

Telephone Inventor Hoped to Aid Blind; Was Bell's Purpose

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, was more interested in his hope to aid the deaf than he was in the great national invention, according to Helen Keller, writing in The American Magazine. "He rendered a lifetime of service to the afflicted," Miss Keller continues.

"Doctor Bell experienced the annoyance as well as the happiness of having done something that his fellow creatures appreciated. Wherever he went he was approached by people who wished to shake hands with the man who invented the telephone. Once he spelled out to me, 'One would think I had never done anything worth while but the telephone. This is because it is a money making invention. It is a pity so many people make money the criterion of success. I wish my experiments had resulted in enabling the deaf to speak with less difficulty. That would have made me truly happy.'"

Explaining the system of telephone wires connecting instruments far apart, to his blind friend, Dr. Bell exclaimed, says Miss Keller, "Those copper wires up there are carrying the news of birth and death, war and finance, failure and success from station to station around the world. Listen! I fancy I hear laughter, tears, love's vows broken and mended."

When Signs Fail

"Rhubarb must not be regarded as a sign o' spring, fer frequently we git our best sleighin' long after its first pink knobs appear above ground." Abe Martin in Farm and Fireside.

OPEN NEW LIBRARY STATE UNIVERSITY

Illinois Now Has Sixth Largest Among Institutions; Was Long Awaited

Sixth largest institutional library in the world, the University of Illinois' \$1,750,000 structure which was dedicated recently in the presence of the dream of a half century.

Towering over the other new buildings on the south campus of the University of Illinois, the library building is but two-fifths complete. Looking into the future, the university officials have set aside a huge area for necessary additions in the next 30 or 40 years.

First mention of a library at the university dates back to 1867, says an Associated Press dispatch from Urbana when Dr. Gregory, regent of the Illinois Industrial university, was given \$1,000 to purchase a working collection of books.

The library has had varied quarters since its origin in a room back of the regent's office, and has been shifted from place to place as it outgrew its facilities.

Student Assistants

Student assistants worked in the library in 1880 for five cents an hour, and there were always more applicants than positions. Dean Thomas Arkle Clark was an assistant in his senior year, and he states that some months he earned as much as \$1.30.

Governor Len Small signed the appropriation bill in June, 1923, which made provision for the erection of the first unit of the new building at a cost of \$750,000. Another request for \$500,000 was granted by the legislature in 1925 and a third appro-

priation was granted in 1927. There are 762,166 volumes in the library at the present time, making it the sixth largest library in comparison for \$500,000 was made in parison with other university libraries in America. It ranks first in

size among the state university libraries, with California, Michigan and Pennsylvania following in order. Library officials can only conjecture as to the monetary value of the volumes, but the inventory reveals a value of \$1,574,797.

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