



HERE'S YOUR PARTY—Student Ray Wechman puts through the call as he takes over the switchboard from day operator Mrs. Eleanor Stake.

Telephone system coordinates IIT

By Jim Gewartowski

After leaving one of those "simple" quizzes last week, your reporter was in somewhat of a stupor. With integral signs and force vectors still flowing through his brain, he descended the steps to the MC basement "lounge" and saw before him the outline of a door. He opened it and entered the room. To his surprise he heard female voices; one asked him what he wanted.

Now, in such a position your reporter had one of two choices—admitting his error which would probably cause speculation about whether or not he had just come from a BON meeting, or making the excuse that he was a Technology News reporter which might save him embarrassment. Choosing the latter, he took out his notebook and began asking for telephone numbers.

This, however, was a miscalculation, or rather a "Mrs." calculation, for all three girls there were married. The only number available was CALumet 5-9600. A large switchboard took up the space on one side of the room, and suddenly your reporter caught on—this was the nerve center of Illinois Tech's telephone system, and these girls were the campus operators.

Mrs. Eleanor Stake, the head operator, gave a few details about the switchboard. It seems that it came to the IIT campus on January 17, 1948, and took over a job that four separate switchboards had previously done. Before this time there were switchboards in Main, IGT building, and in the ARF Main and Engineering buildings. The present switchboard is a three-operator board and has 500 terminals. Already 425 are being used, each one representing a telephone on the IIT campus.

About 3500 incoming calls per day are handled from 8 to 6. At 6 the female voice disappears and a male voice says: "Technology Center." Ray Wechman and Howard Kobayashi handle the board until 8 p.m. when each of the 24 incoming trunk lines is connected to a certain telephone on campus. The present switchboard is the type and size used by a town of 4,000 people.

Hearing a constant clicking sound your reporter asked if they were bothered by termites. This sound turned out to be the campus dial system in action. The opening of the door to an auxiliary room disclosed the complex mechanism by which one person on campus calls another without bothering the operators.

One of the marvels of the board is the fact that five different parties can talk together at the same time on a so-called "conference circuit." A microphone is handy by which the operators can page people in the Armour Research building.

Here are a few suggestions from the operator. After dialing "9" for an outside call, be sure to wait for the second buzzing tone before starting to dial your number. When you wish to contact the

operator while speaking on the phone press the lever up and down about twice a second for the quickest attention of the operator. Dial FIR for fire to get the operator's immediate attention so that she can quickly relay emergency messages quickly. According to J. H. Schlichting, IIT's assistant business manager, who has charge of the board, Technology Center of the future will see the switchboard grow to a 1500 terminal, 12 operator board.

Shurrager wins grant for nerve system studies

Phil S. Shurrager, chairman of the department of psychology and education, has been awarded a \$5,000 extension on a grant by the U. S. Public Health service to continue his research on learning in the central nervous system.

Dr. Shurrager, who was given a \$6,000 grant last year, will be assisted by his wife, Dr. Harriett C. Shurrager. They comprise a husband-wife teaching and research team in Illinois Tech's psychology department.

Working with dogs, the Shurragers have measured the rate of learning of a single nerve cell. Their research work has centered around how and at what location the nervous system learns.

The extension of the grant will enable them to continue their latest project, the walking behavior of a spinal, or paraplegic animal. They will investigate, further, the learning in a single cell and then attempt to relate this smallest element to total learned behavior.

Classified Ads

Call Ext. 404

Rates: 5 cents per word—one issue; 4 cents per word—two issues; 3 cents per word—three issues; 10 cents additional for blind advertisements.

3 ROOMS FURNISHED—Available for single male student at 6404 N. Oakley. \$35 a month. Call SH 3-8900, 6-8 p.m. daily, except Fri. and Sat. M. Rhodes.

MUSIC—Three-piece band. On or off campus. RA 3-2312.

TYPING—Themes, term papers, etc. Speedy service. Elaine & Monica. WE 6-3640.

FOUND—Sum of money in Chapin Hall before Thanksgiving. H. J. Curtis, 321C.

WANTED—Jurors for Night of January 16th. See add on page 4.

FOR SALE—Black, 4-dr. '38 Century Buick. Good shape. \$195. Call AV 3-9819.

FOUND—Gloves in MC Nov, 23. Call CR 7-9028.

Heat plant nears completion

By Alan Plait

One usually thinks of a steam plant as a maze of pipes and wires. Well, IIT's new plant is rapidly beginning to look like just that. Most of the piping on the ground floor has been installed and the coal pulverizer leading from the hopper has been tested. The dust hasn't settled yet.

Asbestos installers move along as soon as new piping circuits are completed. The main job, and biggest one, has been the insulation of the large tanks throughout the plant.

Many of the gratings that will be used as flooring have already been set into place. There remain a few galleries that are being installed at this time.

The gas and water mains coming into the building from 35th street are all that are in the way of finishing the ramp for trucks that will extend to the rear of the structure's south side. Sidewalks have already been laid except for a small strip at the northeast corner, where steam lines, that have been harassing students, enter the wall.

The view from several vantage points in the building is impressive to say the least. Massive piping seems to run around in an obstacle course.

The boiler and huge coal hopper dominate the entire scene, however.

With the completion of tube installation in the bottom of the boiler, it will be fired up and tested for leaks. This will be done within a few weeks. It will be necessary to load coal by hand into the pulverizer until the tracks to the retaining hopper have been laid down. Work on this project will start as soon as the retaining wall to 35th street is completed.

The dust collector and the air compression unit that leads to the smokestack will operate soon. Electricians are working at a fever pace to get the motors running.

An additional one story structure is being prepared at the south side of the smokestack. This will be the gas booster station. Its purpose is to keep gas pressure on an even keel throughout the mains.

It doesn't look like a long time before students will be sweltering in the heat of the classrooms that the power plant will supply with steam.

Fun lovers form campus honor body

A new honorary is being organized on campus to fulfill a long felt need. This organization, to be known as Nu Chi Sigma, will have for its purpose "... to instill and maintain college spirit among students, to insure the preservation of humor upon campus, and to designate in a fitting manner those who have shown non-conformalism."

Founded by five men interested in promoting the above policy, Nu Chi Sigma will start its first pledge program next week. The "Founding Fathers," Frank Curtis, Mel Friedlander, Henry Holmes, John Scannel has promised to provide a novel pledging program for the interest and amusement for everyone.

Pledge duties promise to be anything but a burden. Aspirants will carry distinguishing devices, as is the case with other groups on the campus, but the equipment will vary from day to day. The entire proceedings will be in keeping with Nu Chi's motto, "Anything for a laugh."

"What a miracle you hide in a Christmas watch!"

said ELIZABETH TAYLOR

when she learned

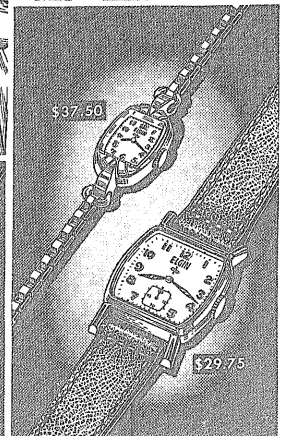
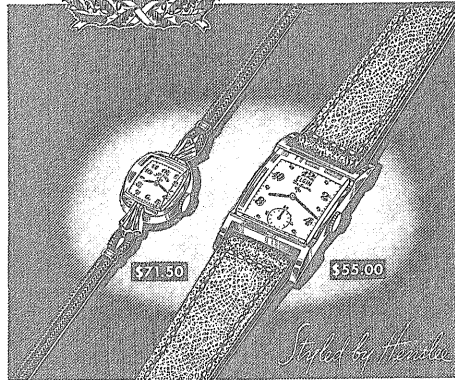
of the DuraPower Mainspring

in ELGINS that

are so beautiful they won

the Fashion Academy Award!

Selected by the Fashion Academy of New York as "All-American Best-Dressed Woman"... ELIZABETH TAYLOR is co-starred in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "CONSPIRATOR"



Lord and Lady Elgins are priced from \$67.50 to \$5,000. Elgin De Luxe from \$47.50 to \$67.50. Other Elgins from \$29.75. All prices include Federal Tax.



That Christmas gift watch... Elgin is the one that will make you most happy. For Elgin style won the Gold Medal Award of the Fashion Academy. And only Elgin has the miracle DuraPower Mainspring. No other watch in the world has such dependable power for accurate timekeeping! Just pass the word around with the family that jewelers are now featuring Elgins in a wide range of prices.

ELGIN

TIMED TO THE STARS!

The genius of America to wear on your wrist