

They commemorated the invention of the telephone's 100 year's anniversary with Bell Canada's telephone directory for Windsor and vicinity featuring a logo and a picture of the Bell Homestead in Brantford, Ont. The new phone book went out to the subscribers on Friday, November 2, 1974 with the attractive cover. The logo to be used by most of the major Canadian telephone companies, as well as Bell Canada to commemorate the invention. It is a blue telephone on a white background centering the commemorative dates, 1874-1974, and was located in the right hand corner of the front cover.

"The photograph on the back cover of the book, "G.C. Jukosky, local Bell manager, said, "is a picture of the Bell Homestead in Brantford. It was there on July 26th, 1874, that Bell first discussed with his father how he proposed to build a telephone and drew the first diagrams for his invention." "But the telephone industry has come a long way since 1874," Mr. Jukosky added, "and the front cover photograph symbolizes those advancements. It is the picture of a computer control panel, representing the modern technology used in presenting the many modern services offered by Canadian telephone companies." There would be 140,000 directories delivered this year in Windsor covering Essex County, an increase of 3,500 over last year's total.

Aug. 11, 1967 - THE REINACTMENT OF THE FIRST TELEPHONE CALL FOR CANADA'S CENTENNIAL

Brantford, Ont. - The placing of the world's first long distance telephone call which took place, August 10, 1876 was reenacted in Brantford, Thursday, August 10th, 1967. The call 91 years before originated in a Brantford telegraph office and was received in Paris, Ont., eight miles away, at Robert White's Boot and Shoe Store.

The original transmitter and iron box receiver were used for the simulation of the original call. Mayor Melvin Sharp of Paris, played the role of the 1876 mayor, Charles Whitlaw, while three veteran telephone pioneers played the other roles. Bob Fish played Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, Wilford Stewart played Mr. Bell's father, Professor Melville Bell, and William Mowle played David Bell, the inventor's brother. Of course the very first words over the phone were uttered in 1875 when Dr. Alexander Graham Bell said to his assistant, Thomas W. Watson: "Watson, come here". This conversation was over only a few feet of wire but Mr. Watson heard it and the telephone came into existence. The 1974 call originated at the Bell Homestead on Brantford's outskirts and was received at Arnald's Pharmacy in Paris site of the original shop where Bell received the call. Today voices span the world, even from outer space.

According to the Essex Free Press Issue of December 16, 1955, HUGH C. BAKER, OF HAMILTON, ONTARIO was the first man in the world to make use of the telephone in 1877. The first long distance call from coast to coast, a distance of 3,400 miles was made Feb. 15th, 1915 in San Francisco when Dr. Bell repeated his original words but this time he was in New York and Mr. Watson in San Francisco.

TELEPHONES OF SANDWICH SOUTH TOWNSHIP

March 18, 1910 - Essex Free Press: A move was on to form a Municipal Telephone System in Sandwich South. The committee appointed was Ignatius Halford, David Ure, John S. Plant, Frank O'Neil and Thomas McKee. The System came into being April 8th, 1910 but it was not until October 1, 1910 that service started. In September of that year Ignatius Halford built an addition to his home at Maidstone Cross to accommodate the new Central Office. Frank O'Neil became manager but he resigned March 8th, 1912.

In November 1912 there were 313 subscribers with Charles O'Brien as Superintendant. January 1st., 1915 the Sandwich South Central was moved to the house next to Halford's. In January 1913, Miss Madge Sexton resigned as operator and was replaced by Miss M. Greenaway, then in March, 1914, Miss Clara Allen became the new operator. On Feb. 16th, 1916, Charles O'Brien was appointed Lineman at a salary of \$500.

October 11, 1912 - Charles O'Brien, Superintendent of Sandwich South Telephone System was helping to construct a rural system at Alvinston.

April 21, 1922 - The Sandwich South Telephone System hired H. W. McGill of Everett as linesman. They had 24 applications. June 6, 1924 - John Robinson of Orillia was engaged as lineman for Sand. S. Tel. replacing H. W. McGill, who had resigned to take over Essex Hydro.

Jan. 7, 1927 - Essex Free Press - The new Sandwich South Municipal Central Office Building was completed and opened for service, Thurs. December 29th, 1926. The cost was \$3,500; the township was issuing 10-year debentures to pay for same. Mrs. Annie Markham, who became the operator in 1923, was Chief Operator in charge. Mrs. Markham came to the village following the death of her husband, Aug. 4th, 1922, with 8 children. They had farmed near Pleasant Park in Maidstone Township following their marriage, Oct. 13th, 1901, when she married George Markham. John Robinson was lineman at the time, but in Sept., 1928

he resigned and W. F. Stephenson of Petrolia, replaced him. Joseph Turton was lineman during the 1930's, and in 1947 Roy Hartley became lineman. Mar. 16, 1945 - John Robinson was appointed Governor of Essex County Gaol and sold his house on Vimy Court in Essex to Steve Conroy.

April 20th, 1945 - Essex Free Press - Added to the operator staff of Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System was Mrs. Padbury at Maidstone Cross Central. Mrs. Markham was Chief Operator.

August 24th - 1956. Permission for the sale of all assets of Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System to the Bell Telephone Company had been granted by the Board of Transport Commissioners. The offer was unanimously approved at a meeting of subscribers, on March 25th, 1957 for \$30,000. It had 475 subscribers and the Bell took over March 30th, 1957. Operators at the time were Mrs. Gordon Saylor, Chief Operator, who came to the office in 1951 and was an operator there for 7 years, until 1958; Mrs. Tremblay and a Miss Hill were assistants. Mrs. Ronald Holland (Dolores John) was night operator.

There was a full house at the Township Hall at Oldcastle with Ed. Dumouchelle in the chair (Acting Reeve). Bert Bedford read the financial report. Mr. Kilpatrick of the Bell Telephone told subscribers they would not be left intact but would be split up into different exchanges after the changeover. Mrs. Annie Markham was to live in the house with a monthly pension. She had retired from active service but on occasion was at the switchboard. Further story on Annie Markham is listed under "Personalities" and "Farm Families" section.



In 1875 Dr. Alexander Graham Bell said to his assistant, Thomas W. Watson, "Watson, come here." This conversation was over only a few feet of wire but Mr. Watson heard it, and the telephone came into existence. On Monday, February 15th, 1915, Dr. Bell repeated the words but this time he was in New York and Mr. Watson was in San Francisco, however he told Dr. Bell it would take him a week to get there. This was the first long distance call from coast to coast, a distance of 3,400 miles.

A move was on to form a municipal telephone system in Sandwich South. The committee appointed were I. Halford, David Tre, John S. Plant, Frank O'Neil, Thos. McKee. 3/18, 1910

The new Sandwich South Municipal Telephone Building, at Maidstone Cross, was completed and opened for service on Thursday, December 29th, 1926. Cost was \$3,500, the Township to issue 10 year debentures to pay for same. Mrs. Markham was still chief operator, in charge. 1/1/27

Bert Bedford, secretary-treasurer of Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System called a meeting on the advice of the Commission at Town Hall on Tuesday evening. The Hall was unable to accommodate the number of subscribers who turned out and the meeting was held outside. About one-third of the actual owners being present. Reeve Percy McKee, and chairman of the Board, was the only one who spoke and he outlined the main points of interest. Price of Sale, \$30,000 and rates to be paid to Bell Company 3.50 a month. The Bell Telephone, who have given a bid to buy our system, had no representative at the meeting. The subscribers as a whole were in favour of the deal set down by the Bell Company, if the Township would be left intact as one Exchange. A ballot vote was taken and the result was 138 in favour of the Bell Company buying the System at the \$30,000 offered, as against 17, who wished to remain as is. The System has a surplus of \$28,500 plus the Exchange and residence valued on paper as \$4,000; which is not included in the purchase price, as the Commission understands it. When the Bill of Sale is signed the Bell Company would take over immediately. There would be no private lines, at the buying time, but, the Bell assured at the meeting of the Executive that there would be not more than 10 subscribers on a line. The present system has many private lines and then again some lines with as many as 25 on the one line, which has caused this dissension. Perhaps, if the Municipal System had split these lines and given better service, the system would have functioned more harmoniously. When the System was started over 45 years ago the Bell Telephone would not instal phones in the Township and so under the capable direction, who met many obstacles, of the late Thomas McKee, former father of our present Reeve, Frank O'Neil, former father of Hugh J. O'Neil and Nace Halford, then merchant and Post Master the Municipal System was inaugurated.

CARSON JESSOP'S COLUMN  
"OLDCASTLE HIGHLIGHTS"  
ESSEX FREE PRESS  
JULY 27, 1956.

An Oct. 15 deadline has been set for receiving tenders on new dial buildings at McGregor and Maidstone, by the Bell Telephone Co. of Canada. 1957  
Both buildings will be one floor, masonry construction, 43 feet by 30 feet. Five contractors have been invited to tender, and bids are going to the company's Toronto office. STAR OCT. 5

How she has endeared herself to telephone users by her friendliness, help, and advice, is best explained by Percy McKee, reeve of Sandwich South and chairman of the telephone system, whose father was one of the organizers of the system.  
"Once I told her I wanted to talk to Hugh O'Neil," Mr. McKee said. "—You never give Annie the telephone number—just tell her whose house you want."  
According to Mr. McKee, Annie replied "Well now, Perce, I just heard Hugh say he was going over to Lyle Banwell's. I'll ring him there."

THE WINDSOR STAR - JANUARY 19, 1957.



ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBER—Close to half a century of municipal telephone service is ending as the transfer of the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System's sale to Bell Telephone Co. of Canada is completed. At left is one of the original subscribers to the system, Henry Dumouchelle, pictured in his home on



Cabana Rd. At right, Mrs. Annie Markham, veteran telephone operator with the system, sits at the switchboard in the Maidstone office—the second switchboard the system has used since Mrs. Markham became the operator in 1923.

(Star Staff Photo)

## 'Farm Phone' Goes Modern

### Bell Takes Over in Sandwich South

By PAT WHEALEN  
Star Staff Reporter

After close to half a century of operation as a "farmer's telephone," the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System is going modern.

The Bell Telephone Co. is taking over the complete system, which was organized early in the century by a group of township residents, and has served Sandwich South and areas of neighboring townships ever since.

Some subscribers view with sadness the change that they feel will inevitably come—the elimination of the friendly party-line atmosphere where "telephone visiting" is the accepted thing. Others reflect that "you can't stop progress."

All the subscribers and users agree on one point, however. They will miss Mrs. Annie Markham, who took over as operator in the Central office at Maidstone in 1923.

Annie, as she is known to anyone who has subscribed to the Sandwich South telephone, for even a few years, is now 77, but still stands her full eight-hour shift, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., on the switchboard.

How she has endeared herself to telephone users by her friendliness, help, and advice, is best explained by Percy McKee, reeve of Sandwich South and chairman of the telephone system, whose father was one of the organizers of the system.

"Once I told her I wanted to talk to Hugh O'Neil," Mr. McKee said. "—You never give Annie the telephone number—just tell her whose house you want."

According to Mr. McKee, Annie replied "Well now, Perce, I just heard Hugh say he was going over to Lyle Banwell's. I'll ring him there."

"That's the way the phone operated," said Mr. McKee.

To Mrs. Markham, 34 years on the switchboard have not seen too great changes in the phone system. In the old days, there was only one line connecting to Windsor telephones, and "there was some delay."

"But we seemed to get along," she says.

Mrs. Markham moved into the Central office, as a widow with eight children, a year after the death of her husband. For years, she and her children were the only operators for the entire system, which had close to 350 subscribers.

Fire alarms were eight long rings on the party lines, and "for the first few fires I called every person on the whole system," she says. Later, after she began to know the subscribers, she could select instantly what neighbors were closest to the fire.

Annual charges for telephone subscribers in the early days were \$10, after the subscriber had bought a \$65 debenture share in the system. Even at this low rate, the system had built up over the years a surplus of close to \$15,000.

The surplus was wiped out, and the system went \$8,000 into debt to the township, by sleet storms in 1947 and 1948. In the first bad storm, most of the system's poles and lines were all but wiped out. The second storm struck just as repairs had been completed.

But since the \$8,000 debt less than 10 years ago, Reeve McKee said, the system has built up a surplus of \$30,000.

This surplus, along with the \$30,000 paid by the Bell Telephone Co. for the system, will be distributed among the holders of debentures in the system.

One asset of the municipal system which was not included in the sale was the Maidstone house which has housed the Central exchange, and been Mrs. Markham's home, for years.

The house will remain, Reeve McKee said, and Mrs. Markham will live in it on a pension.

Members of the Sandwich South Telephone System held a Benefit Euchre party in St. Mary's Hall on Thursday evening to honour Mrs. Roy Hartley the former, afternoon telephone operator. Mrs. Hartley has been ill many weeks. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies. Some who helped serve were Mrs. Clarence Marshall, Mrs. Wm. Hill, Mrs. Francis St. Louis and Mrs. Wilfred McCarthy. Prizes went to Mrs. Frank Mills, a picture donated by S. L. Kennedy; Mrs. Albert Jessop, China cups and saucers by Wellers; Mrs. Chapman, Niblets by Lyle Banwell; a lamp, Mrs. Bob Kettles, Arnold Axcell, and Mrs. Audrey Oxley. The special feature a bushel basket of groceries donated by the Oldcastle Co-Op went to Mrs. M. Belleperche. The proceeds were \$300.00. The ladies wish to thank all who helped make the party such a delightful success. Mrs. Hartley was brought home from the hospital and is convalescing at her home and wishes to thank all who were so thoughtful of her at the hospital with cards, gifts, flowers and visits. Mrs. Hartley was deeply and emotionally upset with the donation from the party and is at a loss for words to thank those who sponsored the party but wishes to thank all her friends who were so very generous and thoughtful of her. MAY 10, 1957 EFP

Hugh C. Baker, of Hamilton, Ont., was the first man in the world to make use of the telephone, in 1877.

FREE PRESS DEC 16 1955.

## Phone Sale JAN. 15, 1957 Authorized

The Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System will become part of the Bell Telephone Co. of Canada early in the spring, Percy McKee, reeve of Sandwich South, announced today.

The sale, authorized by municipal authorities, has been approved by the Ontario Telephone Authority, he said.

The municipal system now services about 400 telephone users, and has lines into surrounding townships. Service is provided from a magneto switchboard located in Maidstone, and most subscribers have multi-party rural line service.

## Phone Change Given Okay

Sale of the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System to the Bell Telephone Co. of Canada for \$30,000 was approved Monday night by the system's subscribers.

According to Bert Bedford, secretary-treasurer, the subscribers, by passing a resolution allowing the telephone commission to use its own judgment in the sale, had in effect given the board a vote of confidence.

The municipal system now services about 475 telephone users. It was organized in 1910 by a group of township residents and has served Sandwich South and areas of neighboring townships ever since.

## Bell Buys Land in Sandwich South AUG. 2, 1957

Property on No. 3 Hwy in Sandwich South Township has been purchased by the Bell Telephone Company as the site for an exchange building. The township expects dial service by 1959.

Bell Telephone Company purchased the Sandwich South Municipal telephone system for \$30,000 last March.



ESSEX FREE PRESS  
MARCH 22, 1957.

## Notice

### SUBSCRIBERS OF THE SANDWICH SOUTH MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

The annual meeting of the Subscribers of the Sandwich South Telephone System will be held at the Township Hall, Oldcastle, on Monday, the twenty-fifth (25th) day of March at the hour of eight (8) o'clock in the evening.

Mr. J. E. Kilpatrick, a representative of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, has stated that he will be present at the meeting.

A good turnout of subscribers is urgently requested.

PERCY McKEE, Chairman.  
BERT R. BEDFORD, Secretary.

There was a full house at the Annual Telephone meeting at Town Hall on Monday evening with Edward Duly mouchelle, acting reeve in the chair. Bert Bedford read the Financial Report. Mr. Kilpatrick of the Bell Telephone, outlined the companies intentions when they take over the Municipal System this Friday. From the subscribers viewpoint it looks as if we will have to accept whatever conclusions the Bell Telephone Co. sees fit to undertake. It was understood by a majority who voted at the July 24th, 1956 meeting to sell to them, that the Maidstone Exchange would be held intact. Now, all subscribers living north of Highway 401 will be taken out of the Maidstone Exchange and it looks like as if the balance of subscribers will eventually be split up.

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS  
MARCH 29, 1957.

OCTOBER 31, 1958.

Last week we mentioned a few names in connection with the old Sandwich South Telephone System. We also have been reminded that we missed some of the main promoters of the old system when it was first started. In doing so it was not intentional, it would be because your writer was not even born at the time the old system was started. We do not wish to take anything away from people who worked so hard and took much abuse to commence a system that was to prove so useful to many people for so many years.

The late Ignace Halford who owned a store at Maidstone was one of the main men who worked so hard that this system would come into use. Many other men of Maidstone who have passed on, also were connected with its starting, Jim McAuliffe, John McAuliffe, and many others also worked at this old system to keep it going. We can only write of

**Oct 10 Dial Soon Here 1958**  
Many users of the Maidstone telephone exchange will soon be happy. Reports from the Bell Telephone Company this week are that the dial system will be introduced around October 19th of this year.

All long distance calls between Windsor-Maidstone, La Salle-Maidstone and Maidstone-Tecumseh will be removed. Another step towards progress and linking of this part of the county by just the twist of the dial. Mersea Township was another county township to recently link with the Bell System over the past month.

No More Good Morning Bell Telephone Company are slow but surely doing away with the old Sandwich South rural telephone system. Many of the township's old subscribers are reluctant to do away with the old crank on the wall and turn to the new dial system.

Mostly across the north side of the township, work has been completed by the Bell and very shortly the whole township will be completed.

No more will we hear "Annie" Markham say, "Good morning dearie" or Mrs. Gordon Saylor's pleasant chatter or Mrs. Hartley's cheerful "Number Please." No more will eight rings toll out the distress of a fire. People cannot call Maidstone to find if Joe Brown passed away last night or if Silus Jones is still out of town.

Mother cannot spend all day gassing with her daughter down the road about family troubles.

No the old way is gone and the old phone that hung on the kitchen wall is over the hill for a new present system. Instead of "Good morning dearie" all you get to look at is a thing with holes punched in it like a card tally that is at your finger tips.

Times and years go by and no more is Sandwich South a tight knit little rural area. Rural we still call it but one only has to cross No. 3 Highway and there in your lap is metropolitan Windsor and very soon someday just another part of the industrial heart of Essex County.

Times and memory of the old system will fade and it will be Yorktown, Seneca or Clearwater instead of Line 22 ring 4 and 3. Old subscribers will still think of the old phone as a great friend and a member of the house. Progress cannot be stopped and for economy and convenience the telephone is one of the greatest inventions of all times.

Alexander Graham Bell was the founder of this great luxury in homes of ours. Stretching all over the world the Bell System is reaching out and Sandwich South will become another part of that great system.

Old things are hard to part with as most of us are a little on the sentimental side. Sentimentality must give way to reality even to Sandwich South's old subscribers of the rural system. Sandwich South people just don't forget the "Good morning dearies" or the "How are you this morning" in a minute, it will take time and ever coming progress.

Oct. 26, 1928, Essex F.P.—John Robinson resigned as lineman of Sandwich South telephone system. W.P. Stephenson replaced him.

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS  
OCTOBER 17, 1958.  
PAGE 8

### The Bell Telephone Co.

An important step in local telephone progress will take place this Sunday (October 19th) when the Bell Telephone carries out the transfer of some 89 Essex telephones from the Essex exchange to a new dial exchange at McGregor.

Climaxing many months of planning and construction, opening of the McGregor exchange will provide a wider local calling area for Essex telephone users. Also to be transferred are a number of customers now served through the Amherstburg dial exchange. In addition, the new exchange will provide service to others now on manual service in Harrow and Maidstone, and some new subscribers.

At approximately the same time as the McGregor exchange is being placed in operation — around 2 a.m. — crews of technicians will also be standing by to carry out the conversion of the Maidstone exchange from manual to dial operation.

Co-incident with the openings, more than 1,000 telephone numbers will be changed to Raymond 6 and Redfield 7 in the McGregor and Maidstone exchange areas, respectively. The new numbers will be listed in the new Windsor telephone directory which is scheduled for distribution locally within the next few weeks.

Bell customers served by the new McGregor exchange will have toll-free local calling with the Maidstone, Amherstburg and Essex exchanges. Those served by the Maidstone office will have toll-free local calling with Windsor, Tecumseh, and LaSalle, as well as McGregor.

The transfer of telephones into the new McGregor exchange and the conversion of the Maidstone exchange to dial will be carried out with virtually no interruption in service.

Working to a pre-arranged schedule of events which call for split-second timing, telephone crews will require less than two minutes to carry out the actual job of placing the new exchanges in operation.

The many friends of Reeve Percy McKee are pleased he is able to be around again, after a heart attack suffered while he was on a Western trip. He was able to attend the dinner given by Bell Telephone Co. for Sandwich South Council. With the Bell Co. being given the Go sign for a 5% raise in rates, the former subscribers of our system will with the raise be paying (multi-party-line people) \$41.50 a year, instead of the \$20 paid before Bell took over. Long distance calls extra. We are now able to have free service between Maidstone and Windsor, Tecumseh, LaSalle and McGregor and able to Dial Direct Distance to Detroit and all parts of Southern Michigan.

Former subscribers of Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System are very pleased with the New Dial System, Redfield 7 Exchange. The change-over took place early Sunday morning and Sunday found our 'old' manual phones being taken out by Bell Telephone employees. Progress marches on. E.F.P. Oct. 24/58

## Maidstone, McGregor Phones In Dial System Next Year

McGREGOR—A dial telephone service replacing the old push and crank type, is scheduled for the communities of Maidstone and McGregor in the late fall of 1958.

J. Larmer Browne, Bell Telephone manager for Windsor and vicinity, said that the contract for the construction of dial exchange buildings has been awarded to the Sterling Construction Co., and work on the two buildings will start shortly.

The Maidstone office will be on Highway 3, a mile west of the community. The exchange building at McGregor will be erected on Walker Rd. The buildings, which will house the complex dial equipment, will be 43 feet by 30 feet.

The dial numbers will consist of two letters and five figures, Mr. Browne said, and the subscribers will be given their new numbers well in advance of the changeover.

The Maidstone exchange will have 700 numbers, while the McGregor exchange will handle 500 telephones. At the present time they have 470 and 230, respectively.

THE WINDSOR STAR, NOVEMBER 1, 1957

### Notice to Creditors.

#### THE SANDWICH SOUTH MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Whereas the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System was recently disposed of, and whereas the commissioners of the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System are desirous of winding up the affairs of the said telephone system,

Therefore creditors having any unpaid accounts against the said telephone system are requested to give notice of the same, to the undersigned, on or before, November 9th, 1957.

BERT R. BEDFORD,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
The Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System,  
561 Cabana Road East,  
Windsor, Ontario.

42-2t

### NOTICE!

#### TO SUBSCRIBERS OF THE SANDWICH SOUTH MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Whereas the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System was recently disposed of, it is now proposed to wind up its affairs and distribute the remaining assets among subscribers of record on the date of completion of the sale, namely March 29th, 1957.

Application has, therefore, been made to the Ontario Telephone Authority, under Section 22 of The Telephone Act, 1954, for an order approving the following plan of distribution:

"Each fully paid subscriber shall receive ten shares of final cash surplus.  
Each subscriber presently paying on a debenture shall receive one share for each year paid."

Any representations to be made to the Authority with respect to this application should be submitted on or before November 11th, 1957, and addressed to the Chairman, Ontario Telephone Authority, 7 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario.

Should you desire further information with respect to this plan or distribution or if you wish to inspect the final Auditor's Report or list of subscribers who, according to the system's records will be entitled to share in the distributable surplus, you may apply to the undersigned either personally, by telephone or by letter.

BERT R. BEDFORD,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System,  
561 Cabana Rd. E.  
Windsor, Ontario.

42-2t

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS  
NOVEMBER, 1957.

### Dial System

Much to the joy of Sandwich South telephone subscribers the Bell Telephone Company put the dial system into use here over the past week end. With the exception of a few bugs to be ironed out the old Sandwich South system that served the township for many years has gone.

Mrs. Joe Flatbottom was calling her sister, daughter and all her long lost cousins, since last Sunday, "to see how the dang thing worked."

Regardless of how we now have a new telephone system the township must not forget the people who made the old system what it was and served so many well over the years. Voices of Annie Markham, men like the late Charlie O'Brien, Frank O'Neil, Tom McKee and many others.

"Johnny" Robinson now governor of Essex County jail can tell you many stories of the old system of its good points, and its faults. For many years "Johnny" climbed poles and stretched wire and gabbed baseball on the side during the good old days.

CARSON JESSOP'S COL.  
"OLDCASTLE HIGHLIGHTS"  
OCTOBER 24, 1958  
ESSEX FREE PRESS

Items Culled from Essex Free Press Files Of May 22, 1942

John Robinson resigned as Supt. of Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System and started to work at Ford's.

### JUNE 2, 1942 More About Early Telephones

We thank John Shuel and Wallace Paquette for the following — Dr. Jenner and Dr. James Brien ran a private line from their offices, in Town, to the Dan Kennedy farm (now owned by Bill Takacs) and to Cyril Paquette's, in the late 1890's, so if either Doctor was needed anyone in the Paquette Area could call. A heavy wind blew the line down about 1902 and it was never replaced.

The Sandwich South Telephone System had 222 subscribers, Sept. 1/1911

## Direct Distance Dialing

Direct Distance Dialing, a system which permits telephone users to dial their own station-to-station long distance calls, will be introduced in Essex on Sunday, April 15th.

The special "crossbar tandem" switching equipment, which makes Direct Distance Dialing (DDD) possible, will swing into action at about 2 a.m.

The new system will bring more than 75,000,000 telephones in more than 3,000 cities and towns in Canada and the United States within personal dialing range of Essex residents.

At the same time, continent-wide DDD will be introduced in Wheatley, Kingsville, Harrow, Leamington and Emeryville, as well as in Windsor, Amherstburg, LaSalle, Maidstone, McGregor and Tecumseh. The latter six exchanges have had DDD with Southeastern Michigan since 1956.

With DDD it will be possible to dial only station-to-station long distance calls, and these will be charged for at regular station-to-station rates. Later on, however, the service will be expanded to include person-to-person calls. Other types of long distance calls — including person-to-person, "collect" and credit card calls and calls placed from public telephones, hotel and motel rooms, and those charged to a third telephone — will be placed through operators as at present.

T. L. Ball, Bell Telephone manager for this area said the introduction of DDD is turning Canada and the United States into one vast telephone exchange and—as in any telephone exchange, such as the one that now serves Essex for local calls — each telephone must have a unique number.

This is necessary, he explained, because the crossbar switching equipment must be able to select any of the 75,000,000 telephones which any person on the continent may wish to reach.

The telephone numbering plan which has been developed for the entire North American continent, is based on each telephone having, for long distance purposes only, a 10-digit number — that is three digits for an area code and seven digits which make up each subscriber's local telephone number.

To meet this requirement the continent has been divided into more than 115 "numbering plan areas" (NPA's). The NPA code for the area which includes Essex is 519.

For all long distance calls within this home area, the caller need only dial the number "1" — which connects him with the long distance switching equipment — and then the full local telephone number of the person he is calling. An operator will come on the line briefly to ask the person placing the call for his number — not the number being called, but the number of the telephone from which the call is being placed.

The distant party's phone will then ring, just as in a normal local call. All this takes place in seconds from the time the customer finishes dialing.

Some of the places included in the 519 NPA are Windsor, London, Sarnia, Brantford, Chatham

Mar. 1962

## SANDWICH SOUTH MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

January 16, 1957

### AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR TELEPHONE SERVICE

We have recently completed arrangements with The Bell Telephone Company of Canada for the purchase of our telephone system this spring. The Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System will go out of existence and the Bell will take over the responsibility of providing you with telephone service.

We have enjoyed serving you over the past years and would like to take this opportunity of thanking you sincerely for your cooperation. We are sure that telephone users in this area will enjoy the same high standard of service The Bell Telephone Company of Canada maintains in other parts of its territory.

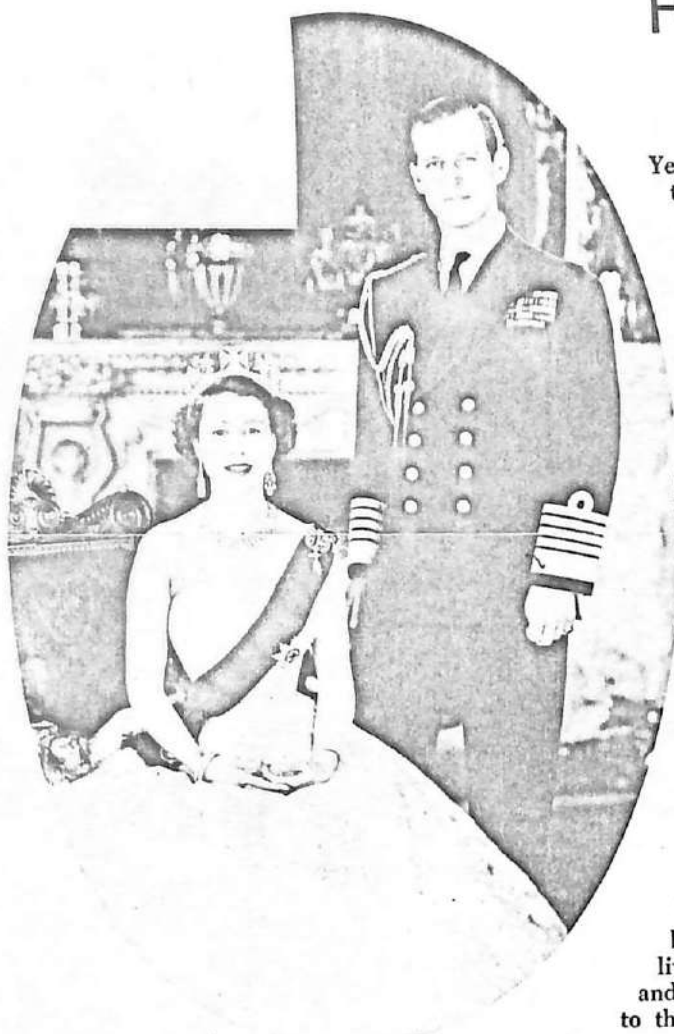
(P. McKee)  
Reeve

TELEPHONE NEWS  
SEPTEMBER, 1967





## History in the making



Yes, this month a new chapter is added to Canadian history. The colour and splendour of Canada's Thanksgiving-time countryside is challenged by the pageantry of the opening of Parliament ceremonies . . . and for good reason. For the first time a reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, opens Parliament. Although Ottawa will be the only centre honoured by the visit of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during their brief stay, all Canada joins in welcome. Telephone people are proud we've had a part in preparing for their visit. To capture the highlights of the Royal visit for your TV screens, many specially selected camera locations have been set up in Ottawa . . . among them TV cameras located in the Senate for the first time. It's our privilege to set up for the CBC facilities for relaying your TV pictures from the cameras to the CBC network and most of the stations carrying this historical event.

We're happy we had a hand in bringing the Royal visit into the living rooms of thousands of Canadians, and proud to join in Canada's welcome to the Royal couple.

October 1957

## Telephones Go Dial

THE WINDSOR STAR  
OCTOBER 18, 1958  
Operation Cutover  
Set for Sunday

MAIDSTONE — Early Sunday morning the manual exchange at Maidstone will be cut out of the Bell Telephone system and dial exchanges here and at McGregor will be cut in.

This step in telephone progress will climax many months of planning and construction. "Operation Cutover" will be carried out when telephone calling has reached its lowest ebb.

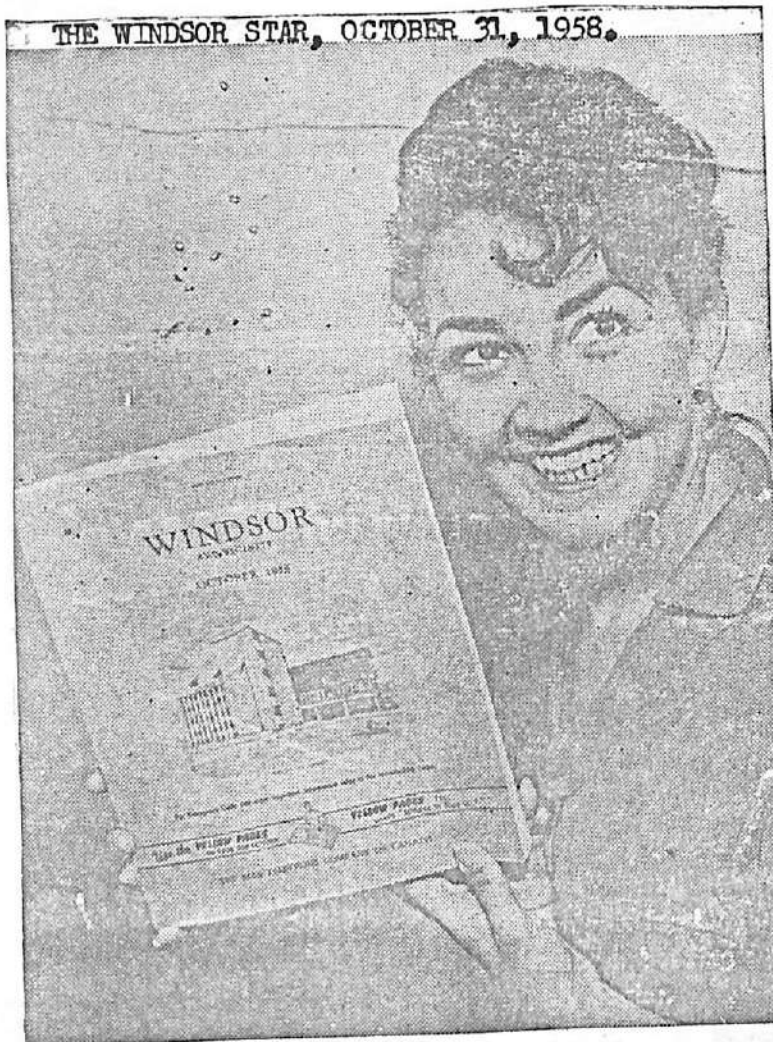
The new dial building in McGregor is to serve many customers now served through the dial exchanges in Amherstburg and Essex, in addition to others on manual service in Harrow and Maidstone, and some new subscribers.

Coincident with the openings, more than 1,000 telephone numbers will be changed to RAYmond 6 and REDfield 7 in McGregor and Maidstone, respectively. The numbers will be listed in the new Windsor telephone directory which is scheduled for distribution here within the next few weeks.

Bell customers served by the new McGregor exchange will have toll-free local calling with the Maidstone, Amherstburg and Essex exchanges. Those served by the Maidstone office will have toll-free local calling with Windsor, Tecumseh and LaSalle as well as McGregor.

"Operation Cutover" will be carried out with virtually no interruption in service. Working to a prearranged schedule which calls for split-second timing, telephone company crews will require less than two minutes

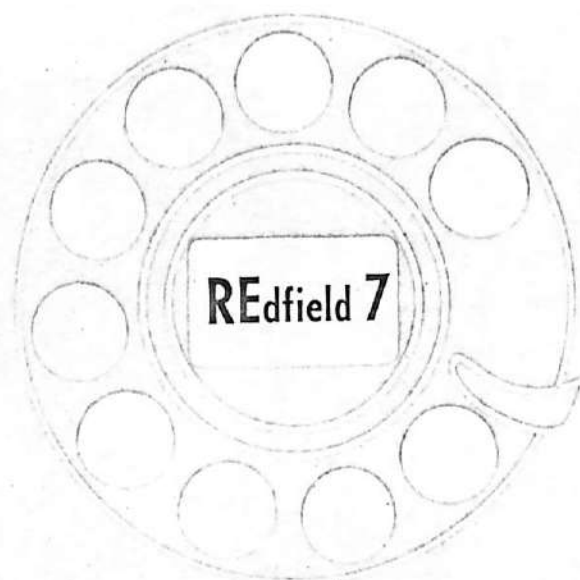
THE WINDSOR STAR, OCTOBER 31, 1958.



Distribution of up-to-date telephone directories for this area is now underway and Naomi Balesdent, of the Bell Telephone, suggests that telephone users here discard their old books as soon as the new ones are received. Containing many new and changed listings, the new directory features a sketch of Windsor's new City Hall on the front cover.

APR. 10, 1968  
The Bell Telephone are laying their cable along the line-fence here, has been under doctors of the New York Central Rail-care for the past two weeks. If way from Essex to their Plant there is any encouragement to and Exchange on Highway 3, at a sick man, a lady told us this week that she used to enjoy chats with Joe when he was telephone lineman on the old Sexton Sideroad. 4/29/66.

Sandwich South system.



## DIAL TELEPHONE SERVICE

## AND WIDER LOCAL CALLING BEGIN IN

## MAIDSTONE EARLY SUNDAY MORNING OCTOBER 19th

1958

THE WINDSOR STAR, AUGUST 11, 1967.  
**History relived**

BRANTFORD, Ont. (CP)— The placing of the world's first long-distance telephone call which took place Aug. 10, 1876, was re-enacted here Thursday.

The call, 91 years ago, originated in a Brantford telegraph office and was received in Paris, Ont., eight miles away.

The original transmitter and iron box receiver were used

for the simulation of the original call.

Mayor Melvin Sharpe of Paris played the role of the 1876 mayor, Charles Whitlaw, while three veteran telephone pioneers played other roles.

Bob Fish played Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone; Wilford Stewart played Mr. Bell's father, Professor Melville Bell, and William Mowle played David Bell, the inventor's brother.



# 2,400 Bell Customers Due for Dial Phones

Company Expects to Complete Switch For All Essex County by Next Spring

LEAMINGTON — Dial telephoning will come to 2,400 users by mid-October, and another 3,400 will be converted in the spring to give Bell Telephone Company a complete dial system in Essex County.

The major switches for October include the establishment of completely new systems at McGregor and Maidstone and the opening of a new dial system in Harrow. The largest switch will occur in the spring, when nearly 3,500 customers in the Leamington area are changed to dial.

Harrow will be the first of the series to be switched to the new method of phoning. The 1,400 users will begin dialing on Oct. 5.

Maidstone and McGregor area residents will be converted Oct. 19. Each of these centres will serve approximately 500 customers.

The McGregor system is completely new. Formerly, all telephone service was handled by Amherstburg and Essex offices, which have offered dial telephoning for several months.

The Maidstone unit is the same one which the Bell system purchased from Sandwich South Twp. in April, 1957. A new building has been erected on Highway 3 near Oldcastle to house the new system.

A similar building has been erected at McGregor for that unit. A larger building has been constructed on King St. for this system.

The three buildings, of cement block, steel and brick, are completed. Electrical workers are now installing the intricate electrical systems which will operate automatically.

Construction crews are still working at the site of the new building in Leamington. Most of the building will be completed before winter.

The Maidstone and McGregor systems will also be able to dial directly to the same points in Michigan which Windsor users are now doing.

For the McGregor customers, Essex, Amherstburg and Maidstone may be called without charge. Maidstone users may call Windsor, LaSalle, McGregor and Tecumseh free.

## Bell may add exchange 1970.

OLDCASTLE — Bell Telephone is expected to complete a report shortly on the economics of a Sandwich South Township request that subscribers in the district of the municipality bounded by Highway 3, Walker Rd., Macdonald - Cartier Freeway and Oldcastle Rd. be added to the Yorktown (969) exchange.

The area is now part of the Maidstone (737) area and is zoned from the former telephone central office site on Highway 3 at Maidstone.

Due to this, subscribers are being charged unnecessary wire mileage, councillors say.

There are more than 100 phones in the area.

## THE ESSEX FREE PRESS APR. 20, 1962 Direct Distance Dialing Now in Effect

Telephone users here have been dialing their own station-to-station long distance calls since Sunday (April 15th) when Essex and 10 other district exchanges were integrated into the continent-wide Direct Distance Dialing system.

This was the first DDD for Essex, Leamington, Wheatley, Kingsville and Harrow.

A delay in arrival of switching equipment for the Emeryville exchange has resulted in a postponement of Direct Distance Dialing in that community.

Continent-wide DDD came into effect in Windsor, Amherstburg, LaSalle, Maidstone, McGregor and Tecumseh at the same time. These communities have had DDD to southeastern Michigan since 1956.

Some 75,000,000 telephones located throughout North America and in Hawaii are now within personal dialing range of residents of these exchanges.

"Complete directions for placing DDD calls are to be found on pages 6 to 12 of the Windsor and vicinity telephone directory," T. L. Ball, Bell manager, said.

For all DDD calls within the home area with the area code 519 in which Essex and surrounding territory are located the caller need dial only the number "1" and then the full local telephone number.

An operator will then come on the line briefly. "Please give the operator the number of the telephone from which you are calling — calls to be charged to a third number should be placed through a long distance operator," Mr. Ball requested.

For placing calls outside the home area, the caller should dial "1", which gives access to the DDD switching equipment, then the appropriate area code, followed by the full local telephone number.

"If you run into any difficulty, just call the long distance operator, she will be pleased to help you," Mr. Ball stated.

We are sorry to report Mrs. Roy Hartley will be confined to Metropolitan Hospital for several weeks, yet, on account of the incision breaking open. Mrs. Hartley is suffering with a broken hip and when her condition clears will be moved to River-view Hospital for therapy.

ESSEX FREE PRESS  
OCT. 26, 1962

Card of Thanks — My sincere thanks and deep appreciation to my dear friends and neighbours of Maidstone for the wonderful surprise birthday party. "Thank you" to all who gave gifts of money and to those who did so much to arrange the party. To all, who helped get us moved and settled in our new home. God bless everyone. — Mildred and The Hartleys  
JULY 12, 1962



OPERATORS HONORED—Seven former operators of the Maidstone Township telephone system were honored Thursday night at the Poplar Inn in Cottam, for their years of service to the municipality. The system was converted to dial phones last month, marking the end of the operators. Shown, front row, from left, are Mrs. Helen Vitor,

Woodslee; Mrs. Janet Sears, Emeryville; Mrs. Blanch Collard, of Essex; Mrs. Nellie Saylor, of Maidstone; back row, Mrs. Kathleen Reeb, RR 3, Essex; Eileen Rounding, of RR 3, Essex; Mrs. Maida Cowan, of Maidstone. Also attending the dinner was Vincent Flynn, of the Ontario Telephone Service Commission, Toronto.

THE WINDSOR STAR, FEBRUARY 12, 1965.

Mrs. Saylor listed in the picture was a telephone operator on the Sandwich South Municipal System from 1951 to 1958.

Roy Hartley passed away in Hotel Dieu Monday afternoon at 4:30 after being hospitalized four weeks with a heart condition. Deceased was born October 1st, 1891 at Battersea, Ont. and came here 12 years ago as lineman for the Township Telephone Company. Seven years ago he fell on ice and broke his leg, which never healed. After several graftings he had to have the leg amputated. Since then he had been in fairly good health until stricken with his heart. He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife Mildred, former telephone operator in Maidstone Central; a son, Timothy, at home on No. 3 Highway; (Jean) Mrs. Keith Todd, (Mona) Mrs. Fred Boisvert, both of Brockville; (Dorothy) Mrs. Jerry Charbonneau, of North Surrey, B.C.; (Georgina) Mrs. Lyle Johnson, Sturgeon Falls; Ross, Seeleys Bay, Stewart, Belleville; Kenneth, Gananoque. Dear brother of Mrs. Gilbert Smith, Flint, Mich.; Ray Seleys Bay; Carmen, Lyle and Bert, of Battersea; Warren, of Vancouver; 14 grandchildren. Funeral was held on Thursday afternoon from Kennedy Funeral Home at 2 p.m., Rev. N. Anderson officiating. Interment in Green Lawn Cemetery. The pallbearers were six neighbors, Fred Belleau, James Farough, John and Milton Hartley, Gerald and Robert Lauzon.

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS  
DECEMBER 4, 1959.

The many friends of Mrs. Roy Hartley will be sorry to learn she is in oxygen having developed a cold and temperature. Mrs. Hartley is in Metropolitan Hospital where she underwent surgery to put a pin in her broken hip. Mrs. Hartley has a host of friends here as she was a very competent telephone operator, when we had the Municipal System.  
1962

Mrs. Roy Hartley moved this Thursday to Windsor, after living in our community for years. Her neighbours wish her better health.  
JAN. 28, 1963.

We are pleased to report that Mrs. Roy Hartley was able to be brought home from Metropolitan Hospital after several weeks, to convalesce from her recent accident. She had as her guests, Mr. and Mrs. Barr. of Ottawa, for her weekend guests.  
11/30/62

## WIDER LOCAL CALLING FOR MAIDSTONE EXCHANGE CUSTOMERS

Beginning August 1, 1975, Maidstone exchange customers will be able to call the nearby Pleasant Park exchange without long distance charges.

Just dial the seven digits of the number you wish to reach as you do now when calling other exchanges in your local calling area.

This expansion of your local calling area will not affect your monthly rate for service.

Bell Canada

1E75122



# HISTORY OF TELEPHONES IN ESSEX

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS, MAY 19, 1972.

170

Telephone service in Essex has advanced a long way since the first telephone exchange was set up, in the fall of 1836, in the frame building which also housed the real estate and insurance office of George J. Thomas, Bell Telephone agent, in what was then called Essex Centre. That early exchange was the forerunner of the modern dial system which went into service here on July 17, 1955.

Essex telephone history actually began on March 23, 1881—89 years ago—when the first two telephones were connected. It is fitting that this milestone of nearly a century should also come at a time when Bell Canada as a company is celebrating its 90th year of operation. It was on April 29, 1880 that the company was formed.

The first two telephone subscribers in the Essex of 1881 were recorded in a letter by Thomas W. Wudland, then inspector for Bell's Ontario department. The subscribers' names, however, were not mentioned. (Perhaps they soon discontinued their service, since the telephone in those days was considered just one notch above a plaything. Alexander Graham Bell himself, genius that he was, had to withstand many insults from people who considered him somewhat on the shady side of lunacy.)

In 1885, telephone subscribers had tremendous difficulty in adjusting to a "box" they could talk to and have that same "box" talk back. It was considered almost super-natural in concept.

In September, 1881, the office of Duff and Gattfield, a marine/agency, at Lime Kiln Crossing, Anderdon, was connected to Windsor by a telephone line. The agency found the telephone not a toy, but a worthwhile aid in reporting on the passage of ships up and down the Detroit River.

The next year, a company under the presidency of John Curry, and with J. W. Tringham as manager, began to provide telephone service in this area. The Curry Lines was purchased by the Bell Telephone Company of Canada in 1885, and John Thomas was appointed Bell's agent here, one year

after the incorporation of Essex Centre as a village.

There were only four telephone customers in Essex then: D. Brien druggist; Canadian Southern Railway Station; J. A. Green, grain dealer; and J. A. Rose, livery stable. There were no telephone numbers, because telephone operators were expected to remember subscribers by name. It was not until the late 90's that telephone numbers were introduced here.

Later in 1895, T. C. Legalles succeeded John Thomas as Bell agent, and was in turn followed, in 1886, by George J. Thomas. Besides being telephone agent, George Thomas was an insurance and real estate agent and a captain in the Essex Centre Infantry. Among early Bell operators who worked in Mr. Thomas' office were Miss Alice Pearson, Miss Marlotte Church, Miss Jessie Dunstan, Mrs. Henry Thomas, the agent's sister, and Miss Mary Hicks.

The first switchboard in Essex was like an upright desk with a crank attendant. An old farmer one day, returning from a visit to Mr. Thomas' insurance office, told people he met that Mr. Thomas "must be going crazy because he was standing up talking to a box in the wall and holding a bottle to his ear."

Such reactions to the telephone became rarer as the new means of communication steadily gained public acceptance. By 1887 there were 32 telephones in Essex. At that time service was provided between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Sundays and from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on holidays. That was two years before Essex was incorporated as a town.

In September, 1901 the telephone office and exchange was moved to John Thorne's drug store and Mr. Thorne's niece, Miss Mary Parkinson became chief operator. Early the following year the telephone centre was moved to the drug store of T. R. S. Tweedale, on Talbot street, and Mr. Tweedale became Bell's local manager.

Two sisters, Miss Flossie and Miss May Cockburn, telephone operators during the time Mr.

Tweedale was manager, became heroines on August 10, 1907, when disaster struck Essex. A box of "green" dynamite near the Michigan Central station exploded. Large sections of the town were devastated, shingles were ripped from roofs a miles away, and windows were broken and plaster jarred off walls as far away as Windsor and Detroit.

Miss May Cockburn was at the rear of the store working at the books and Miss Flossie Cockburn, later Mrs. Thomas Corner, was at the switchboard when the blast came. Both of the young women were almost buried in an avalanche of bottles and packages and May was injured so seriously that she spent most of the rest of her life in a wheelchair. But Flossie stayed by the switchboard from morning until midnight and called for medical aid to the stricken town from Windsor and intermediate points.

Later that year a new telephone centre, to replace the blast-damaged one, was established in a small building erected after the explosion and attached to the rear of the drug store. By the end of 1897 there were 56 telephones in service here. This number grew to 70 by 1910 and had reached 146 by the time the First World War ended. Mr. Tweedale continued as local manager until his death, on October 4, 1929. During his term of office he had seen the telephone system in Essex and vicinity grow from fewer than 50 telephones to 291. He was succeeded by his daughter, Miss N. A. Tweedale. Miss M. E. Hill served as branch manager and chief operator for several years but in 1937 Miss Tweedale returned to duty.

In 1939 the management of the telephone company's business in Essex was reorganized, and the Essex office was placed under the jurisdiction of W. H. Patterson, Bell's regional manager, whose headquarters were in Leamington. Miss Tweedale continued as Bell's local representative.

During the Second World War, despite the shortage of manpower and materials, the Essex telephone system grew. There were other changes too.

The Bell office and exchange equipment was moved from Talbot to Gordon Street. By the end of the war there were some 340 telephones in service here.

However, the greatest telephone expansion in Essex' history took place in the postwar period. To meet the increased demand for telephones, the company repeatedly extended its switchboard facilities and the network of outside cables and wires connecting each telephone with the exchange. In March, 1948, Bell moved from Gordon Street to much larger premises on Wilson street. At the end of that year there were 575 telephones here.

Mr. Patterson retired as manager in May, 1949, and was succeeded by Frank C. Martin, who was in turn succeeded in July 1950 by R. S. Reinke.

Mr. Reinke served for the following five years until H. A. Tate entered the picture between 1955-57.

Since 1957, T. L. (Larry) Ball has been manager of the Essex territory for Bell Canada. Mr. Ball has had 30 years' experience with Bell Canada in Montreal, London, Brantford, Chatham and Hamilton, and works out of the Bell offices in Leamington.

Today in Essex, Bell Canada has a capital investment of about \$1.4 million, a far cry from the days when two customers got together 89 years ago to experiment with that strange "box".

Bell spent \$66,000 last year in construction expenditures. There were 2400 telephones in operation up to the end of last year, and subscribers were able to call Cottam, Harrow, Emeryville, Maidstone, Kingsville, Windsor, McGregor and Pleasant Park without long distance charges added.

And speaking of long distance calls, Essex residents asked Bell Telephone to change made 179,544 of them in 1969. Canada last year lost its "gabbiest" telephone-users, but you'd never know it by the Essex figures.

The many friends of Mrs. Gordon Saylor, of 8th Concession, Joy Rd., are hoping for a speedy recovery from major surgery at Metropolitan Hospital, Windsor, this week. Mrs. Saylor will be pleasantly remembered as telephone operator at Maidstone and Pleasant Park Centrals. 5/23/69

Sincere sympathy to the O'Neil family in the death of a beloved mother, Mrs. Bertha O'Neil, aged 93 years, widow of her beloved husband, Frank O'Neil (1937). A highly respected citizen who did much for Sandwich South; like getting the Municipal Telephone System started. Funeral was held from St. Stephen's Church on Tuesday with burial beside her husband. 5/22/69

## MAIDSTONE CROSS

MAY 8, 1970 RFP  
Mrs. Mildred Hartley, age 68 years, wife of the late Leroy Hartley (Nov. 1959) passed away Monday morning at Grace Hospital after a few days' illness. Deceased was a Sandwich South Telephone Operator prior to being taken over by the Bell Co. Although suffering from Muscular Dystrophy for years, Mrs. Hartley had always a jovial disposition, and despite her handicap, was an excellent operator, and was well thought of by the subscribers and neighbors. She leaves to mourn her loss, a son Timothy. Funeral services will be held this Thursday from Kennedy Funeral Home. Burial in Greenlawn Cemetery beside her husband.

Card of Thanks—The family of the late Mildred Hartley wish to express their sincere thanks to the many friends and neighbours for their sympathy, flowers and many acts of kindness during the loss of their dear mother. Special thanks to Capt. R. Moulton, Dr. Willms, nurses at Grace Hospital, 1st North, Mr. and Mrs. James Beaudette, Mrs. Violet Hartley, the pallbearers and the Stewart L. Kennedy Funeral Home.

Sandwich South Township has part of Maidstone 737 Exchange bounded by Hwy. 3, Walker Rd. and Hwy. 401 to be added to the Yorktown 969 Exchange. There are more than 100 telephones in his area. JULY 24, 1970



Essex' 1945-vintage operating staff featured (standing, from left): Mrs. D. Brushett, Miss R. Hunter and Miss E. Truesdale, who was a local Bell representative.  
Seated, from left: Mrs. M. Cowan, Miss M. Hill and Miss E. Bannister.

We were pleased to read the write-up for our friend, John Robinson, in the Saturday edition of the Star. John and family lived in this vicinity for years when he worked for the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System and was highly regarded. He was also managing the Shamrocks and brought them a victory when the R.C.A.F. team from Trenton came down, by plane, to play the victorious Shamrocks. A dinner in St. Mary's Hall honoured the teams and personnel after the game. Your host of friends, John, are hoping you will be blessed with better health. 12/3/70





## THE OLD TIME CORNER



This 1930 photo was taken in the Essex traffic department. From left: Mrs. H. Damm, Miss A. Tweedale, chief operator and local manager, and Misses M. Hill and W. Bannister. They are pictured working at a 1200 type switchboard. Note the public telephone situated only inches from the switchboard.

## Alexander Graham Bell in Ont.

THE ESSEX TIMES  
AUG. 15, 1974

One hundred years ago this July, Alexander Graham Bell spent a holiday in Brantford in southwestern Ontario, visiting his parents, and while there he invented an apparatus for transmitting and receiving speech and other sounds over long distances through the medium of electric waves. The apparatus, of course, was the telephone.

Because of his invention Brantford became known as the "Telephone City." And today, the Bell homestead has been converted into a museum containing many exhibits relating to Bell's invention.

While inventing the

telephone Bell drew heavily upon previous scientific knowledge and indeed, all the basic principles embodied in the device had been known for at least 40 years. Bell's contribution was to reveal an unappreciated relationship between these principles, which were found in the seemingly unrelated fields of physiology, electricity and acoustics.

Invention has always been an on-going process, and the telephone had no sooner appeared than Thomas Edison improved it.

The telephone was a product of its time...an age of achievements in

the fields of communications and electrical science. The growth of the press, the expansion of the railway, submarine cables, steamship services and the invention of the radio, as well as the telephone, increased the speed at which information travelled.

Bell, himself, was a reflection of his age with a mechanistic philosophy of nature: "I catch glimpses of the harmonies of nature, of how one part fits into another like the wheel-work of a complicated machine."

Bell died on August 2, 1922, at his summer home near Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

Many folk have been asking about Johnny Robinson of late and wondering if he had hibernated. John was out the past week for a visit and looks as chipper as ever. He still is cutting the mustard on his retirement, looking up old friends and still making new ones, and still talks about some of the cold days on top of some of those poles when he was Sandwich South's telephone man. Glory be to God Johnny some of those thunderstorms sure shook the lines up didn't they.

John Robinson, of Orillia, was engaged as linesman for Sandwich South Telephone System, to succeed H.W. McGill.

### Maidstone to Vote on MTP Telephone Setup

Subscribers of Maidstone Municipal Telephone System will vote July 8th on a \$90,000 debenture to convert the system's Pleasant Park exchange to dial service.

A special meeting of the subscribers has been called for 8 p.m. in the Township Hall. It will be asked to rule on changing the remainder of the township to dial.

On July 19th, 1959, the Emeryville dial exchange was switched in and now has 450 customers. The Pleasant Park exchange serves 500.

At the annual meeting of subscribers in March the telephone commissioners, members of Township Council, were instructed to have a survey made to determine cost of completing dial service for the whole township. The \$90,000 is described as the "outside" figure.

It is proposed to make the debenture a 20-year issue.

If the decision of the meeting is to be binding, at least 10 per cent of the subscribers must be present. JULY 6, 1962.

OCT. 13, 1967  
Sandwich South and this area now has a new public telephone at the Oldcastle Cold Storage on Walker Rd. Steve Palencar informs us that this new phone will be less trouble to local residents who were called upon to get out of bed at all hours to aid automobile drivers who were in trouble and needed a phone.

Every now and then the public complains of the present party telephone line system and one often wonders if private ownership goes overboard when its use is misused especially when an important or needful call must be placed.

It is proof that the Holy Bible is the most important book ever written because of its short and to the point paragraph that contain knowledge of one of the most perfect pieces of literature. Party liners should take a tip of this great book but instead the party liner's language is short but it is often wondered if it contains any fruit.

For instance women can say less in twenty minutes and an onlooker will wonder if anything was ever accomplished. Lets take this one, yes, no, you don't say, well well, is that a fact, I never, go on, yeah, yeah, YEAH, can you beat that, not another girl and at her age.

It's true another girl and at her age and twenty or thirty minutes while somebody on the line waited and only wanted to call and say — Good Morning George it's another girl, have a cigar and if it wasn't for that — party line you would have your cigar. JAN. 13, 1967

## Telephone in Essex

SOUVENIR REVIEW ESSEX TIMES

Feb. 23, 1972

The first exchange was established in Essex in the fall of 1885. Earlier in 1881 the first two telephones were connected between a marine agency in Anderdon and Windsor to make it easier to report the movement of ships along the Detroit river.

In 1882 a John Curry began to provide telephone service in this area and sold out to the Bell Telephone Company in 1885. There were four customers, the druggist, the railway station, the grain dealer and the livery station operator. There were long distance connections to Windsor. With so few, the operator remembered the names so there was no need for telephone numbers until near the turn of the century. After Bell bought the local exchange calls could be made as far as Montreal. In 1887 there were 32 telephones in the village of Essex with service provided between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. except on Sundays when it was cut to 10 a.m. to noon.

The first office was in the real estate office. In 1901 it was moved to a drug store operated by John Thorne. The following year it was moved to tweedalls drug store and was there in 1907 when the explosion of the box car in the station. The Colborne sisters, Flossie and May were operators at that time. May Colborne was working at the rear of

the store and Flossie was at the switchboard when the town was devastated by the blast as the nitro glycerine exploded. May was injured so seriously that she was confined to a wheel chair for most of her remaining years. Even though there were piles of broken glass and boxes all around her, Flossie stayed at the switchboard from then (around 10 a.m.) until late at night to summon medical help from surrounding areas.

A new telephone centre had to be built to replace the damaged one. It was at the back of the drug store. By the time of the first World War there were 140 telephone subscribers. Mr. Tweedale continued as manager until his death in 1929 when his daughter, M.A. Tweedale took charge.

By the time of the second World War the telephone office was moved to Gordon street but the old style crank-type phone was still being used in Essex, even though in most large centres dial system had been in operation for some time. There were 340 telephones in Essex in 1945.

Rapid expansion in the telephone system took place after that until in 1948 Bell telephone moved to larger premises on Wilson street. By the time the dial system was installed on July 17, 1955, there were 1200 subscribers in the town.



**BELL:** THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE 16, 1973.

# Annihilating time and space

Bell: Alexander Graham Bell and the Conquest of Solitude, by Robert V. Bruce. Little, Brown, 564 pages, \$14.95.

By JOHN MARSHALL

Few men have made a greater contribution to human society than Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone—though just where he made that contribution has been open to dispute.

Robert V. Bruce's biography should at least settle that argument, though perhaps not to everyone's satisfaction.

The inventor himself, at a dedication of a memorial to him in Brantford on Oct. 24, 1917, gave a nod to Brantford when he said: "Brantford is right in claiming the invention of the telephone here."

He quickly added, probably in a more proper perspective: "The telephone was conceived in Brantford in 1874 and born in Boston in 1875." Certainly most of the experimental work was done in Boston, because that's where he was most of the time. But certainly also the first telephone call over any distance was between Brantford and Mount Pleasant, 10 miles away, on Aug. 3, 1876.

Alexander Graham Bell (he adopted Graham as a second name only when 11 years old) achieved his great invention at 28 so that most of his later life had nothing to do with the telephone. An exception was the legal disputes over patents, which lasted 20 years, and which he won over such adversaries as the Western Union telegraph company.

His invention of the telephone was something of a byproduct, as so many inventions have been. Bell was not a trained scientist, in education, and his lack of knowledge of electronics was a great handicap. His first, and lifelong, interest was in the deaf. This was an inherited interest, his father and grandfather also having been speech therapists. He went to Boston, from his parents' home in Brantford, to teach at a school for the deaf.

Bell's mother and wife both were deaf. It was his consuming concern about sound, and the communication of it, that led to his experiments. He early had the idea of 'hearing aids'.

Bell had an overwhelming sense of wonder. His curiosity led him into all sorts of studies, some quite eccentric. He spent years developing a herd of four-teated sheep in the mistaken theory that ewes so endowed would produce more twins and milk for them.

He of course had a much longer and more meaningful association with Canada in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, than with Brantford, Ont., having spent only brief time in the latter place after emigrating with his parents from Scotland. His magnificent mansion and estate on the Bras d'Or Lakes was his summer residence for 35 years and he died there in 1922.

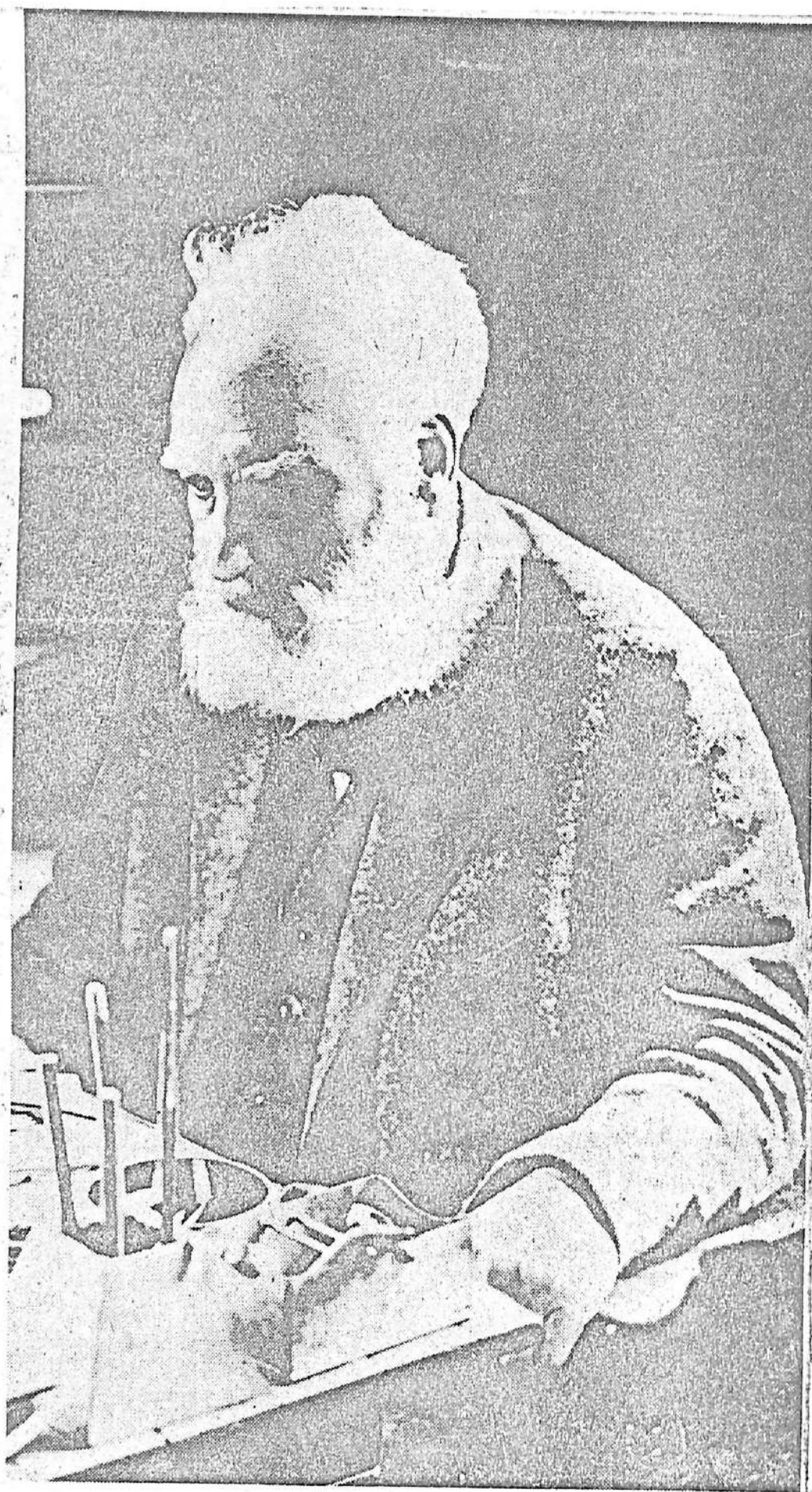
It was there he carried on his manifold studies (including the sheep) with kites, aircraft, etc. One investigation was of the influence of heredity on deafness.

He became rich out of his telephone invention, but would have been fantastically wealthy had he not sold most of his shares in the original Bell company and its successors. He was not parsimonious, giving \$450,000 to the welfare of the deaf among other benefactions.

It is ironic that this inventor of the telephone refused to allow the contraption in his private study. He could not tolerate its rude interruptions.

Perhaps the best tribute to Alexander Graham Bell came from his fellow inventor and one-time rival, Thomas Edison. Edison said Bell's "invention annihilated time and space and brought the human family in closer touch."

John Marshall is retired  
associate editor of The Star



Alexander Graham Bell at 72

IT HAPPENED IN CANADA

SECOND HAND  
NEWS

ONE OF THE  
EARLIEST  
MEDIUMS OF  
FAST

COMMUNICA-  
TION WAS  
THE TELEGRAPH.

IN THE YEAR  
1876... ITS  
LINES STILL  
HADN'T CROSSED

CANADA,  
SO WHEN  
THERE WAS A

COAL MINE  
EXPLOSION AT  
NORRIMON, B.C.

THAT KILLED  
THREE MEN,  
THE NEWS

REACHED  
EASTERN  
CANADA

TRANSMITTED  
VIA SAN FRANCISCO  
CAL.

11-15

IT HAPPENED IN CANADA

NOW HEAR THIS

Alexander  
Graham Bell,

IN HIS EARLY  
EXPERIMENTAL

WORK ON THE  
TELEPHONE,

AT BRANTFORD,  
ONT., CONCLUDED

A DIAPHRAGM  
WAS NECESSARY

TO PASS CURRENT  
THROUGH TO

"TELEGRAPH"  
SOUND. PURSU-

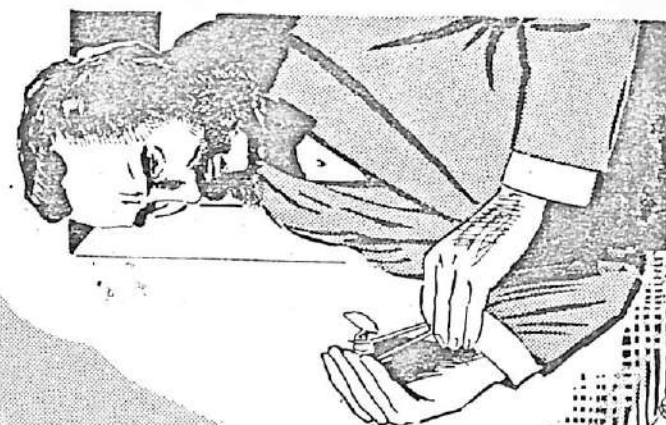
ING THIS HE EX-  
PERIMENTED

WITH THE MOST  
PERFECT DIA-

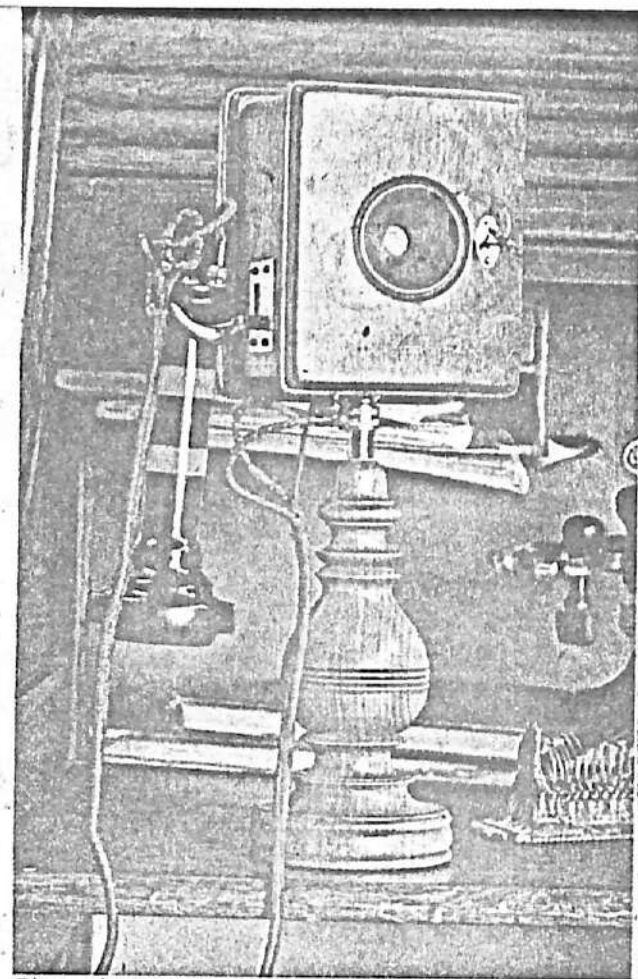
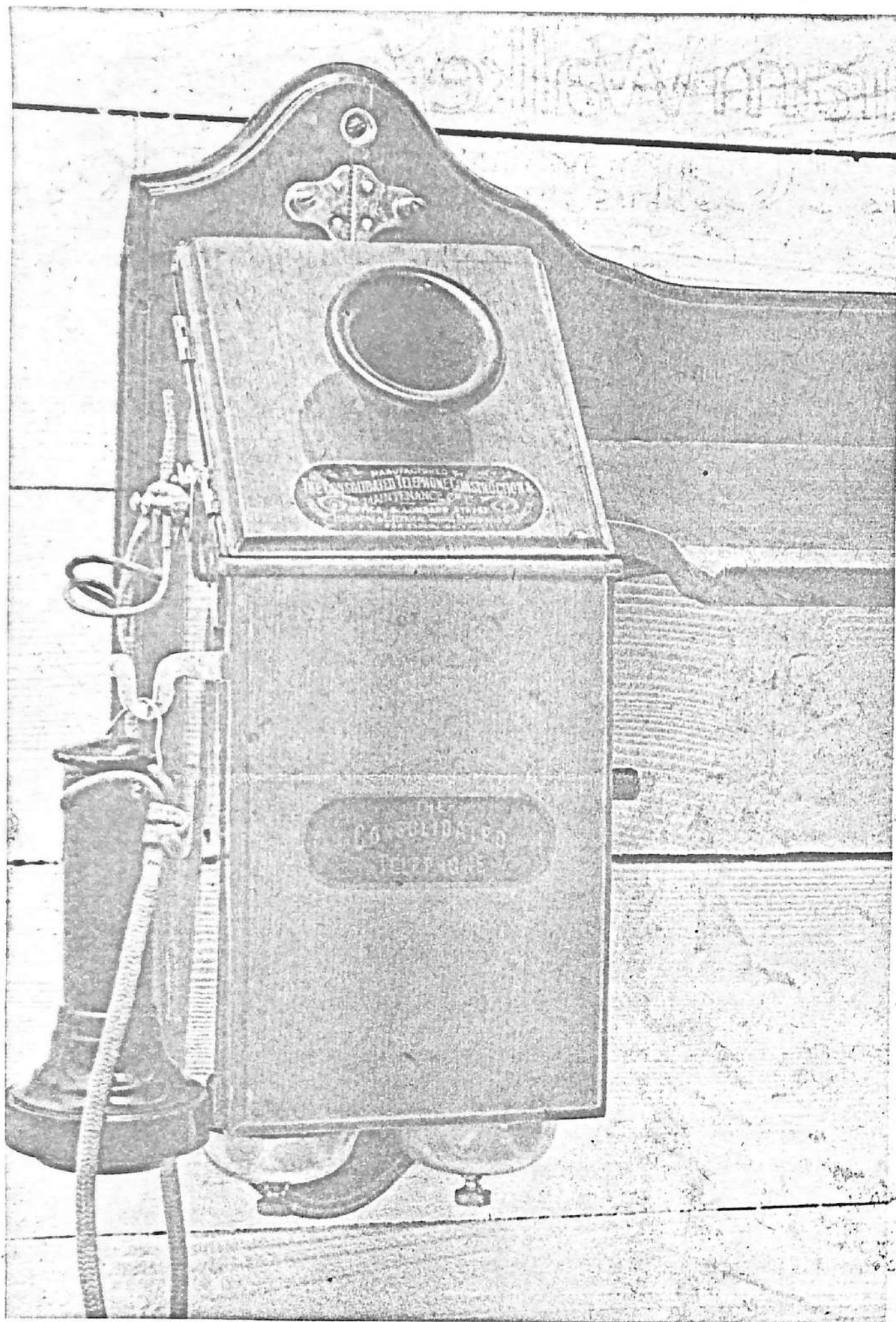
PHRAGM KNOWN,  
A HUMAN EAR-

DRUM, WHICH HE  
OBTAINED FROM  
A CORPSE

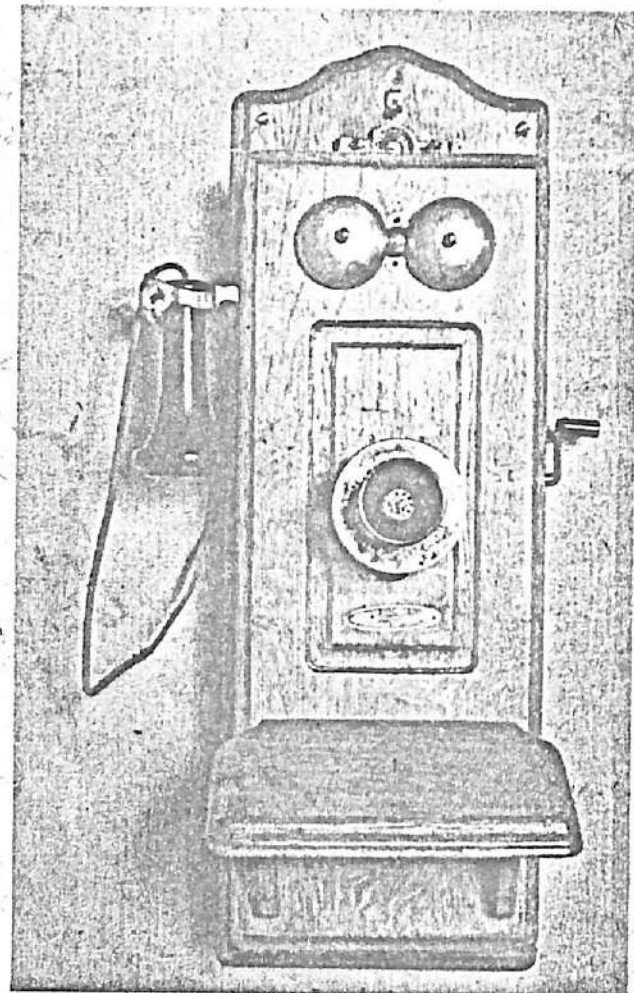
11-13







Photos by Rudolf Zwamborn



# BELLES OF THEIR TIME

ITS SHRILL, insistent ring is a familiar sound. We've cursed it for interrupting 40 winks and blessed it for bringing a repentant call from a wayward lover, but how often have we looked upon the telephone as a thing of beauty? The first telephone looked more like a primitive

(continued on following page.)

box camera than the forerunner of the Princess model. But, by the time the first line opened in Alberta in January, 1885, a receiver had been added and the telephone had moved further along in its design evolution. Each telephone on these pages, from the book *Singing*



THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE, 1974

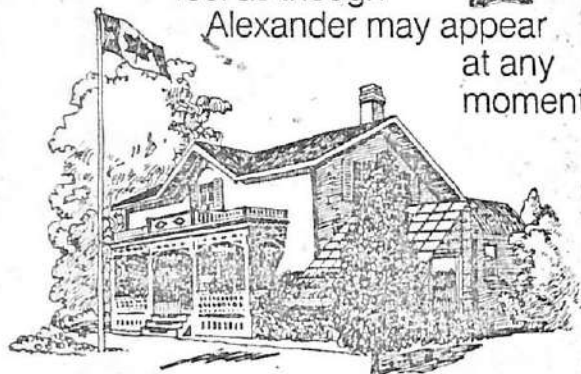
# Come to a birthday party in Brantford.

Come to a birthday party in Brantford. And you're welcome all summer long. It's the 100th birthday of the telephone so there's a big party—in Brantford—where Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1874.

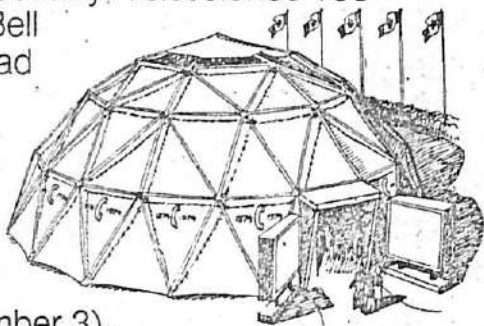
And, because the telephone is 100 years old, there are 100's of things to do and see.

Start out, say at the Bell Homestead. The charming atmosphere will make you feel as though

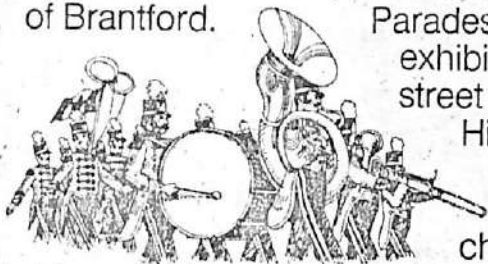
Alexander may appear at any moment.



Then there's Telescience 100. An exhibition under a geodesic dome that traces the history of telecommunications through to today—and into the 21st century. Telescience 100 and the Bell Homestead are open 7 days a week, 9 am to 9 pm (June 15 to September 3).



There's lots more in Telescience and there's lots more around the City of Brantford.



Parades; art exhibitions; street dances; Highland games; tennis championships;

air shows; jamborees; museums; and these special events:

July 3—August 3 Original Musical entitled "Aleck". The history of the invention presented in Theatre-in-the-Round.

July 10-27 International Villages—with your "passport" visit the 8 ethnic villages with native food, dancing, and refreshments.

August 10, 11 Come to the "Air Show" presented by the Brantford Flying Club located on Highway No. 53, west of Brantford.

August 30, 31 National Diving Championships.

So, if you're looking for days of fun, come to our Party!

There's overnight camping facilities too.

## MAIL TODAY FOR FULL DETAILS TO

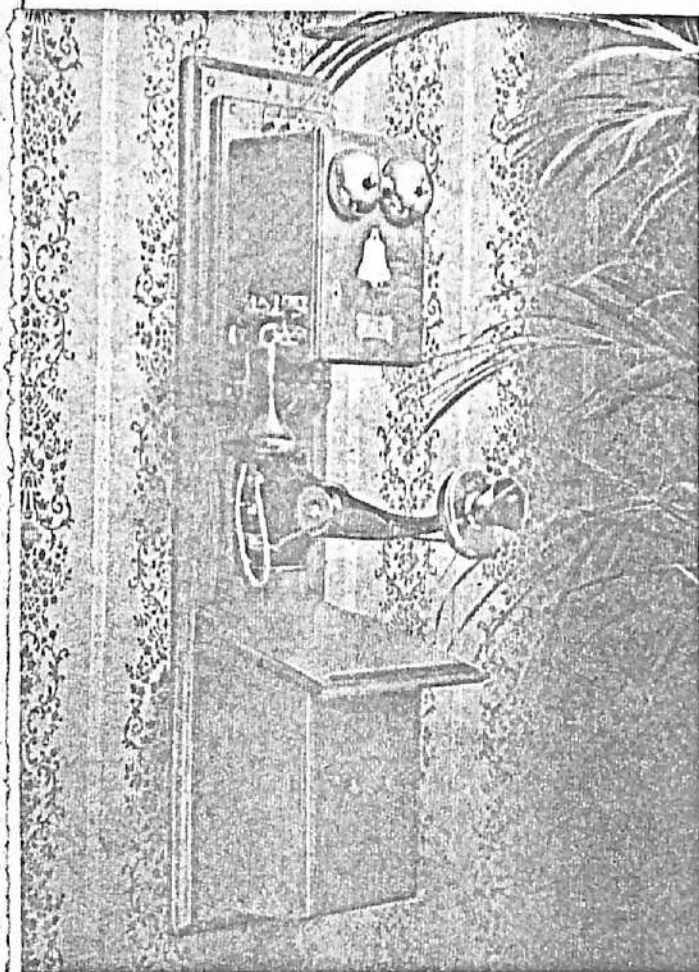
Mrs. M. Lester  
City Hall, Brantford,  
Ontario N3T 2M3  
Sounds like a great time! Tell me more.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

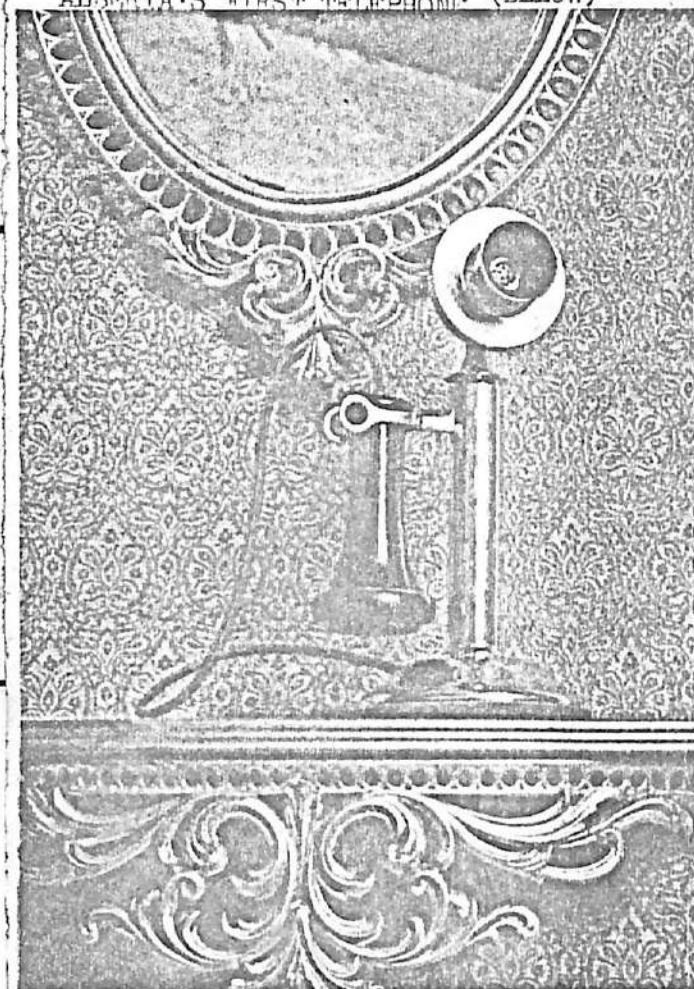
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_



ALBERTA'S FIRST TELEPHONE (BELOW)



WEEKEND MAGAZINE, MAR. 9, 1974.

Wires, published by Alberta Government Telephones, was new and exciting to its particular era. The graceful candlestick model was introduced in Calgary in 1907, but it had its price — 25 cents on top of the regular rental. Its design was refined further for government

## TELEPHONE NEWS

To give you a better understanding of our business, our people, and the services we provide.

Fashions  
Phones



1876



1877



1890s



## Telephone Systems In Essex County...

"Mr. Watson, come here, I want you!" It is over 100 years since Alexander Graham Bell uttered these now famous words to his assistant Thomas Watson. In the intervening period, the telephone has become a common convenience in communications. Today, few residents of Essex County think twice about picking up their phones to talk with friends, complete business deals or use in cases of emergency. Such was not always the case though. In the early years of the twentieth century, the practical application of "Bell's System of Telephony" was not widespread. This situation was especially evident in rural areas of Ontario. While the Bell Telephone Company did serve urban centres, high costs and low profits prohibited phone lines from being provided to rural residents. This did not diminish the demand for phones in sparsely populated areas of the province.

Rural residents began forming their own independent telephone systems. Groups of farmers banded together to bring service to themselves and their neighbours. Other companies were begun by doctors, druggists or proprietors of general stores who found it convenient to keep in touch with their patients and customers. Such a practice became widespread in Ontario at the turn of the century, and Essex County did not escape this phenomenon.

The first independent company established in the county, began operation in 1906. The Scratch and Palmer Telephone System catered to 8 subscribers. In 1907 the Albertville Telephone Association, The Chamberlain Telephone System, the Section Telephone System and the White Telephone System Limited followed suit. In the next decade, 16 other independents were established to serve rural residents of Essex County. Quality, not quantity seemed to dictate

the setting up of these private concerns. For example the Gore Mutual Telephone Company Limited had 14 subscribers, the South Colchester Telephone Company Limited provided 10 phones, while the Section Telephone System ran lines to 18 customers.

Many small communities received service from these companies. Included in these early systems were residents of New California, Comber, Wheatley, Kingsville, Albertville, Pelee Island, Emeryville, Maidstone and Essex. Rural customers in the townships of Colchester, Mersea, Gosfield, Sandwich, Rochester and Tilbury also received telephone connections through independent operators.

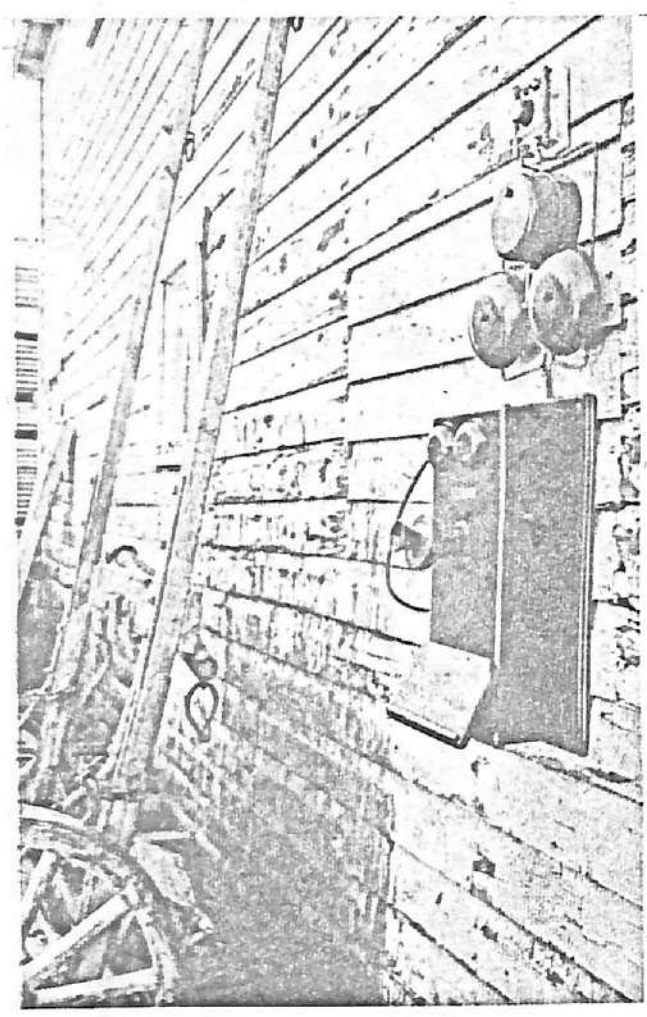
During the heyday of the independent telephone industry, over 1,200 residents of Essex County used such services. By 1975, 26 different companies had provided telephones to 10,808 customers. The demise of such an extensive network of independents was brought on by the depression and World War II. Due to lack of financing, scarceness of equipment replacements, modernization, and promotion of up-to-date dial service, many independent systems found it impractical to carry on business. Amalgamations and outright sale, drastically reduced the number of companies. Hence with the recent takeover of Telontario Incorporation, the only remaining independent in Essex County is the Gosfield North Municipal Telephone System in Cottam.

In retrospect, the story of the independent telephone industry in Essex County is an interesting study in the rise of private enterprise in early twentieth century in Ontario. As a part of the overall growth in the communication network in the province, the record of the rise and fall of these independent business concerns plays not only an integral part of our local history, but provides an important legacy from our past.



Large photo left: Alberta's first telephone. Top row, l to r: The original candlestick phone. A gooseneck model added style to a Victorian house. Monophone placed in the Royal Suite at Jasper Park Lodge during the Royal Visit, 1939. Edmonton's first dial phone. Second row: Phone made between 1908 and 1912. The graceful candlestick model. Fire alarm system advertised in 1911 was still in use in an Edmonton lumber yard in 1970. The glass mouthpiece on this model from Alberta's Government House was thought to discourage tuberculosis germs.

©Alberta Government Telephones



circles with the addition of the "whisper" transmitter which would magnify a low voice so that a statement inaudible in the room could be clearly heard at the other end of the call. The dial phone was brought to Edmonton in 1908. Connection was automatic after four



numbers were dialled, but ringing was left to the caller's imagination and dexterity with the signal button. With the introduction of the Monophone in 1929, the telephone took on a shape that would be at home in today's most elegantly appointed living room. <





Photo by JACK DALGLEISH

Bell Telephone workers unload some of the 150,000 new directories

THE WINDSOR STAR, NOV. 10, 1976

## The making of a phone book

It has taken 3,300 pounds of glue this year so Windsor residents can "let their fingers do the walking."

New telephone directories are being distributed this week to customers across the city.

Besides the glue, 6,700 pounds of ink were used in this year's edition, plus about 82 tons of white paper and 95 tons of yellow stock.

The most obvious change to the book this year is an eight-page color supplement advertising the styles and colors of phones available to Bell customers.

Bell won't say what the supplement costs but it hopes to come out ahead by encouraging its customers to order the flashy and more expensive styles.

The cover of the new directory shows mosaic of about 100 small color photographs depicting aspects of life in Ontario.

Delivery began Monday and is expected to end Nov. 23. Only one book will be distributed per household, no matter how many phones are installed.

The idea is to save money and reduce paper pollution, says Bell's district Manager, Bill Horne. However, he said, those who require an extra book can call the Bell office.

Some 150,700 books are being distributed this year, compared to 146,958 last year.

There is an introductory page designed to help customers find numbers easily in the white pages, and another for tracking down government listings.

## Bell to add 10 toll-free phone areas

THE WINDSOR STAR, MAR. 12, 1976

KINGSVILLE — Toll free telephone service for 10 municipalities in Essex County will be extended by Bell Canada this year.

Municipalities affected are LaSalle, Maidstone, Tecumseh, Windsor, Amherstburg, Belle River, McGregor, Stoney Point and Wheatley.

Windsor residents will be able to dial numbers in Belle River and Stoney Point toll free.

According to Bell Canada spokesman Ronni Seili, all but Wheatley will have the extended toll-free service by November of this year. Wheatley residents will have to wait until December before they can dial Tilbury for free.

Monthly rates for only two of the municipalities will increase. Belle River and Stoney Point rates for private residential phones will increase to \$6.55 a month and business rates will increase to \$18.70 a month.

According to surveys conducted more than two years ago by Bell Canada, residents in both municipalities agreed to the rate increases.

The final plan for the increased service areas was announced at the annual information meeting called by Bell Canada here Thursday night to which local Essex County politicians were invited.

Mrs. Seili says the extended toll-free areas are the product of more than two years research and will cost almost \$9 million.

LaSalle customers will be able to dial Tecumseh, Essex, Belle River and Stoney Point toll free.

Maidstone customers will be able to dial Amherstburg, Belle River and Stoney Point numbers toll free.

Tecumseh customers will have LaSalle, Amherstburg, Essex, McGregor, Belle River and Stoney Point numbers added to their toll-free area.

Amherstburg customers will be able to dial Tecumseh and Maidstone numbers toll free.

Belle River customers will have Tecumseh, LaSalle, Windsor and Maidstone added to their toll-free calling area.

Essex customers will be able to dial Tecumseh and LaSalle toll free.

McGregor customers will be able to dial Tecumseh numbers toll free.

Stoney Point customers will have Tecumseh, Windsor, Maidstone and LaSalle numbers added to their toll-free area.

Bell Canada also announced plans to extend toll-free service areas from Comber to Leamington and Belle River by 1977, from Wheatley to Merlin by 1979 and from Wheatley to Comber by 1980.

The company also announced that the new electronic switching offices at Tecumseh and LaSalle would enable Essex County customers to buy extra telephone services including speed calling where a number that is frequently dialed can be reached by dialing only one digit.



## Wider Local Calling Scheduled . . .

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS, NOV. 12, 1976

Wider local calling is scheduled for phone users in the Essex exchange on November 6, 1976, at 2 a.m.

"It's part of a program introducing extended area service (E.A.S.) in 11 exchanges in the Windsor area," Greg Jukosky, Bell Canada manager said.

Essex will add LaSalle and Tecumseh to its local calling area while Maidstone will add free-calling with Amherstburg, Belle River and Stoney Point.

Belle River and Stoney Point will both gain the Windsor, Maidstone, Tecumseh and LaSalle exchanges, while Windsor will have local calling with Belle River and Stoney Point.

Tecumseh will take in the LaSalle, Amherstburg, McGregor, Essex, Belle River and Stoney Point exchanges, and LaSalle will add Tecumseh, Essex, Belle River and Stoney Point.

McGregor will have toll-free calling with Tecumseh, and Amherstburg will expand its local calling area to include Maidstone and Tecumseh.

Finally, E.A.S. will also be established between the exchanges of Wheatley and Tilbury.

Belle River and Stoney Point are the only two exchanges to have an increase in their monthly rate for telephone service. The first three digits of Stoney Point telephone numbers will change from "694" to "798".

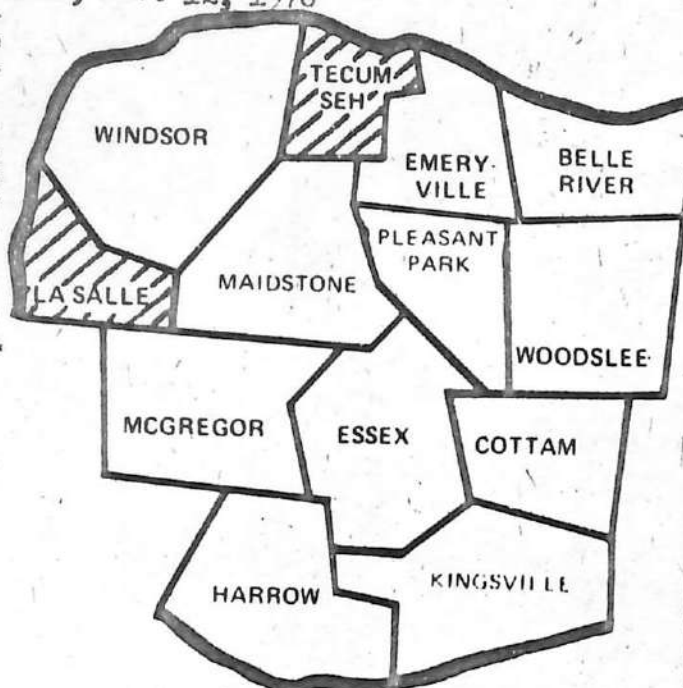
Coincident with E.A.S., customers from the LaSalle exchange will be served by a new electronic switching centre called SP-1. There will no change in telephone numbers.

Optional custom-calling features will become available with SP-1 service: Touch-Tone, call forwarding (automatic transfer of incoming calls to another phone number), speed calling (dialing an access code and 1 or 2 digits for frequently-called numbers), call waiting (receiving a second call while still holding the original connection) and three-way calling.

Automatic Number Identification (A.N.I.) will be introduced in LaSalle at the time of cutover to SP-1.

A.N.I. means that telephone numbers will automatically be recorded when customers dial their own long distance calls. The operator will no longer have to ask for the customer's number.

The A.N.I. equipment will serve customers with individual and two-party line service only. Subscribers with rural-line service will still be required to give their telephone number on direct-dialed calls.



□ Present local calling  
▨ Added November 6

## Extended toll-free service for area begins Saturday

THE WINDSOR STAR, NOV. 2, 1976

As of Saturday morning, residents of 10 Essex County municipalities will be able to make more toll-free telephone calls, and Stoney Point will have a new telephone exchange.

The addition to the toll-free calling areas should be finished early Saturday morning, and the number change in Stoney Point will be completed that afternoon. Neither change will interrupt telephone service.

Municipalities affected are LaSalle, Maidstone, Tecumseh, Windsor, Amherstburg, Belle River, McGregor, Stoney Point and Wheatley.

Monthly rates for all but two of the municipalities will remain the same. Belle River and Stoney Point rates for private residential phones will increase to \$6.55 a month, and business rates will increase to \$18.70 a month.

A Bell Canada spokesman said the rate increases were agreed to by residents.

The Stoney Point exchange is changing from 694 to 798. The last four digits in phone numbers will not change. The Bell spokesman said the change is to make modification for the toll-free service on equipment in Windsor easier.

Windsor residents will be able to dial

numbers in Belle River and Stoney Point toll free.

LaSalle customers will be able to dial Tecumseh, Essex, Belle River and Stoney Point toll free.

Maidstone customers will be able to dial Amherstburg, Essex, McGregor, Belle River and Stoney Point toll free.

Tecumseh customers will be able to call LaSalle, Essex, Amherstburg, McGregor, Belle River and Stoney Point toll free.

From Amherstburg you'll be able to call Tecumseh and Maidstone toll free.

Belle River customers will have Tecumseh, LaSalle, Windsor and Maidstone added to their toll-free calling area.

Essex residents will be able to call Tecumseh and LaSalle toll free, McGregor customers will be able to call Tecumseh toll free, and Stoney Point residents will have Tecumseh, Windsor, Maidstone and LaSalle added to their toll-free calling area.

Wheatley residents will be able to call Tilbury toll free.

Bell also plans to extend toll-free service areas from Comber to Leamington and Belle River by 1977, from Wheatley to Merlin by 1979 and from Wheatley to Comber by 1980.

1976 THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS Jan. 24, 1976 \*\* 19

### REPORT ON FARMING IT HAPPENED IN CANADA

A TIME WHEN THE TELEPHONE WAS  
THOUGHT TO BE A DEATH-DEALING INSTRUMENT!

DURING THE EARLY PART OF THIS CENTURY QUICK BUCK ARTISTS (MAINLY OPERATING OUT OF TORONTO) HAD MANY PEOPLE CONVINCED THAT TELEPHONE MOUTHPIECES HARBORED DEADLY GERMS. THEIR ADS IN THE POPULAR PRESS—PROMOTING THE SALE OF PHONE DISINFECTORS—CLAIMED THAT "TUBERCULOSIS, DIPHTHERIA, TYPHOID OR EVEN MORE REVOLTING DISEASES" COULD BE TRANSMITTED TO PERSONS "INHALING THE EXHALATIONS OF OTHERS". IT WAS CLAIMED THAT THE BREATH OF USERS CONDENSED ON THE DIAPHRAGM OF THE PHONE FORMING AN IDEAL INCUBATOR FOR GERMS. WE WERE WELL INTO THE '20s BEFORE EVERYONE WAS CONVINCED THEY COULD USE A PHONE WITHOUT THE RISK OF "BECOMING INFECTED WITH LOATHSOME AND INCURABLE DISEASES"



### Ripley's It Happened In Canada!

#### RURAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS ON THE PRAIRIES

WERE IN OPERATION YEARS BEFORE RADIO, AND WERE USED, AS A FORM OF PASTIME, BEING PARTLY LINES IT WAS TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT EVERYONE ON THE LINE LISTENED IN.

USED AS LINES OF INSTANT COMMUNICATION, ONE LONG EXTENDED RING SIGNALLING ALL TO ANSWER. BY THIS METHOD NEWS OF PUBLIC MEETINGS, DANCES, DEATHS, AUCTION SALES, FIRES ETC. WAS PASSED ALONG



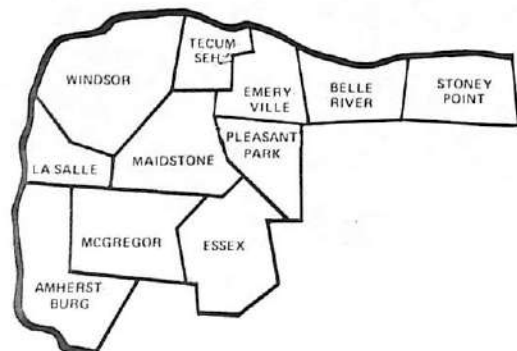
## Wider Local Calling

### FOR MAIDSTONE CUSTOMERS

Starting November 6, 1976, you will be able to call the Amherstburg, Belle River and Stoney Point exchanges without long distance charges or increase in your basic monthly rate.

To reach these exchanges, simply dial the seven digits of the telephone number.

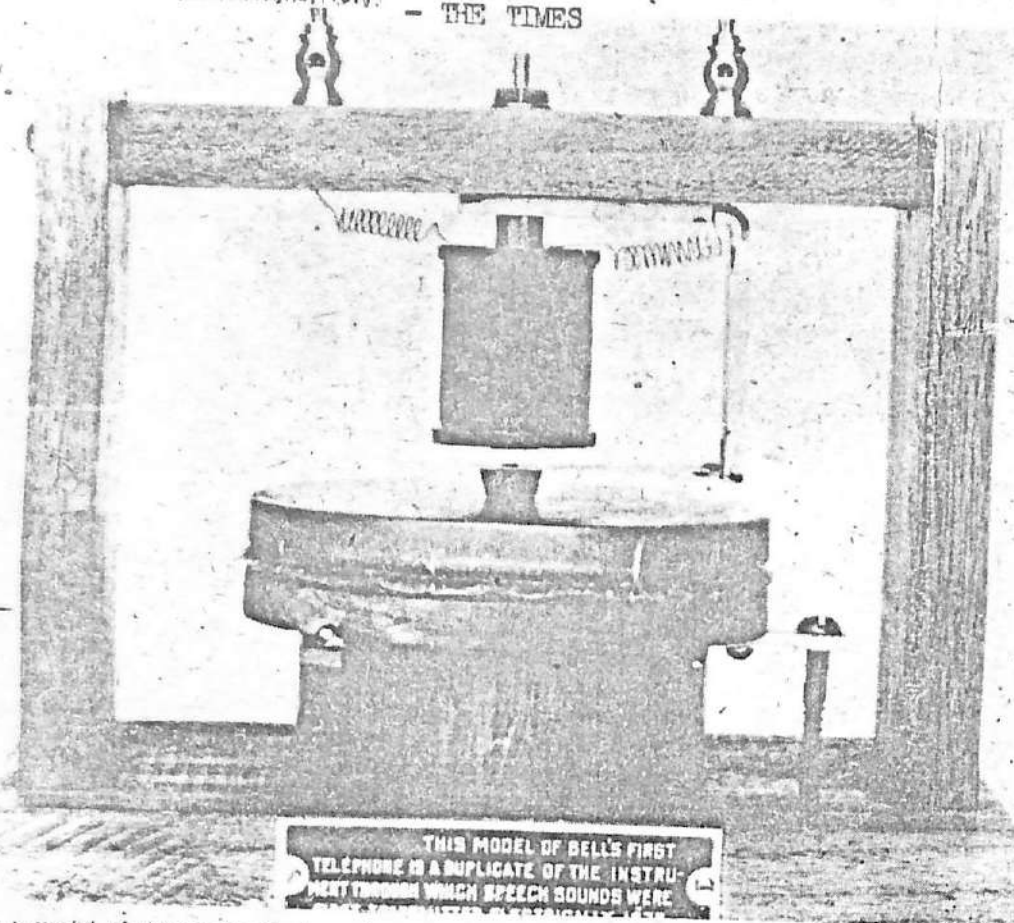
Telephone book deliveries begin on November 8. Check the introductory pages for emergency numbers reached from your exchange. New numbers for the Stoney Point exchange which become effective on November 6 are listed in this new book.



□ Present local calling  
▨ Added November 6

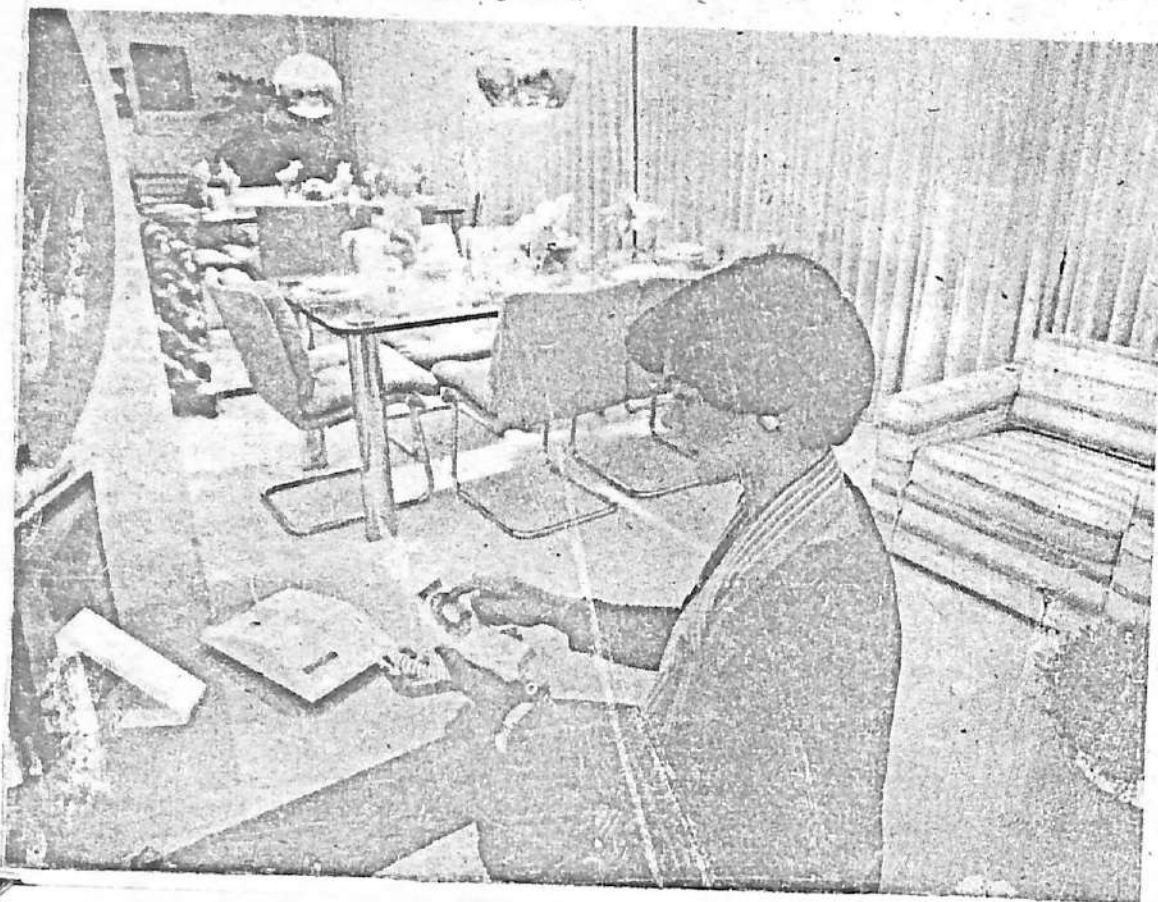
Bell  
Canada  
1E76135





...a model of Alexander Graham Bell's first telephone — the gallows frame telephone — through which speech sounds were first transmitted successfully in 1875. He worked out the design for it

at the Bell Homestead in Brantford in the summer of 1874. His efforts were a definite contrast to the modern designs and styles of the telephone of today.



## Dial 'F' for fashion

# The phone has become a decorative object!

The young couple were to be married in a few weeks and were in the process of moving into their first apartment. Lots of excitement, new furniture, trying to fit together what furniture the two of them already had. They both had good jobs so money was no problem and the girl, quite truthfully, had a real flair for decorating. A color sense and a simple approach were the keys to her taste and the place was taking shape nicely.

Just a few last minute details to attend to. Get the rug delivered, check to make sure the washer and dryer were still on order. Oh, yes, the phone, have to get a phone installed.

What kind of phone, madam? "Oh, a wall phone for the kitchen, I guess, and a table model for the bedroom." Dial or pushbutton? "Oh, it really doesn't matter, anything." What color? "White for the kitchen, I guess, and beige for the bedroom." Click. Well that's it, all settled. Too bad I can't get a really nice decorative phone. Especially the decorator phones such as the candlestick model, the cradle phone and the "chest" phone.

It may surprise you, but here's a few examples of just what is available when you order a phone:

- a Contempra in warm white, deep blue, cocoa brown or seven other modern shades
- a cradlephone in Mediterranean, antique white or gold and several other "mood setting" styles
- a chestphone in carved walnut or black leather
- a standard wall or table set in orange, light grey and six other colors including the old standards of white and black for a change. It would be nice to have one that looked good in the livingroom.

The scene just described has been repeated hundreds of thousands of times across the country for years and years as people order phones. Everyone has to have a phone and everyone has always ordered their phone with the same utility product in mind.

industrial design for Northern Telecom, the company which makes almost all of the phones used in Canada.

And the phone has jumped from being a last-minute detail that has to be attended to without much forethought to an integral part of the design and decor of your house.

What first brought the phone out of the closet was color. That opened up real possibilities. But it was when the "Contempra" was introduced that things really began to take shape. Suddenly, the phone was beautiful enough to be put anywhere.

Colors too have been brought up-to-date. Cocoa brown, harvest gold and bright orange are the latest Contempra shades to come off the

A glance through the latest phone catalogue will tell you that there are no less than six different styles of phones available in as many as a dozen colors.

"It used to be that phones were pretty dull and bland. But now, there's a whole range of styles and colors available that can blend quietly into the decor of a room, or stand out as a focus of attention for dramatic effect", says John Tyson, director of

assembly line — fashionable enough to go with even the most stylish homes. It seems people are no longer ordering old fashioned black or 'non-color' white phones, which were functional but unexciting. People are now ordering phones in colors so bold and alive the product demands attention as never before.

Just like the stereos and television sets before them, the phone is now taking its place in the living environment as a 'look-at-me' product. Only the phone has remained small enough to be placed in the myriad of table tops and nooks and crannies characteristic of today's homes.

The right phone can liven up even the dullest of living room corners.

## IT HAPPENED IN CANADA



A TIME WHEN PROGRESS WAS PAINFUL

JUST A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE "NEW FANGLED" TELEPHONE STARTED TO BE HIGHLY VISIBLE WITH TALL POLES FOR ITS WIRES.

SHOPKEEPERS, ETC., ON MAIN STREETS WERE INCENSED WHEN THESE "EYESORES" WERE ERECTED BY THEIR PLACES OF BUSINESS. IN LONDON, ONT. THERE WAS TALK OF "ORGANIZING AN AXE BRIGADE" TO CHOP THE POLES DOWN

12-12



Best wishes  
to you  
from us  
in our 100<sup>th</sup> year



# Annual Report

OF

## The Telephone System of the Municipality of Sandwich South

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1953.

### COMMISSIONERS

PERCY McKEE .....	Chairman
EDWARD DUMOUCHELLE .....	Commissioner
LLEWELLYN GERARD .....	Commissioner
CLYDE O'NEIL .....	Commissioner
FRANK JOBIN .....	Commissioner

### OFFICERS

JOSEPH McCARTHY .....	Secretary
JOSEPH McCARTHY .....	Treasurer

### Number of Telephones January 1st, 1953

Subscribers .....	378	
Renters .....	34	
Renters .....		412

### Number of Telephones December 31st, 1953.

Subscribers .....	424	
Renters .....	20	
Total .....		444

Net gain in Telephones for the year.....		32
Miles of Poles, January 1st, 1953.....	78½	
Miles of Poles, December 31st, 1953.....	79	
Net gain in Pole Mileage for the year.....		½
Miles of Single Wire January 1st, 1953.....	409	
Miles of Single Wire December 31st, 1953.....	410	
Net gain in wire mileage for the year.....		1

### Auditor's Certificate

- Subject to the report contained, I report that, in my opinion:
- (1) All the explanations and information required have been obtained.
  - (2) The financial transactions which have come under my notice have been within the powers of the Municipal Telephone Commissioners.
  - (3) The audit has been conducted in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Municipal Affairs.
  - (4) The Telephone System Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account and Supporting Schedules are properly drawn up, to exhibit a true and correct statement of the affairs, as shown by the books of the Telephone System.

L. C. PRICE, Auditor.  
License No. 487.



# Balance Sheet for Year Ending December 31, 1953.

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash .....	\$ 274.08
Tolls Receivable .....	5,935.17
Inventory Materials on Hand.....	3,264.86
1953 Levies Receivable, Sandwich South.....	\$ 9,395.40
Dominion of Canada Bonds (cost price).....	3,389.09
	<hr/>
	\$12,784.49

Total Current Assets.....

---

\$22,258.59

CAPITAL	
Plant and Equipment .....	\$17,265.00
Real Estate .....	4,000.00
Tools and Vehicles .....	100.00
	<hr/>
	21,365.00
	<hr/>
	\$21,365.00

Total assets .....

---

\$43,623.59

## LIABILITIES

CURRENT	
Accounts Payable .....	\$ 528.58
Bank Overdraft .....	\$ 1,821.68
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,821.68
	<hr/>
Total Current Liabilities .....	\$ 2,350.26

SURPLUS	
Capital .....	\$21,365.00
Earned .....	19,908.33
	<hr/>
	\$41,273.33

Total Liabilities .....

---

\$43,623.59

## Supporting Schedules — Year Ending December 31, 1953. Surplus Account.

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Balance of Surplus or Deficit at beginning of Year .....		\$15,830.11	
Adjustment affecting previous years			
Error, Depreciation Reserve.....		3,453.00	
Balance, 1952 Levy .....		246.46	
Error 1952 wage check .....	.09		
Balance after Adjustments .....			\$19,529.48
Surplus or Deficit for current year.....		378.85	
Balance of Surplus or Deficit at end of year....			19,908.33
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total of Debit and Credit Columns.....	\$ .09	\$19,908.42	

## Depreciation Reserve Account

Balance at Beginning of year	
Add provided out of Revenue for year.....	\$ 9,243.44
	<hr/>
	\$ 9,243.44
Less Expended on Reconstruction and Replacements—	
Wages .....	\$ 3,490.51
Supplies .....	5,752.93
	<hr/>
	\$ 9,243.44
Balance at end of year .....	<hr/> <hr/> Nil

## Construction Account

Balance at Beginning of Year	
Subscribers in lieu of debenture Payments, Roll.....	\$ 749.38
Disbursements During Year	
Expended on Plant and Equipment.....	749.38
	<hr/>
Unexpended balance at year end .....	Nil



# OPERATING ACCOUNT

## INCOME

Subscribers' Levies for Principal, Interest and Maintenance collected during year .....	\$ 7,311.21
Non-Subscribers' Rentals collected during year.....	532.00
Net commission earned on messages interchanged with "Bell" or other long lines company.....	7,381.03
*Sundry Revenue .....	208.54
Total Income Section.....	<u>\$15,432.78</u>

*Sundry Revenue:	
Material sold .....	\$ 27.00
Advertising .....	91.68
Damages Recovered .....	25.00
Moving Buildings .....	56.75
Rentals .....	5.10
Bank Interest .....	3.01
	<u>\$ 208.54</u>

## EXPENDITURE

Administration and General	
Secretary and Treasurer's salaries.....	\$ 199.92
Other general salaries, Auditor, etc.....	85.00
Rent, Heat and Light .....	91.62
Stationery, Printing and Postage.....	249.57
	<u>\$ 626.11</u>
Building, Plant and Equipment	
Operators' Salaries .....	\$ 4,904.59
Insurance and Workmen's Compensation.....	141.80
	<u>\$ 5,046.39</u>
Provision for Depreciation .....	9,243.44
*Sundry .....	137.99
Total Expenditure .....	<u>\$15,053.93</u>
Surplus for the year .....	378.85
Total Expenditure Section .....	<u>\$15,432.78</u>
*Sundry:	
Unemployment Insurance .....	\$ 72.31
Bank Charges .....	15.68
Rentals .....	50.00
	<u>\$ 137.99</u>

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Subscribers of the Sandwich South Telephone System will be held at the Township Hall, Oldcastle, on FRIDAY, THE TWENTY-SIXTH (26th) DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1954, at the hour of two (2) o'clock in the afternoon.

PERCY McKEE, Chairman.

JOSEPH McCARTHY, Secretary.



# Annual Report

of

## The Telephone System of the Municipality of Sandwich South

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1955.

### COMMISSIONERS

PERCY MCKEE .....	Chairman
EDWARD DUMOUCHELLE .....	Commissioner
LLEWELLYN GERARD .....	Commissioner
CLYDE O'NEIL .....	Commissioner
FRANK JOBIN .....	Commissioner

### OFFICERS

BERT R. BEDFORD .....	Secretary
BERT R. BEDFORD .....	Treasurer

#### Number of Telephones January 1st, 1955.

Subscribers .....	440	
Renters .....	19	
Total .....		459

#### Number of Telephones December 31st, 1955.

Subscribers .....	447	
Renters .....	18	
Total .....		465

Net gain in Telephones for the year.....		6
Miles of Poles, January 1st, 1955.....	79½	
Miles of Poles December 31st, 1955.....	79½	
Net gain in Pole Mileage for the year.....		Nil
Miles of Single Wire January 1st, 1955.....	411	
Miles of Single Wire December 31st, 1955.....	411	
Net gain in Wire Mileage for the year.....		Nil

### Auditor's Certificate.

Subject to the report contained, I report that in my opinion:

- (1) All the explanations and information required have been obtained.
- (2) The financial transactions which have come under my notice have been within the powers of the Municipal Telephone Commissioners.
- (3) The audit has been conducted in accordance with instructions of the Department of Municipal Affairs.
- (4) The Telephone System Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Statement and Supporting Schedules are properly drawn up to exhibit a true and correct statement of the affairs as shown by the books of the Telephone System.

LEO C. PRICE, Township Auditor.

License No. 475



# Balance Sheet for the Year Ending December 31, 1955.

## ASSETS

### CURRENT

Cash .....	\$ 1,669.76
Subscribers' Levies Receivable.....	200.00
Rentals Receivable .....	150.20
Tolls Receivable .....	6,867.10
Inventory Materials on hand.....	2,845.00
Dominion of Canada Bond.....	\$ 3,389.09
1955 Levies Receivable—Township Sandwich South....	13,240.09
	<u>16,629.18</u>

Total Current Assets..... \$28,361.24

### CAPITAL

Plant and Equipment.....	\$17,805.00
Real Estate .....	4,000.00
Tools and Vehicles .....	100.00
	<u>\$21,905.00</u>
	\$21,905.00

Total ..... \$50,266.24

## LIABILITIES

### CURRENT

Accounts Payable .....	\$ 490.54
Total Current Liabilities.....	\$ 490.54

### SURPLUS

Capital .....	\$21,905.00
Earned (Schedule T-3).....	27,870.70
	<u>\$49,775.70</u>
Total .....	<u>\$50,266.24</u>

## Supporting Schedules — Year Ending December 31, 1955. Surplus Account.

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Balance of Surplus or Deficit at beginning of year .....		\$24,935.04	
Adjustment Affecting Previous Years			
Refund 1953 Long Distance Calls.....	\$ 33.90		
Cancelled cheque 475, July 31, 1950.....		1.15	
Cancelled cheque 374, June 30th, 1952.....		25.00	
Balance after Adjustments.....			\$24,927.29
Surplus or Deficit for Current Year.....		2,943.41	
Total of Debit and Credit Columns.....	33.90	27,904.60	
Balance of Surplus or Deficit at Year end.....			<u>\$27,870.70</u>

## Construction Account.

Received During the Year	
Subscribers in lieu of Debenture Payments (Roll).....	\$ 909.36
Disbursements During Year	
Expended on Plant and Equipment.....	\$ 909.36
Unexpended Balance at year end.....	NIL

## Depreciation Reserve Account.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955.

Add Provided out of Revenue for Year (Schedule T-2).....	\$ 3,422.60	
Add Interest Earned on Fund.....		3,422.60
Less Expended on Reconstruction and Replacements—		
Wages .....	\$ 1,242.60	
Supplies .....	2,180.00	
	<u>3,422.60</u>	
Balance at end of year .....		NIL



# Revenue and Expenditure Statement.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955.

## REVENUE

Subscribers' Levies for Principal, Interest and Maintenance Collected during Year.....	\$ 8,607.78	
Uncollected at Year end.....		\$ 8,607.78
Non-Subscribers' Rentals Collected During Year.....	458.26	
		458.26
Net Commission Earned on Messages Interchanged with "Bell" or other long lines company.....		8,385.74
Material Sold .....	\$ 174.50	
Advertising .....	22.20	
Rentals .....	5.10	
House Moving .....	59.65	
Damages Recovered .....	30.00	
Bank Interest .....	.64	
		\$ 292.09
Total Revenue .....		\$17,743.87
Total Income Section.....		<u>\$17,743.87</u>

## EXPENDITURE

Administration and General		
Secretary and Treasurer's Salaries.....	\$ 350.00	
Other General Salaries, Auditor, etc.....	125.00	
Rent, Heat and Light .....	112.19	
Stationery, Printing and Postage.....	401.21	
		\$ 988.40
Building, Plant and Equipment		
Operators' Salaries .....	\$ 5,586.94	
Maintenance or Repairs, Wage.....	2,098.17	
Maintenance or Repairs, supplies and Truck Operating .....	2,001.25	
Insurance and Workmen's Compensation.....	163.10	
		9,849.46
Provision for Depreciation (Schedule T4).....		3,422.60
Other Expenditure		
Capital Expenditure out of Revenue—Truck.....	\$ 540.00	
		540.00
Total Expenditure .....		\$14,800.46
Surplus for the Year .....		2,943.41
Total Expenditure Section.....		<u>\$17,743.87</u>

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Subscribers of the Sandwich South Telephone System will be held at the Township Hall, Oldcastle, on WEDNESDAY THE TWENTY-EIGHTH (28th) DAY OF MARCH, 1956, at the hour of two (2) o'clock in the afternoon.

PERCY McKEE, Chairman.

BERT R. BEDFORD, Secretary.

In order for the annual meeting of the Sandwich South Municipal Telephone System to be legal, the new Act requires at least one-tenth in person be present. We URGE all subscribers to attend.

BERT R. BEDFORD, Secretary.



# Annual Report

of

## The Telephone System of the Municipality of Sandwich South

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1956.

### COMMISSIONERS

PERCY McKEE .....	Chairman
EDWARD DUMOUCHELLE .....	Commissioner
LLEWELLYN GERARD .....	Commissioner
CLYDE O'NEIL .....	Commissioner
FRANK JOBIN .....	Commissioner

### OFFICERS

BERT R. BEDFORD .....	Secretary
BERT R. BEDFORD .....	Treasurer

### Number of Telephones January 1st, 1956.

Subscribers .....	447	
Renters .....	18	
Total .....		465

### Number of Telephones December 31st, 1956.

Subscribers .....	445	
Renters .....	39	
Total .....		484

Net gain in Telephones for the year.....		19
Miles of Poles, January 1st, 1956.....	79½	
Miles of Poles December 31st, 1956.....	79½	
Net gain in Pole Mileage for the year.....		Nil
Miles of Single Wire January 1st, 1956.....	411	
Miles of Single Wire December 31st, 1956.....	411	
Net gain in Wire Mileage for the year.....		Nil

### Auditor's Certificate.

Subject to the report contained, I report that in my opinion:  
(1) All the explanations and information required have been obtained.



# Revenue and Expenditure Statement.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1956.

## REVENUE

Subscribers' levies for Principal, Interest and Maintenance collected during year .....	\$ 9,330.26	
Non-Subscribers' Rentals Collected during year .....	790.00	\$ 9,330.26
Net Commission earned on messages interchanged with "Bell" or other long lines company .....		790.00
Sundry Revenue:		9,539.54
Subsidy — Dept of Highways .....	\$ 2,078.53	
Material Sold .....	72.12	
Rentals .....	2.60	
House Moving .....	44.00	
Bank Interest .....	.74	
		\$ 2,197.99
Total Revenue .....		\$21,857.79
Total Income Section .....		\$21,857.79

## EXPENDITURE

Administration and General		
Secretary and Treasurer's Salaries .....	\$ 300.00	
Other General Salaries, auditor, etc. ....	150.00	
Rent, Heat and Light .....	123.33	
Stationery, Printing and Postage .....	441.50	
		\$ 1,015.33
Building, Plant and Equipment		
Operators' Salaries .....	\$ 6,758.25	
Maintenance or Repairs, Wages .....	4,889.63	
Maintenance or Repairs, Supplies and Truck Operating .....	3,975.99	
Insurance and Workmen's Compensation .....	108.39	
		15,732.26
Sundry:		
Unemployment Insurance .....	\$ 67.91	
Bank Charges .....	9.73	
Membership, etc. ....	25.00	
Ontario Telephone Authority .....	5.00	
Legal .....	10.00	
		117.64
Total Expenditure .....		\$16,865.23
Surplus for the year .....		4,992.56
Total Expenditure Section .....		\$21,857.79

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Subscribers of the Sandwich South Telephone System will be held at the Township Hall, Oldcastle, on MONDAY THE TWENTY-FIFTH (25th) DAY OF MARCH, 1957, at the hour of eight (8) o'clock in the evening.  
 PERCY McKEE, Chairman.

BERT R. BEDFORD, Secretary.

Mr. J. E. Kilpatrick, a representative of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, will be present at the meeting to explain some of the details of the manner in which the operation of the telephone system will be conducted under the supervision of the Bell Telephone Company.

Subscribers are urgently requested to attend this meeting.

BERT R. BEDFORD, Secretary.



## Balance Sheet for the Year Ending December 31, 1956.

ASSETS	
<b>CURRENT</b>	
Cash .....	535.16
Subscribers' Levies Receivable .....	40.00
Tolls Receivable .....	7,220.60
Inventory Materials on hand .....	2,181.00
Other (specify)	
Dominion of Canada Bond .....	\$ 3,389.09
1955-6 Levies Receivable	
Townships of Sandwich South and Maidstone .....	20,029.96
	<u>23,419.05</u>
Total Current Assets .....	<u>\$33,395.81</u>
<b>CAPITAL</b>	
Plant and Equipment .....	\$17,805.00
Real Estate .....	4,000.00
Tools and Vehicles .....	100.00
	<u>\$21,905.00</u>
	<u>\$21,905.00</u>
Total .....	<u>\$55,300.81</u>
LIABILITIES	
<b>CURRENT</b>	
Accounts Payable .....	\$ 552.75
Total Current Liabilities .....	\$ 552.75
<b>SURPLUS</b>	
Capital .....	\$21,905.00
Earned (Schedule T-3) .....	32,843.06
	<u>\$54,748.06</u>
Total .....	<u>\$55,300.81</u>

## Supporting Schedules — Year Ending December 31, 1956. Surplus Account.

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Balance of Surplus or Deficit at beginning of year .....		\$27,870.70	
Adjustments affecting previous years (specify)			
To write off bad debt — T. E. Warner.....\$	20.20		
Balance after adjustments .....			<u>\$27,850.50</u>
Surplus or Deficit for current year .....		4,992.56	
Total of Debit and Credit Columns .....	20.20	32,863.26	
Balance of Surplus or Deficit at year end .....			<u>\$32,843.06</u>

## Construction Account.

<b>Received during the year</b>	
Subscribers in lieu of debenture payments (Roll).....\$	892.52
<b>Disbursements during year</b>	
Expended on Plant and Equipment .....	\$ 892.52
Unexpended Balance at year end .....	<u>Nil</u>

*D. M. H. McIntyre, K.C.*  
Chairman.

*A. B. Ingram,*  
Vice-Chairman.

*H. V. Pittson,*  
Commissioner.

*H. C. Small,*  
Secretary.



ONTARIO

THE ONTARIO RAILWAY AND  
MUNICIPAL BOARD

Legislative Buildings,  
Toronto, May 31st, 1917.

Dear Sir:

Agreement for Interchange of Service with  
The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, Limited.  
(P. F. 4263).

---

I have the honour to hand you herewith  
copy of the Board's Order approving the above  
agreement. Kindly remit \$2.50 in payment of the  
Law Stamps required for this Order.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

*H. C. Small,*  
Secretary.

Jas. McAuliffe, Esq.,

The Sandwich South Mun. Telephone System,

Maidstone, Ont.

FD/C.

Encl.