputable financial institutions and to avoid deposits unless they have an agreement in writing that their money will be refunded if the transaction is not completed.

"Try to allow yourself a financial cushion," veterans are advised. "Payments mean less now, but what if wages go down? Remember that your payments will continue for a long time. If you've found a house you like, go over it carefully before you sign."

Veterans who file claims with Veterans Administration for disability compensation or pension can help speed up service by observing simple rules, VA officials pointed out.

They are:

1. Remember to submit complete evidence concerning your physical condition, and the cause of such condition;
2. Spell your name clearly—the same way it appears on your service record;
3. When you are informed of your "C" number, use it in all correspondence with VA;
4. Include your correct address in all correspondence;
5. Avoid all unnecessary correspondence;
6. If you find it necessary to write, address your letters to the VA regional office serving the area in which you reside;
7. When requested to report for physical examination, or to submit additional evidence, do so promptly. If you cannot, let VA know.

NEWS COPY that is submitted early for publication each week is necessarily given preference over late items. The "early bird" gets the space.

Consumers Power Petitions MPSC for Standard Rates to Apply to All Users

Consumers Power Company has asked the Michigan Public Service Commission for permission to revise and standardize its natural gas rates in ways that would provide additional revenues for the company.

The company, in its petition, pointed out that gas users in the so-called "all-Michigan" gas area, which includes the cities of Alma, Bay City, Charlotte, Hastings, Howell, Ionia, Ithaca, Lansing, Mason, Midland and Saginaw and other nearby communities, are paying substantially lower rates than those in the so-called "Texas" area, which includes the cities of Birmingham, Ferndale, Flint, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Marshall, Mt. Clemens, Owosso, Plymouth, Royal Oak and St. Johns, and surrounding communities.

For some years all natural gas for the "all-Michigan" gas area came from Michigan fields. Now that natural gas for both areas comes from a common source, supplied almost entirely from distant Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas gas fields, it is only fair, the company says, that all communities should pay the same rates.

Standardization of rates throughout the Consumers system, a company spokesman said, might mean a substantial increase in the rates paid by large industrial customers and space-heating (including house-heating) customers in the "all-Michigan" gas area and a more moderate increase in the rates paid by domestic customers in this area who use gas for such purposes as cooking and water heating.

The company indicated, also, that even in the "Texas" area the rate for space heating is unreasonably low.

"Space heating by the use of natural gas," the petition says, "is in direct competition with other fuels, including fuel oil, bituminous and anthracite coals, and coke.

Prevailing retail prices of these competing fuels have greatly increased during recent years, so that, viewed exclusively from the price standpoint, and without regard to the added value of relative convenience, cleanliness and absence of storage space arising from use of gas as a heating fuel, natural gas is now actually cheaper than the other types of space heating fuel, being, by way of illustration, from 40 to 50% less than fuel oil.

Pays Higher Average Price
Fuels which compete with natural gas for commercial and industrial business, such as fuel oil and liquefied petroleum gases, also are selling at higher comparative prices than natural gas, according to the petition.

In order to meet its customers' needs for all purposes, Consumers is engaged in a tremendous long-range expansion program which calls for expenditures of more than \$40,000,000 in 1948 alone, according to the petition. This will require the selling of

equipment, materials and supplies essential to the gas industry costs appreciably more than during the pre-war period. Wages and salaries also have sky-rocketed, and the petitioner has been required, as recently as March 1, 1948, to make a third general wage and salary increase since the end of the war.

"In its natural gas department, the average hourly wage rate paid operating and maintenance employees is now more than 75% higher than the average rate paid in January 1941, and the salaries of office employees associated with gas operations have risen proportionately.

"The factors which have caused the above increases in petitioner's cost of doing business have likewise increased the prices of coal and oil and have brought about increasing demands for natural gas, which has not increased in price."

Expansion Program
In order to meet its customers' needs for all purposes, Consumers is engaged in a tremendous long-range expansion program which calls for expenditures of more than \$40,000,000 in 1948 alone, according to the petition. This will require the selling of

additional securities, the petition goes on, and it will be difficult to attract investors unless company earnings are adequate.

"Net income as a natural gas utility is presently inadequate," says the petition. "Adequacy of rate of return is of primary importance at the present time in

view of the unusually large construction program now pending. Returns from the Company's natural gas business must be sufficient to induce capital investments in its securities in competition with the capital needs of other industries whose prices and business are largely unregulated."

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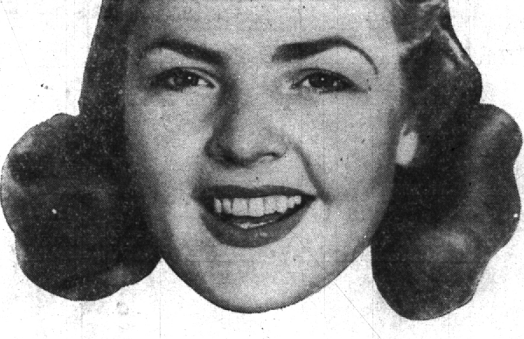
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"I AM ONE of more than 730,000 people whose savings, invested in Bell System securities, provide money for building the telephone system. That makes me an investor in Michigan Bell. Millions of others have invested in the telephone business indirectly through their savings accounts or insurance policies with institutions owning Bell securities. Although Michigan Bell took in 6% more money than in 1946, the cost of providing service rose 13%. And Michigan Bell earned only 3 8/10¢ last year on each of our dollars invested in the business. This is less than a fair return and offers us little incentive for investing additional money needed to expand and improve service. So it's a good thing Michigan Bell has asked for an increase in telephone rates to assure us a fair return."



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MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY
Ask for a copy of "How We Did in '47"—our complete, illustrated annual report—at any Michigan Bell business office.