

# "SAY IT BY WIRE"

By W. E. Hill

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The S O S. Arthur's family, though far, far away from where Arthur usually is, is constantly in touch with him, thanks to the telegraph company. When Arthur was a freshman in the university he started right in wiring instead of writing. "Have made glee club; wire fifty dollars immediately," and "Passed my chemistry; wire seventy dollars at once," were two of the early specimens. And right on through senior year, with "Engaged to most lovely girl in world; wire one hundred dollars," at end of prom week. Though several years out of college, Arthur still keeps the family in touch with his financial status. Here he is at the desk about to dispatch a collect message reading, "Resigned from telephone company account bettering myself going with crockery concern; wire hundred seventy-five."

The wire collect. Mrs. Edna Mudguard is having a heavy altercation with the manager of the telegraph branch over a wire collect that came to Mrs. Mudguard's domicile and was paid for without knowledge of the contents. For it turned out to be no more nor less than a request for funds from Mr. Mudguard's no-account cousin, Oscar Mudguard, and, as such, was of no use to anybody. Because, of course, Mr. Mudguard and his wife will pretend they never even received the message.

Four out of five say it by wire, and here are four of them. Top, the hostess who writes invitations at a late hour; bottom, the lady of foreign extraction who wants to cable a money order to Lithuania or Poland and has trouble with the address. Left, the young man who wires for the hotel reservation; and, right, the gentlemanly commercial traveler who wires a night message to the wife and kiddies at the end of each perfect day.



Straight telegram. "Listen, Eddie, in this telegram, is 'kidney complaint' two words or one?" Very considerate of the customer's purse strings is Miss Rose, the telegraph clerk, who is shown helping crowd eleven words into ten in a paid straight message.

The comic wire. A humorous message by wire is often not one-half so funny at the receiving end as it was to the sender. Here's a night letter which reads: "Saving a bottle of pale dry for you. Hot stuff. Can you use Scotch also. Boy you should see what we are seeing in the hotel lobby. (Signed) Ed and Bozo." From a master plumbers' convention in Montreal, addressed to Mr. Gilley's son-in-law. Mr. Gilley and wife and daughter have mistakenly received said wire and are almost too scared to open it, thinking no doubt it is from Aunt Harriet Gilley saying Uncle Waldo is worse!

The anniversary greeting. This young man has just dispatched a message of affection to his grandmother—this being "Remember Grandma" week. The telegraph company had several lovely stock messages on hand, such as "Love and kisses to dear grandma, the backbone of our nation"; "Always on this glorious grandma day will I think tender thoughts of one who has reached the gloaming of life's eventide" (costing a little more), and "Tenderest thoughts and love-lit smiles greet you today, dear grandma."



The safe arrival. "Arrived safely; Nettie met me; no carsickness; have Sadie clean living room; home Tuesday." Thus wires Aunt Lillian to her anxious household back in Bismarck, N. D., upon arriving at her daughter-in-law's.

The declined invitation. The telegraph company is a great comfort to the man who hates to call up a hot tempered hostess on the day of a dinner party to say he cannot grace the festive board.

Day letter. Lorena can't wait to write. She's just got to know right off why her boy friend Julius hasn't sent so much as one word since he left Wednesday and this is Sunday. Julius is a traveling salesman.