

Hadley Township Historical Society-Winter-2018

Hadley Mill Museum

Hadley Telephone Company

March 31, 1943

After nearly 20 years of ownership and management by the late Ben F. Hadley and his estate, the Hadley Telephone Company is passed into new hands. By a transfer effective today this telephone property is taken over by Miss Nora E. Dunning of Detroit and her nephew, George F. Dunning. The sale was approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission by its order of March 17, 1943.

The active management of the company will be by Mr. Dunning. George and his wife Mary were living in Detroit, where he ran a confectionery store. He had a bad leg and it was getting worse. He was worried about the future. The sale of the property includes the building which has for so many years been the residence of the Hadley's as well as housing the telephone exchange and the post office. *(This is the office and home of Dr. Michael Dell)* Mr. Dunning and his family will make it their home and carry on the exchange there. Mrs. Edna Hadley, who has since her husband's death been the manager of the company and acting postmaster, has purchased from the C. P. Johnson estate the brick building across the street. *(this building now is the home of the Hadley Clipper)* She will make this her home and carry on the post office there.

The telephone first reached Hadley when the Bell Company built the toll connection about 60 years ago. About 40 years ago a local company was organized which later incorporated and finally sold out to Ben F. Hadley in 1924. Ben Hadley in his many

years of ownership built up the extent of the service given by the company and the new management will endeavor to maintain it.

The Lapeer County Press

Later items of interest:

Linemen were Robert Reynolds, Robert Harrison and earlier Jim Copeman. In the office were Eileen Greene and Kathleen Turner.

The Hadley Phone Company began, according to local records, in 1904 or 1905 as a farmers' cooperative. In the early years Frank Hadley and his wife managed the company. Ben was their son and at the time he purchased the company there were 127 subscribers.

When the Dunnings bought the utility in 1943 the phone service was shut off about 9 p.m. each night and operated for only a few hours on Sunday.

In 1964 the Dunnings took a survey to see how subscribers would feel about automatically being cut off after 5 minutes. Seventy-five percent voted for the idea. A beep system was then installed, warning callers with a beep on the line that the 5 minutes was up, and then cutting off a few seconds later. In 1966 the beep system was discontinued as many people complained.

Our thanks to My City magazine for permission to reproduce the article on Lloyd Copeman.

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We extend our sincere sympathies to the families of Peggy Starr, Betty Ann Ivory, Yvonne Griffith and Sharon Dunsmore.