

Between Us Girls

BY H. F. C.

I am going to take the liberty of asking all the readers just to spend a few moments with me, talking over a problem of mutual interest.

First of all, might I ask whether you have been in a telephone exchange and seen the girls working at the switchboards? If you have, so much the better, if not let us talk simply about it, because telephone service is rendered by girls with the use of all kinds of very delicate apparatus.

Some six years ago telephone operators, these girls, had been receiving about \$45 a month, \$9 or \$10 a week, as a matter of fact, out of which they could pay their way and buy their clothes, see nickel shows and enjoy life. Everything in the ordinary run of life was more or less cheap and wages paid were suitable at that time.

Is there any girl that can live and pay her way and have what she ought to have, as you and I, as fathers of a family, want to see her, on \$45 a month? It is nonsense, of course. All those operators, those girls, now need \$70 or \$80 a month to get along with, and that isn't so very much as things go now.

The extra \$30 or \$40 a month for each girl doesn't drop from the clouds and it must come from the subscribers, whom these girls are serving. Very well, so far alright.

Now about six years ago the telephone exchange, fairly large size,

could be run on, say in round figures, just for example, \$10,000 a month, so the Telephone company needed at least this \$10,000 and a little bit more, say about \$100, that is about the ratio, for interest on borrowed public money. But we need not think much about the other \$100, it is so small, in fact, I doubt if it costs one-tenth of a cent a call for interest and dividends, so that this amount won't ruin anybody.

The main problem is that the girls and the other workers in the telephone industry have got to live the same as anybody else. The majority of the people living in this town know these employes or some one connected with them, at least, they are somebody's brothers and sisters.

These girls want to render service, they want to be paid a proper wage, they want encouragement to give their townspeople telephone service.

There is only one way to make all ends meet, and that is for the community to pay a little increase in the cost of service for their own benefit.

The cost of an average business man's telephone today for a whole months service of 31 days a month and 24 hours a day, is about \$5. You can't hire a man to clean a few windows during one day for the price. In fact, when you simmer it down, it is only about 3 nickels a day. Not enough to buy a loaf of bread.

A few cents a day contributed by all the subscribers would adjust the matter.

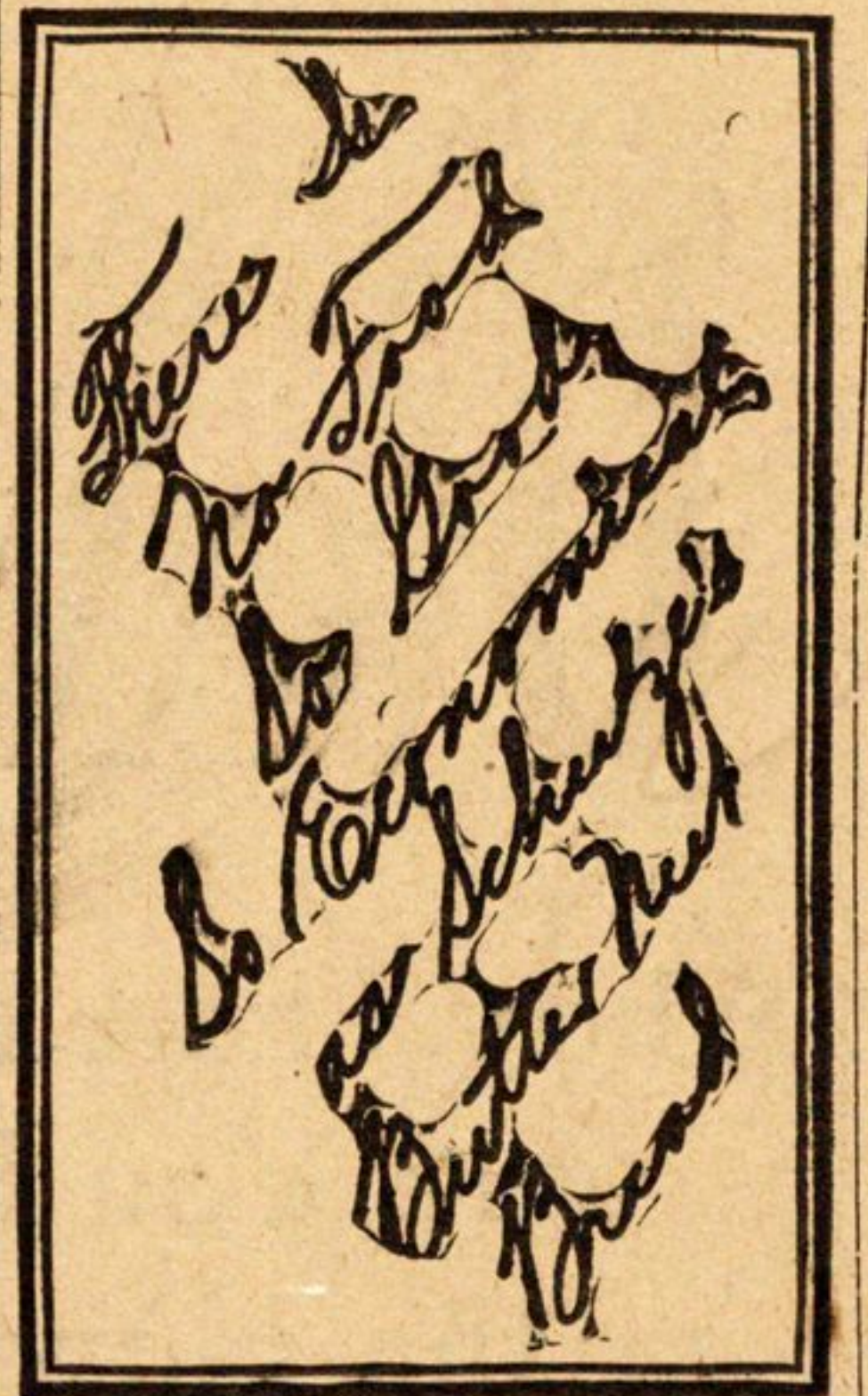
Telephone operators have got to wear boots and shoes and some sort of covering and as they earn the

money honestly, serving the public, is it not right in public interest to agree to these few cents increase and keep going?

There can be only one answer—Of course.

SCOUTMASTERS TO REVIVE 'OLE SWIMMIN' HOLE' DAYS

Professor Allan Hoben, formerly of the University of Chicago, will preside at the meeting of scoutmasters of the Boy Scouts of America to be held in conjunction with the northern Baptists' convention at Buffalo, June 23 to 29. The scoutmasters, bent on recalling the days of "the 'ole swimmin' hole" and such, will follow up their reminiscences by devising measures to "prevent the indiscriminate and unguided activities of youth, which in the present age of city life leads many youths astray."



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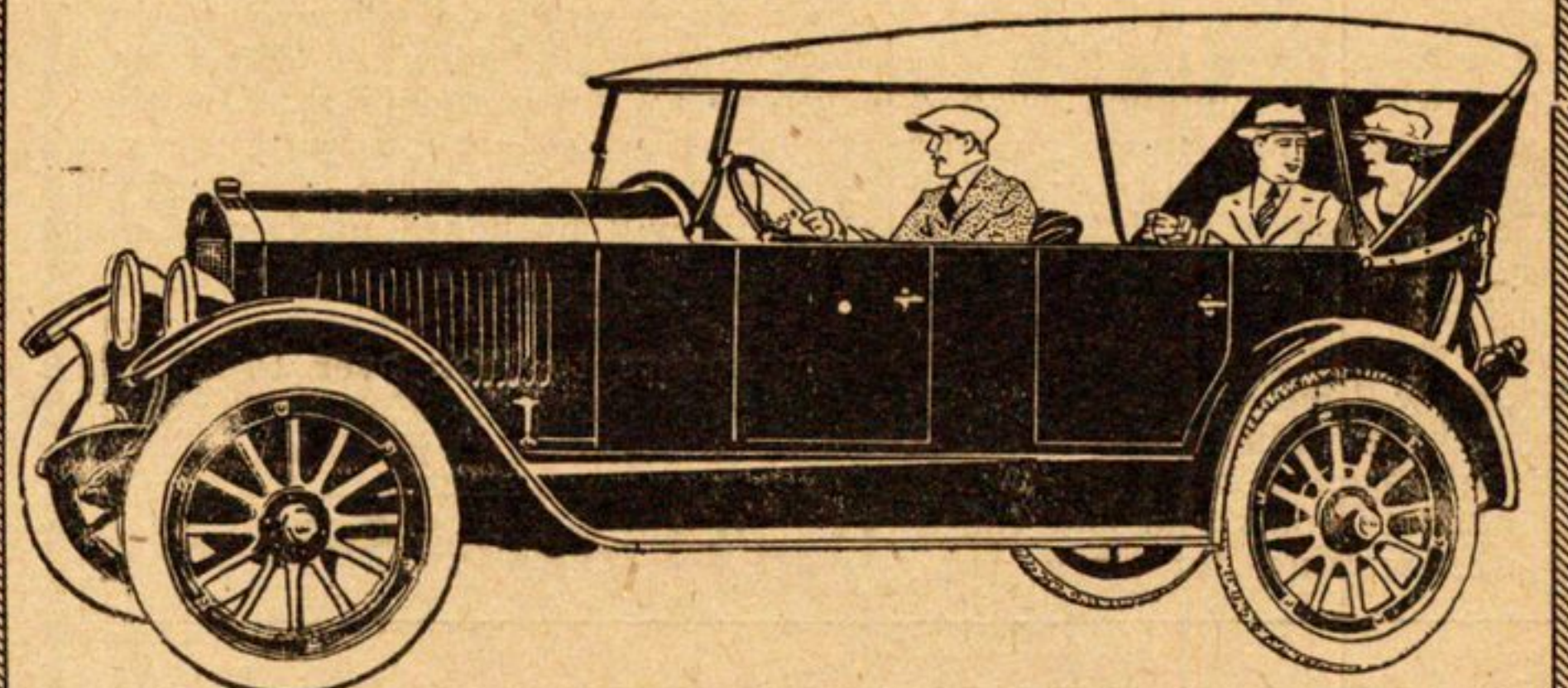
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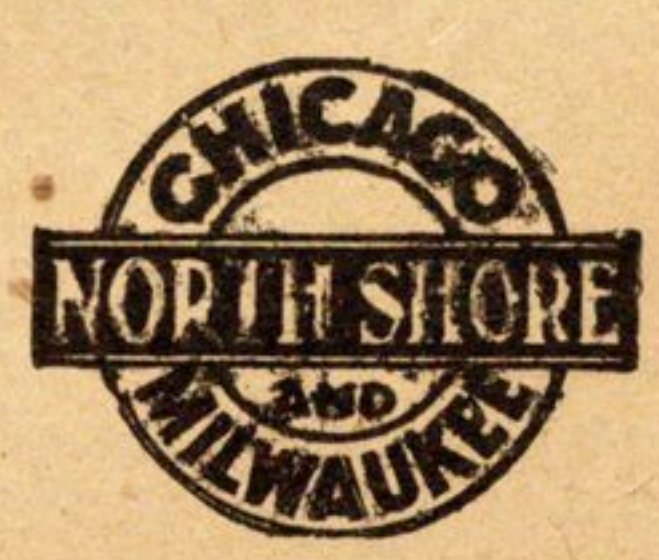
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For the Shoppers	11:22 a. m. 11:52 a. m. 12:22 p. m. 12:52 p. m.	12:14 p. m. 12:44 p. m. 1:14 p. m. 1:44 p. m.
Then Every Half Hour Until:		
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