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room had occasion to go hunting with Paul one morning recently, and when they returned they said Paul killed one quail and when he started to look for his bird dog he was nowhere to be found. The men searched for the dog and finally located him. He had chased a skunk into a tall tree. The men have come to the conclusion that Paul has a "skunk hound" instead of a bird dog.

C. J. Renshaw, agent at the store room, and J. G. Akridge, general foreman, arose early one morning to go hunting. C. J. shot the first rabbit and was very proud of it, and just when Jim spied a rabbit and was getting ready to shoot, C. J. heard a car coming and thinking it was the game warden, yelled at Jim: "Don't shoot, don't shoot." C. J. thought that shooting rabbits came under the same game law as the quail did, and he was so excited he ran through a hedge fence and scratched his face considerably, also notice he has been carrying his left arm in a sling for the past few days. Jim said that C. J. hid the rabbit in the hedge until the car passed, and after he found out it wasn't the game warden, went back to get the rabbit and never could locate it. We secured a copy of the game rules and posted it for the benefit of C. J., and he realizes now that he can shoot rabbits whenever he can find them.

Did anyone ever go to a pie supper and eat so much pie that they couldn't see where they were going, or tell how many miles an hour their car was going? We have just learned of an incident of this sort at the store room. Floyd Yates, of the stationery department, and his girl and Lawrence Mutz and Floyd's sister May, were returning home from Cave Springs, where they attended a pie supper, and about four and one-half miles the other side of Willard, they were driving in loose gravel, the car skidded down an embankment and shook the occupants up considerably. Floyd said he was only driving ten miles an hour, but Floyd's brother being an expert driver, argues that anyone could keep a car in the road that was only going ten miles an hour even if they were driving in loose gravel. He seems to think that Floyd ate too much mince meat pie.

The I. W. W. club had a splendid meeting at the home of May Yates the evening of October 22nd. On November 5th we met at the home of Gertrude Crow on West Walnut St., at which time we gave a kitchen shower for Josephine Welch. She received everything from an egg beater to a broom. On November 20th the club met at Maud Bedell's home on E. Pacific St., and Mrs. Chas. Moret, formerly Josephine Welch, was our guest.

Mary Murphy, multigraph operator at the store room, spent Sunday, November 16th, in Kansas City, Mo.

We had considerable fun teasing J. M. Walker, chief clerk to general storekeeper, when he first came to Missouri, account of not being able to shoot Missouri quail, as he claimed to be quite a sportsman among the hunting class in Oklahoma. Begin to doubt his marksmanship as he has not developed a 100 per cent record in Missouri as yet.

We sure have the laugh on J. G. Akridge, general foreman at general store, account of his early morning duck hunt. As the story goes, Jim brought home the game, but when he had it cooked it developed that the duck was a mud hen.

R. G. Price, stock clerk, general store, has so far excelled in the bagging of game this fall, and the only reason we account for it is Bob goes regular every Sunday, as he seems to think continued effort will finally bring success.

Santa Claus told L. A. Utley if he would be good he would receive a full box of Beech-nut chewing gum for Christmas.

Pearl Fain has accepted the stenographic position made vacant by Josephine Welch, and Nola Rook has accepted Pearl's position.

Henry Nelson is our new file clerk in general storekeeper's office, account of Tom O'Kelly accepting Nola Rook's position.

Dan Cupid entered the store room and took with him Josephine Welch, stenographer in general storekeeper's office, who was married to Chas. Moret at 8:00 o'clock Sunday night, November 9th, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Welch, 1048 W. Walnut Street. Dr. Cowden of the Woodland Heights

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Presbyterian Church performed the ceremony. Shortly after the ceremony the couple left on a late train for Lincoln, Neb., where they spent their honeymoon. They returned to Springfield on the 17th instant, and are at home to their many friends on South Campbell St. Road. Mr. Moret is bookkeeper for the Springfield Grocer Company. Congratulations are extended from the store department. We certainly enjoyed the swell cigars and delicious candy.

A miscellaneous shower was given November 3rd, at the home of Beulah Shepherd on Benton Avenue, complimentary to Josephine Welch, whose marriage occurred November 9th to Chas. Moret. About thirty-five girls attended the shower and the bride-elect was the recipient of many beautiful and useful gifts.

**Car Accountant Office**

Miss Mary Howell, Reporter

Marie Arnold is spending a three weeks' vacation in the west. She will be accompanied home by her sister, Beatrice, who has been in California for three months for the benefit of her health.

Eleanor Buchanan, of the per diem department, is spending a happy two weeks in New Orleans and Houston.

Belle Stewart is spending her Thanksgiving vacation in Pittsburg, Kans. Be careful how much you eat, Belle, you know turkey is fattening.

Ann Keifer and Lillian Brooks spent an enjoyable vacation of two weeks visiting Washington, D. C., New York City, Boston, Mass., Portland, Maine, and other points of interest in the east. The big cities must have been too much for them as both came back all in. Of course, they haven't told all they did, but we couldn't expect that.

Mr. Anderson (Andy), chief of the private car line department, appeared at the office with a brand new overcoat. Since then he has worn it regardless of the temperature.

The office lost one of its members not long ago when Ellen Johns bid on a position in Mr. Kerr's office.

Alice Cooper, our red ball clerk.

has resigned effective November 30. Same old reason—she will be married to Clarence Conn in the near future (if she isn't already married). Luck to you, Alice.

We hear of marriage and rumors of marriages, and are afraid to tell whom we suspect will be next bride. They surprise us, sometimes.

N. L. Lindquist, boss of the record department, took a vacation recently and really never came near the office during said time. This was a very unusual proceeding for him.

Mildred Truman attended the chrysanthemum show at Shaw's Garden, St. Louis, recently.

Pearl Grace is spending Thanksgiving vacation at her home near Fair Play, Mo.

Lulu Jernigan is planning to eat turkey in Muskogee, Turkey Day.

Everybody wonders why Colia Melton is so happy these days. This morning I was informed that Churchill was coming home after three months' absence. Colia says she never wants anyone to mention Penn. to her again.

### Kansas City Mechanical Department

H. F. Shivers, Reporter

Frank Junkins, engine inspector, has recently returned from St. Louis hospital where he underwent an operation for appendicitis.

A sample of the conversation that usually takes place in this office each day:

Johnson to Miss Hoffman: "Miss Hoffman, add this up."

Moffett to Johnson: "Johnson, is roll 22 ready to go?"

Dan to Miss Reece: "Take a wire to S. B. Ramsey."

Miss Forster: "How many bad orders today?"

Willer to telephone operator: "Get me Pat Moore."

Miss Lynch to most all of us most all the time: "Are you holding any files on your desk?"

Miss Hoffman to Johnson: "Your figures are cuckoo, they don't balance."

Mr. Berry to Willer: "Did you talk to Hubbart?"

Miss Campbell to Shivers: "Loan me your knife."

Everybody more or less all the time: Saying nothing.

We prefer a hard boiled person most any time to one that is half baked.

Mrs. H. L. Johnson, wife of our timekeeper, has returned from the hospital in Springfield where she had her tonsils removed.

Pauline says the thing that counts most around here is the adding machine.

We are afraid we are going to lose two of our most trusted employes as we have information to the effect that Bob Brown is to become a florist, he is alleged to have received a box of plants by parcel post some weeks ago. Slim, the caller, is seriously contemplating entering the real es-

tate business as he has a house for rent on "Gobblers' Knob."

Leota Campbell was confined to her room several days of the first week in November account of illness.

P. F. Spangler, supervisor of car repair bills, was with us for a few days the first part of November.

We were favored with a visit of several of the official family recently, consisting of the following named gentlemen: J. M. Kurn, president; E. M. Brown, chairman of the board of directors; David P. Bennett, director; Grant R. McCullough, director; C. W. Michel; F. H. Hamilton; J. R. Koontz; B. T. Wood and J. E. Hutchison, vice-president; H. L. Worman, supt. motive power; Col. F. G. Jonah, chief engr.; Sam Lazarus; Col. Robt. M. Thompson; Ford Harvey; Frank C. Wright; Walter Seligman and Sidney W. Noyes.

The party arrived at Kansas City at 6:30 P. M. A dinner was given at the Mission Hills Country Club by J. W. Perry, after which they left for Tulsa, Ft. Worth and other southern points.

W. B. Berry had the thrill of his young life some time ago when he went up for an airplane ride over Kansas City.

Miss Erma Reece has had as her guest, Mrs. J. L. Schlicher of Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. Schlicher was a former Katy girl of Parsons, Kans.

The shopmen's band from Springfield, under the direction of J. E. Foster, paid us a pleasant visit November 18th. This was their first trip since becoming organized.

They entertained us with a concert during the noon hour. The band consists of 24 pieces. The following were in the party: Mannagan, Matthews, Tucker, Weight, Hayes, Falks, Hassler, Wines, Delo, Revis, Bowman, Enps, Myles, Wilkes, Reeves, Demore, Weaver, Thurman, Lee, Lewis, Wynn-coop, Bill Schaler, J. E. Foster, director. Come again, boys, we enjoyed your visit very much.

E. H. Golden, car order clerk, went to a fathers and sons banquet during fathers and sons week. Golden did not have any boy to take along, but thought he ought to go anyway and nlay father to some boy that did not have a father. When he got back home that night, his wife presented him with a ten pound son, so now Golden will have a son of his own to take next time.

We made a flying trip to Ft. Smith on Thanksgiving to eat dinner with mother.

Wonder what excuse Bob Francis will have to come to Kansas City now since he has gotten everybody lined up on the handling of oil burning engines?

Miss Eleanor Forster had as her guests the Misses Northcutt of Springfield on Thanksgiving Day.

Well, the lost is found. J. T. Williams finally showed up. He spent several days with us recently.

About all the heroes of the rail have had their praises sung and their many deeds of valor extolled. We

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have been told of their unswerving loyalty and capabilities for clear thinking and rare judgment in emergencies, but there is a class of employes on the most of the larger roads today who yet small in number, are, due to our very complex and highly intensified system of organization, very efficient and well-nigh indispensable. Their work requires the most exacting skill. They must at all times keep a clear head and if the occasion demands, take the initiative in handling the many seemingly unsurmountable difficulties.

We have reference to none other than the telephone operator, who the most of us never realize is a vital part of our vast organization until we lift our receiver from the hook and clear as a bell we hear her un-failing response. We give her the number, and if it be an out of town station we are calling, we soon become absorbed in other duties, feeling secure in our belief that the operator will take care of all the details of getting the call through. We are soon reminded of her ability and willingness to give us that un-failing serv-

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ice we have become so accustomed to expect when the bell goes tinkle, tinkle, and we are pleasantly informed that, "Here's your party."

We are more or less creatures of habit and I often wonder what we would do some morning if we were to come down to the office and try to get Springfield South 2, and after failure to get the operator we were told the telephone system had been discontinued? Imagine we would feel like throwing up our hands in despair and walking off the job. But how different the situation. We know that it matters not the hour of day or night, if we want to get in touch with the yardmaster, or if we want to reach the roundhouse foreman, all we have to do is reach for the telephone and presto, in less than it takes to write these lines, you have your man and he has the message or other information you desire him to have. And it all depends on the operator, for no matter how many lines you have, or how elaborate your plant, the class of service invariably depends on the operator.

We here at Kansas City, take pardonable pride in our PBX lines and our ever loyal and faithful corps of operators. We have in use what is known as a two position board of the latest design, manufactured by the Kellogg people. There are 51 call stations in Kansas City and Rosedale. We have two trunk lines to Springfield and Ft. Scott in addition to the dispatcher's wire. A recent check revealed the fact that there is an average of 450 calls handled per hour, while 250 calls per hour is considered by some to be a good record. The number of calls and connections put up generally reach the peak between the hours of 10 A. M. to noon, and from 3:00 to 5:00 P. M. The

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most popular number on the board, that is the one called most, is station 21, the master mechanic's office. Station number 12 is a close second.

The work here is divided in three shifts of eight hours each. The first or day shift from 8:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M., is capably filled by Miss Violet Orendorf, a lady of very pleasing personality and always on her toes to give you as nearly perfect service as possible. The second shift, from 3:00 P. M. to 11:00 P. M., is filled by Miss Mary Conroy, who takes a great deal of pleasure in always trying to give satisfaction. If they don't answer, it is not Mary's fault. The night, or as it is sometimes called, the grave yard shift, from 11:00 P. M. to 8:00 A. M. is presided over by Miss Elizabeth Schanz. Remember, if you pick up your receiver some night along in the wee sma' hours,

if she does not answer immediately, just think how you would feel if you had to sit there in that room all alone all night. I expect the best of us would get sleepy, however, lonesome as it may seem, we find Elizabeth always on the job.

Of course we have to provide for a relief operator, for what would happen if Violet, Mary or Elizabeth were to get sick, the street car stall, or worse yet, what if one of them were to take a notion to get married—such things have been known to happen—so in order to provide a remedy in case of any of the above extremities, Miss Agnes Shean very ably fills in on relief days. We did not ask her, but we rather suspect Agnes is Irish, which no doubt accounts for her pleasant smile and cheery voice and, oh, boy, how she can whip those plugs around when business gets lively,

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when everybody in the terminal from JMF on down wants to talk to everybody from Slim on up.

So taking everything into consideration, the operator has a job I do not envy. Let's all strive to withhold our criticism and be a little more free with our praise, for we must remember she is not a machine, but is very human and if we will treat her right by co-operating with her in her effort to give us good service, she will appreciate it and we feel sure we will all be amply repaid for the effort, if such it be called.

**Freight Office, Springfield, Mo.**  
Oswald Rainey, Reporter

Our office claims quite a record for length of service among the employes. Recently when requests for merit passes were filled out, it was found that out of sixty-six employes on duty, 52 had enough service seniority to be rewarded by division and system passes. Out of this number, five were rewarded with system passes, with an average of 19 year service with this company. This does not include out agent, who gets a white pass with Mr. Kurn's signature on it. Some of the ladies working here requested that, in line with the above, I state that they were quite young when they first entered the service.

The efficiency committee has come and gone, and while here they made several changes in the office. Two new positions were added, and Ruth Douglass, formerly at the general office, and John Wilson, formerly the

warehouse foreman at Miller, Mo., have taken these.

The employes of this office held a picnic last month. Many weiners were slain and a good time was had by all.

Our platform force lost the pennant for the best handling of shipments last month, but watch our smoke in the months to come.

Mr. Hargis and Mr. Beveir, who until recently were very puny, have taken on a little weight, due, no doubt, to the advice given by Miss Handy, about drinking milk. Miss Handy asserts she has gained 135 pounds since she first started drinking milk daily.

Rayn Massey, our porter, still gets his telephone call from some unknown brown skin at 7 o'clock each night. Massey sure is a bear among those women.

Recently a Mr. Smith moved an emigrant car into Springfield, Mo., and while in transit, damage to the amount of \$20.00 was done to the shipment. Upon arrival here, the W. W. I. B. inspector raised the freight charges to \$14.00 more than Mr. Smith thought he would have to pay. The freight office here wrote to him about this undercharge and the following is the letter received in reply:

"It chanced that one Smith, surnamed Bob, son of old man Smith, being enamoured with the beauty of a distant land, caused all his goods to be placed on a caravan belonging to one Frisco, and had same conveyed to the land of Greene, at a place which lies over against the waters of the Jim, between the Ozark and the Grove of Doling on the one hand, and be-

tween Strafford and the caves of the Ku Klux on the other, which same is Springfield. Now it comes to pass that when this caravan, belonging to one Frisco, arrived at the place which is Springfield, in the land of Greene, it was found that they had been sorely tried by the roughness of their journey, and much of the goods of Smith, surnamed Bob, son of old man Smith, were grievously damaged. And it came to pass, that when the keeper of the caravan looked upon the goods of Smith, surnamed Bob, and saw the damage wrought by his servants, he turned unto himself and said: 'Verily now, this bird hath the goods on me, and that he may not levy on me a charge of many shekels for the destruction wrought by my caravan, verily I shall beat him to it, and will demand another payment of 14 shekels of silver, because he hath not bound up his raiment, and his cots, and his furnishings to suit me.'

"Now, when Maud, the wife of Smith, surnamed Bob, learned of the destruction wrought by the caravan, she waxed exceedingly wroth, and spake unto her husband saying: 'Verily now, I beseech that you proceed to the place where the keeper of this caravan abideth, and shalt thou take him by the neck and jar him loose from 100 shekels of silver, which is a punishment for their carelessness.' But Smith, surnamed Bob, son of old man Smith, being possessed of much discretion, spake unto his wife, named Maud, saying: 'Nay, nay, Honey Bunch, forsooth, I shall not venture into the camp of the Philistines who are ahunger for my purse and for my shekels, for it may come to pass that I be sorely beset and be relieved of