

Dial Log



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Jody Georgeson, editor

Director's Report by Jody Georgeson

I thought you might like to know a little more about archives and museums and why we think it is important to preserve the history of our industry.

History is important to all of us because it is the heritage that shaped the world we live in today. It helps us to understand the world, and how it became what we see today. It can help us to solve problems that we face today by seeing solutions that were tried, successfully or not, in the past.

Authoritative historical work will always rely on oral tradition, personal memoirs, and other semi-official works, but it is doubtful that new history will be written without the cumulative and verifiable sources found in museums and in archival depositories.

Besides the historical importance, an important reason for the existence of archives and museums is a cultural one. Our collections are as important a cultural resource as paintings and sculptures, monuments, landscapes, archaeological sites, buildings, and religious beliefs and practices.


The mission of any historical institution is to identify artifacts and documents of enduring value; to preserve them; and to make them available to patrons. THG's focus is to help our communities understand how telecommunications has shaped our lives and our world. In order to accomplish our mission, we rely on our wonderful volunteers and on our members.


How can you help?

☎ Donate materials - Most of us have things in our home which we've saved as reminders of our careers in the telecom industry. Some of these have only personal sentimental value, but some can be of value to the community as a whole. I encourage you to consider donating your historical materials to THG (remember, the value of donated items can be claimed as a tax deduction). We are especially interested in the following types of items:

- Photographs of company buildings, equipment and people (please identify, as much as possible – address/city, type of equipment, names, dates, etc.

- Official publications and training material. Remember that documents come in many formats – audio and video recordings, CDs and DVDs, etc.
- Memoirs and histories of an individual's career, a particular company, or telecom service within a specific city.
- Ephemera – this is the extra “stuff” that illustrates something about an industry. For example, advertising materials, mugs, t-shirts or other material with brands and logos.
- Terminal and network equipment (call first, as our display and storage space is limited).

 **Donate time** – Like most non-profit organizations, THG's volunteers are its life's blood, keeping the group functioning and the archives and museums in good order. Volunteers are essential to the building and maintenance of our collections, performing a variety of jobs, including archival and curator functions. Duties include research, preservation, inventory, database entry and management, repair of antique equipment, conducting tours, educational speaking, developing exhibits and oral history collection. People volunteer at THG for many different reasons: to use their existing knowledge or learn new skills; for access to the collection; because the work is challenging; the camaraderie with people of similar interests and background; and the satisfaction of helping to save our heritage. Telephone company experience is not required to become a THG volunteer! All you need is a fascination with history and a willingness to work hard to preserve it.

 **Donate money** - As always, we are in need of funding to continue our preservation and outreach activities. You should have already received your 2012-2013 membership renewal form. Like our expenses, or dues have increased this year, to \$35. I think you'll agree that's a bargain when you consider how much work it is to preserve, interpret and exhibit all of the wonderful artifacts and documents that make up THG's collections. Please consider sending a little extra this year, to help keep our history available to the schoolchildren, historians, down-winders, genealogists and others who rely on us for information and entertainment (yes! This history stuff can be fun!).



One of our members tries out an early communications device from our collection.



From **Dave Dintenfass**, Assistant Curator, at the Museum of Communications in Seattle: *Don [Ostrand] and I were looking through the most recent issue of Dial Log and enjoyed the article on Telephone Design. As it happens, the 302 sets were available in colors as early as the late 30s—well before the standard colors of the 500 sets with which most of us are familiar. We have a few thermoplastic 302s in color here at the museum and they always draw quite the visitor interest.*

Desk Telephones of the Bell System The years 1875 to 1955

By Lawrence A. Wolff, DDS

Many people believe that colored telephones appeared in the 1950s with 500 sets being offered in many colors to match the home décor. In fact, colors were offered by the Bell System to its subscribers on a special order basis from the onset of cradle telephones. Some colors of the metal cradle sets varied from those of the thermoplastic 300 sets. The Gray and Medium Gold colors of the D1 and earlier sets were discontinued in the 300 sets and available “for maintenance use only” by the late 1930s. The remaining metallic colors were still available on cast metal telephone bodies. Subsets could be ordered in the matching colors to the handset mounting (telephone).

The first colored thermoplastic 300 sets were offered in a limited selection of colors. Ivory appears to be the most common, followed by (in increasing rarity) Gray Green, Peking Red, Old Rose and Dark Blue. The colored 300 sets were introduced again in the early 1950s along with a limited number of colored D1 sets with ivory painted or thermoplastic handsets and 5J or 6D dials also made their appearance in the 1950s. In the late 1950s, Western Electric offered two-toned colored 300 sets where the case and apparatus blank would be matching in the standard colors with black-jacketed handset and line cords. . . colored sets equipped with 395B barrier button transmitters had matching Bakelite dome covers.

If you watch many of the old classic movies on television, you will see the many colored sets. The “Thin Man” movies made between 1934 and 1947, starring William Powell, have a plethora of colored telephones. “Star of Midnight” (1935), with William Powell and Ginger Rogers, has a very nice selection of colored telephones, including colored B1 and D1 sets, colored Automatic Electric round-base, multi-line base and type 34 sets. There are even a few frames that show what looks to be a colored A1 handset mounting.

For a look at some colored 302 sets, please visit our web site at www.telcomhistory.org.

Cell Phone Usage

The following charts illustrate how quickly technology has changed (and has changed us!)

Cell Phone Subscribers in the U.S., 1985–2010

1985	340,213
1990	5,283,055
1995	33,758,661
2000	109,478,031
2005	207,896,198
2010	300,520,098

Source: CTIA—The Wireless Association.

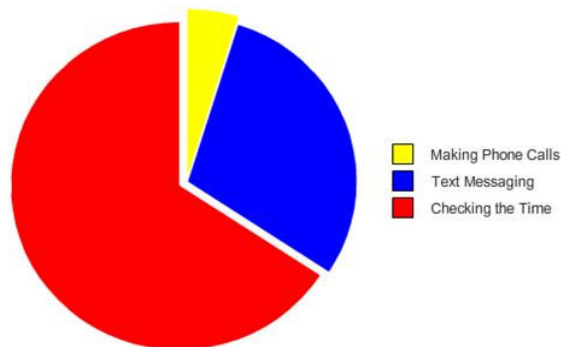
How People Use Their Cell Phones

	Percentage of cell owners who use this feature
Send and receive text messages	72%
Take still pictures	76%
Play games	34%
Access the Internet	38%
Send / receive email	34%
Trade instant messages	30%
Record a video	34%
Play music	33%

Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project, Associated Press, May 2010.

And finally, from Holytaco.com:

Usage of my Cell Phone



From Acoustic Telegraphy to Tweets

Marty A. Donovan

Alexander Graham Bell probably wouldn't recognize the world of communications today. The evolution from his simple acoustic telegraph to today's use of tweets is an amazing story. The telephone has touched everyone's life and has in many ways helped preserve relationships with each other and with other countries along the way. Certainly there were glitches that needed to be ironed out, but that is what makes the story charming.

Almost 20 years after Bell's invention (1894), a winter storm devastated New York City, knocking telephone poles into buildings. Later that year legislation was passed to relocate all lines underground. Unfortunately, insulating underground wires posed a problem for workers attempting to bury the lines. But impatience drove New York Mayor Hugh P. Grant to deploy workers to cut down the fallen poles, hoping engineers could remedy the problem.

Shortly after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, President Rutherford B. Hayes requested a telephone to be installed in the White House. Not one to shy away from technology, Hayes embraced the new invention and had the telephone installed on May 10, 1879. The White House was given the phone number "1," but Hayes rarely received phone calls. It wasn't until March 29, 1929 during the Hoover presidency, that a phone line was installed in the Oval Office.



President Herbert Hoover at his desk in the Oval Office

On January 25, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson participated in the first transcontinental telephone call from New York to San Francisco.

By the 1930s, the telephone was used regularly and played a crucial role in communications at the White House. President Franklin D. Roosevelt had quick access to events around the world using his phone line. On the morning of September 1, 1939, he received a phone call from Paris informing him that Germany had invaded Poland. Two years later, on December 7, 1941, Roosevelt took a call from the Secretary of the Navy, Fred Knox, that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor. The effectiveness of telephone communication alleviated delays in communicating vital information.



IT MAY be the "holiday season"—but war needs the wires that you used to use for Christmas calls.

Long Distance lines are loaded with urgent messages. Extra lines can't be added because copper and other materials are needed for the war.

So—this Christmas please don't make any Long Distance calls to war-busy centers unless they're vital.

WAR CALLS COME FIRST
JonWilliamson.com

Once the US entered World War II, telephone operators were instructed to tell customers to limit domestic calls to five minutes and shorten long-distance calls in the evening so that soldiers serving in both the European and Pacific theaters could ring up their families. Never before were soldiers able to contact loved ones and speak with them while on the battlefields.

During the late 1940s through the early 1960s, relations between the United States and the USSR (Soviet Union) deteriorated; especially after construction of the Berlin Wall and erection of guard towers surrounding the borders of Eastern bloc countries.

It appeared that the world was on the brink of war yet again. The strained relations between the United States and the Soviet Union offered a fertile ground for nuclear war. Diplomatic relations lay in the balance. To complicate matters, communications between the Soviets and the US were often delayed because diplomats from the two countries needed translators to communicate crucial exchanges between the two. Both the USSR and the United States came up with a solution by agreeing to install direct connections by phone installations in Washington D. C. and Moscow. This sped up the communications between President John Kennedy and Premier Nikita Khrushchev . That day, August 30, 1963, will always be remembered as the day the “red phone” was installed at the White House.

Telephones haven't always been used to help communications. In some instances they were employed in secretive and, in some cases, nefarious ways. During the 1970s and even today, the FBI has wiretapped phones of those people they believed were a security risk to the U.S. In some instances those were unnecessary, especially during the Nixon administration. The Nixon White House used wiretapping to gain access to conversations between people on what he called his “enemy list.”

On the other hand, in the name of preserving history, President Gerald R. Ford donated all of his phone logs to his library with the exception of restricted calls.

Either way, telephones have played an important role in the advancement of communications between countries, branches of the government, and during times of war.

With the advent of new technology, government diplomats, senators, representatives and the president have used smart cellular phones to communicate through Twitter and other applications.

If you would like more information about telecommunications history, The Telecommunications History Group offers a remarkable collection of archives for research. Come down and visit the museum. If you are unable to visit us in person, check out our website at: <http://www.telcomhistory.org/index.shtml>

More information can be found at:

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/hayes-has-first-phone-installed-in-white-house>

<http://www.telephonetribute.com/telephonetrivia.html>

http://jproc.ca/crypto/hotline_phones.html

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/herbert-hoover-has-telephone-installed-in-oval-office>

http://www.whitehousehistory.org/whha_timelines/timelines_technology-02.html

<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/guides/findingaid%5CPresident's%20Telephone%20Logs.htm>

http://www.whitehousehistory.org/whha_timelines/timelines_technology-02.html



Hello, California, This is Denmark

This article appeared originally in the September 1928 issue of the Pacific Telephone magazine.

Ray Axel Christiansen, formerly a fellow transmission engineer and now chief engineer of Telephone and Telegraph and Posts for the government of Denmark, recently greeted R.K. Maynard of San Francisco with these words, "Hello, California, this is Denmark."

Maynard, Bay Division plant supervisor, was enjoying a quiet vacation at his home in Redwood City when the ringing of his telephone summoned him to answer the call from Copenhagen, Denmark, a distance of 8,300 miles.

"Who is this?" questioned Maynard, "Aw, go on, stop your kidding: when did you get back, Christy?"

"Get back,? The voice fro afar laughingly replied. "Back where? I'm in Copenhagen, Denmark. I'm talking to you by

land via Berlin, Germany; Brussels, Belgium; transatlantic from London, and transcontinental from New York, and I'm talking over Western Electric equipment."

The astonished and, as yet, unbelieving Maynard was silent and the greatly amused voice continued.

"How is everybody in the old gang, Ray? How's R.H. Bennett and R.B. Stewart, and how's 'Wally' Bliss getting along?"

At last R.K. found his tongue, and for many good old American minutes kept it oscillating not far out of phase with the voice in Copenhagen.

On this test call they talked about the time, carrier operation, telephotography, transmission, Republicans, Democrats, and the crowned and uncrowned heads of Europe. But of California weather, not a word. To a chap in far-off Denmark, "Why bring that up?"

And now in closing, just a word about our good friend Ray Axel Christiansen, some time transmission engineer in the Bay Division transmission engineer's office, San Francisco. Upon being graduated from the University of Copenhagen in electrical engineering, he went to the Westinghouse Electric Company for whom he invented and patented a number of devices for voltage regulation. Following his employment with the Westinghouse Company, Christiansen came to the Bay Division engineer's office of our company.

On behalf of his many friends and fellow workers, we felicitate Chief Engineer Ray Axel Christiansen and extend the greetings of a beautiful but very busy season.

THG Telegraph Set at the Molly Brown House Museum

There's still time to see the Titanic exhibit at the Molly Brown House Museum. If you remember, THG loaned them a working telegraph set, other equipment and documents for their vignette of the radio room aboard the ship. The exhibit will last through the end of 2012.



There are also special events planned, such as a performance of "Victorian Horrors: Tales from the Sea," which will take place on October 19 and 20, and again on October 26 and 27.

"Victorian Horrors will feature dramatic readings from Victorian authors' tales of terror and loss on the sea. Brought to life by costumed actors, these tales will evoke chills of terror and the smell of the sea."

Please visit the Molly Brown House web site at <http://www.mollybrown.org/> for more information.



The Marconi radio-room aboard the Titanic.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS



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