

Pioneer Pulls Switch at Kildare Cut Over

Occasionally there takes place in a community an event of unusual interest to the citizens, which, to future generations, is a memento of the historic association of that community. Such an occurrence was the opening of the Kildare exchange of the Chicago Telephone Company in the Portage Park district.

The Kildare building, situated at 4915 Warner avenue, directly west of Milwaukee avenue, occupies a site in the center of the old Dickinson Farm, which prior to twelve years ago was a very productive piece of land. The Dickinson home still stands, facing Milwaukee avenue about two hundred feet south of the exchange, and is said to be one of the oldest houses in Chicago. Here the elder Dickinson kept a tavern where the traveler stopped to rest and to refresh his horses, and partook of the good cheer which always abounded in the old-fashioned tavern. The records of the old tavern show that many distinguished visitors enjoyed its hospitality. At one time, it is said, Stephen A. Douglas stopped over night at the Dickinson Tavern, and the members of the family take great pride in showing their friends the room in which Mr. Douglas slept that night.

Just across the street from the exchange and flanking the entire west exposure is picturesque little Dickinson Park, a triangular tract of land which was given to the city of Chicago as one of its small parks by A. W. Dickinson, son of the original owner of the farm. This park was dedicated two years ago and in his remarks on this occasion Mr. Dickinson said he realized how rapidly the Portage Park district was growing, and that the vacant property would soon all be built upon, so he gave this park to the city because he wanted a portion left where the citizens of the immediate community might have a place to enjoy the open air and the little

folks a place to play.

In commemoration of these historic remembrances it seemed most fitting that Mr. Dickinson, who also was the first telephone subscriber in the territory now being served by the new exchange, be asked to



A. W. DICKINSON PULLING THE SWITCH WHICH PUT KILDARE CENTRAL OFFICE IN SERVICE

officialiate at the Kildare cut-over. He accepted the honor and at the appointed hour, 10:30 p. m., Saturday, July 6th, "pulled the switch," and 4,200 subscribers in the community began receiving service through the new board.

The Kildare building is three stories high with basement, but designed for two additional stories. It is fire-proof, with modern fire walls and metal doors and wire glass windows, and has an unusually complete system of ventilation. In the basement are

located stock rooms, a battery room and a cable room. On the first floor are the wire chief's quarters and terminal room, and on the second floor is the operating room, containing the most modern type of switch-board. On the third floor is a cozy, well-furnished rest room.

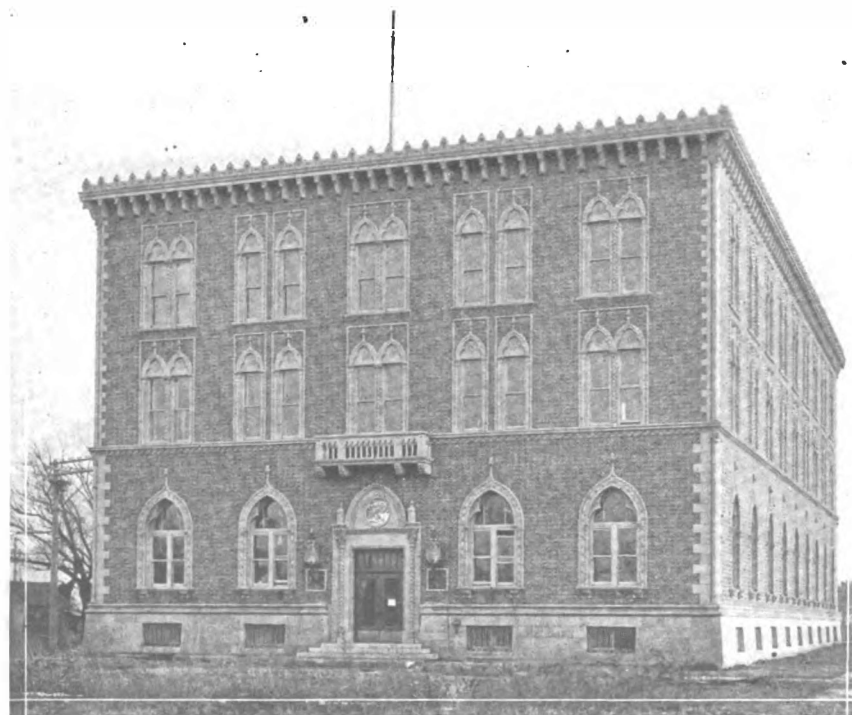
D. C. Porter will be in charge of the Kildare central office as manager and Miss Clara Munster is the chief operator. H. H. Leekley, wire chief at Irving, will act in the same capacity at Kildare.

The Bank Is Solvent

The United States Food Administration is the food bank of the Nation. In commercial affairs you put your money in the bank knowing that the multiplication of many small

accounts gives stability and makes possible larger transactions in the world of business than could be handled with any small fund. No depositor expects to see his money all the time. It is sufficient to know that it is in good company, in other words, that the bank is solvent. Wheat is in very much the same situation as money in the world to-day. Large transactions are necessary if the world war is to be fought to a successful conclusion for ourselves and the

Allies, and yet these large transactions must be based upon the multiplied savings of millions of people. Each one can deposit in the general store only a small amount. What is very important is for every saver of wheat to know that the Food Administration is protecting his interests, that sufficient reserves will always be kept to guarantee the support of American citizens. This knowledge begets confidence, and confidence eliminates hoarding and "runs" on the bank. The Food Administration is your food bank, and it is solvent.



THE NEW KILDARE CENTRAL OFFICE