

ENGINEERING

# Business Continues While Building is Turned Around

**B**USINESS as usual. Such was the state of affairs in an eight-story telephone switchboard building in Indianapolis, despite the fact that it was moved fifty-two feet backward and turned a quarter of the way around. While the moving went on, not one of the many telephone wires was idle nor was connection lost with any of the gas, sewer, or water mains. By means of a movable bridge, an entrance to the building from the sidewalk was even made possible.

Moving the building was necessary to make room for a new structure. The building's position was changed from one corner of the lot to an adjacent one.

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Demolition was first considered, only to be abandoned when the loss from such a move was figured at about \$1,800,000.

The unusual engineering feat was not accomplished without careful preparation. In the *Engineering News-Record*, it is described how tests were carried out with different devices before the plan of moving was decided upon. Parallel steel rollers were finally used as the medium for sliding the building along. A concrete bed six inches thick was laid down as a mat upon which to conduct operations. Timbers and T-rails covered the mat and the moving force was supplied by screw jacks and a donkey engine with cables attached.

When the building was securely braced with steel beams and girders, men went to work with the jacks, and rollers were substituted for the cast-iron pedestals upon which the building rested. The jacks, eighteen of them, succeeded in pushing the building across

the block. There it had to be lifted to allow for readjustment of the rollers before the circular move began. With the donkey engine lending a hand, the structure was turned through an angle of 90 degrees so that it finally faced and bordered on streets different from those of its original position. The old pedestals of the building were then replaced.

During the moving no appreciable cracks or breaks appeared in the building and the occupants were said to be unconscious of any motion. The telephone wires were spliced during the operations, while flexible hose connections permitted the steam, water, and gas services to continue. Elevators in the building operated everywhere except in the basement.

*Science News Letter, October 3, 1931*

NATIONAL PARKS

## Lion-Proof Huts Feature Of South African Park

**I**N SOUTH AFRICA'S great Kruger National Park, lions supply the thrills that are given by bears to tourists in the national parks of the United States and Canada. Lion-proof huts are the main feature of the rest camps provided for visitors.

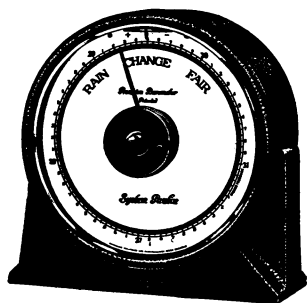
The rest camps in the Kruger Park are all rather primitive, since most people prefer them so, and there has been considerable agitation against the erection of hotels or other elaborate accommodations. The round huts or "rondavels," made by the natives, are of mud or cement, with cement floors and thatch roofs. In the old-style huts there was a door but no window, an open space being left between the roof and the walls for ventilation. The newer huts have windows, but some people object to these for fear of lions.

Instead of one large campfire, in the Kruger rest camps there is a long, low concrete platform with holes in the top and front at regular intervals. A fire for cooking is built under each hole by the natives who are always in attendance.

The Kruger National Park is divided into seven sections, with a ranger in charge of each. With the exception of the Pretorius Kop area, it is open only during the dry season from May 15 to November 15. The Pretorius Kop section may be visited at any time of the year, provided the traveler gets out of the low country before dark and so escapes the possibility of contracting malarial fever.

*Science News Letter, October 3, 1931*

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