



Looking across Douglas Street, from the east, at the new Hammond Consolidated yard office and rest rooms

## THE NEW ERIE **YARD OFFICE** HAMMOND, IND.

By Grace Martin  
General Clerk

**T**HERE are some blue ribbon chefs among the trainmen who "lay over" between trips at the new Hammond consolidated offices and rest-rooms of the Erie, but there are still some who always seem to make the usual, burnt, June-bride type of toast. However, they are learning and enjoying themselves while they learn. When their wives find out what experts they have become in preparing meals, maybe the wives will step aside and let the men take over. But all jokes aside, the new Hammond facility is an unusual deal for a yard office and maketh glad the heart of employe and patron alike.

The general yardmaster, agent, trainmen, clerks and maintenance of way forces use the first floor and the road trainmen and road and terminal enginemen the second floor. The building is on Douglas Street, on the north side of the Erie tracks. It is a two story building of cement block construction. The trimming both outside and inside is of a contrasting green.

The first floor consists of an office for the general yardmaster and one

for the agent, separate from the main office where the clerks work. The office for the general yardmaster and agent adjoin and are separated by a wall-to-wall rolling door which can be raised, making one office of the two and is used on occasions for meetings and conferences.

There are 24 clerks, including relief clerks, working in the outer office during the 24 hour period.

A teletype room is located in the northeast corner of the first floor, the ceiling of this room is sound-proofed so as not to disturb the roadmen who might be resting in the bedrooms upstairs. There are modern wash rooms for both the ladies and the gentlemen on this floor. The lighting is all fluorescent and plenty of it. No shadows are cast over any of the desks. There are also venetian blinds all around, both upstairs and down. Many new desks, chairs and filing cabinets were supplied. New billing desks, which were made according to the specifications of Agent G. J. Govert, were built by Erie carpenter forces and have proved to



Brakeman George Waechter of Huntington at the refrigerator in the roadmen's kitchen. Erie bought the iceless

be very satisfactory, accommodating our fan-fold Underwood Electromatic and manual billing machines perfectly in a compact space.

The hall outside the main office has a new trainmen's board, bulletin board, Western Union clock, train register, telephones and drinking fountain. There are office rooms off the hall for the maintenance of way forces and lunch room, locker rooms and wash rooms for the yard, train and enginemen.

The second floor for the road trainmen and the road and terminal enginemen consists of a large recreation room in which there is a radio, purchased by the roadmen themselves; a modern kitchen equipped with a stove and refrigerator; wash room which has two showers and several wash basins so there is no waiting when the men come in off a trip. In the kitchen the men who so desire prepare their own meals.

There are locker rooms on this floor for the men. On one side there are ten separate bedrooms and on the other side six, each with two beds. The beds all have reading lamps. Each bedroom has at least one window and the corner rooms, two.

The men are to be congratulated on the splendid manner in which they assist the janitor in keeping the facilities in orderly shape. There is a house committee, consisting of one man from each organization and they have drawn up a set of house rules which are really enforced.

#### Yes—We Do

As to whether we like the new facilities or not—yes—we do—all of us. It was rumored for years that we were to have a new yard office and is something we have looked forward to for a long time and now that it is a reality, it is even better than we dared expect. Everyone greatly appreciates the new facilities which, by the way, I should have mentioned, are heated automatically with oil heat. The clerks also are cooperative in assisting the janitor in keeping their part of the building neat and orderly.

A great improvement on the grounds surrounding the office has been made. All of the old buildings were dismantled, a cinder fill was made around the entire yard office and we now have a fine, level parking lot for employes and patrons.

• No one twisted Grace Martin's arm to make her say the nice things she does about the new Hammond yard office. Grace is a veteran of the old building and now works in the new one. She is also a woman and for all these reasons seems eminently fitted to describe the new facility. With the added corroboration of the photographs we believe every word she says.—ED.



Shown in the second floor recreation room, left to right, E. V. Kramer, C. N. Jackson, Walt Whitted, I. G. Warkentien, Johnnie Owens, D. W. Martin, John Zent, Carl Newell. These men are all residents of Huntington, Ind.



Brakeman I. G. Warkentien and Fireman F. E. Shockome in men's washroom on second floor. Showers and washbasins are a convenience to men in off the road. There are three enameled wash basins and also two shower bath stalls



Norma Eckhart, Author Grace Martin, Agent G. J. Govert, L. L. Worland, George Hulsey, J. J. O'Connor, Marie Soley, J. W. Terry, L. W. Connole, Helen Liesenfelt, H. L. Kinzie. In 24 hours 24 clerks work in Hammond general office