INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of Dial-Log, the Telecommunications History Group’s quarterly newsletter. I (Herb Hackenburg) tend to write in an informal, "folksie" style, so the reader will see first person references, first names after a person’s full name has been introduced and boldface names when members of the "History Group family" are mentioned.

Our letterhead comes from an employee newsletter used by the Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company in 1929 when the company’s new Headquarters Building was opened. While the building contained executive and business offices, its main purpose was to house the switching equipment used to bring dial service to Denver.

Carol Baird is our editor, typesetter and subscription list supervisor. Carol and I hope you like Dial-Log and will feel free to contribute articles, story leads, criticisms and accolades.

BUSY, BOARD MEETING MOVES ON ALL FRONTS

We had a Board of Directors’ meeting on May 15th in John Scully’s (VP Colorado-U S WEST Communications) board room. John was kind enough to welcome our little group. Larry DeMuth, our new president, conducted the meeting. Board Members Joel Barker, John Darrow, DeMuth, Howard Doerr, John Felt, Eleanor Gehres, Monys Haegen, Robert Henderson, Sue Keesen, Mary Riffle, Chuck Simmons, Jim Travers were in attendance. Board Members Michael Flavin, John Herbolich, Walter Maulis, Audrey Hargrove and Joseph Pelton were absent. Visitors to the meeting included Leslie Young, Carol Baird, Ken Pratt and myself.

John Herbolich was conducting a class in Minneapolis, Walt was recovering from colon surgery, and Audrey was in an All-Hands-Meeting in Breckenridge and we don’t know what happened to the Flavin/Pelton contingent from Boulder.

It was a brisk meeting and not even my spilling a full cup of coffee all over the conference table slowed things up. Various board committee chairpersons gave reports.
From a triple bypass.

Unfortunately, our board now needs to be cut shorter and not allowed to become a volunteer.

The bride expressed some interest in becoming a volunteer.

April 1. All volunteers except one attended along with two guest.

We held our first volunteer recruitment/recognition breakfast in

Volunteer news

Supervisor.

Board: (Copy, Joe)............ Mover, will serve as the Interim's archivist.

Board: (Copy, John)............ Mover, will serve as the Interim's archivist.

Reporting on the educational committee, Mover's said that the Interim's... steps are being

We have produced a volunteer recruitment brochure which I'm working on and Mary will

Mary is working on and reported on a volunteer recognition program. Mary also

Some of our proposed staff positions. She also

Deconstruction policy.

The committee is also working on a more complete deconstruction and

Some of our proposed staff positions. This

September. (Copy, John)............ Mover suggested that grant

Applications for Colorado grant money should be made by

Mover suggested that grant

Edwards, (Copy, John)............ Mover

Movers retired last year and noted that the

New school year beginning.

April was to have the archiving of both the Directory and Photograph

Reporting for her Program Committee, Mover stated that a major
We also added four "specialists volunteers" — Dave Spencer, architectural historian and an expert on Denver through 1860 to 1920; LeRoy Katz, Kurt Furness and Lynn Graves, antique telephone collectors. LeRoy and Lynn work for U S WEST, while Kurt is a school principal. Lynn has made significant contributions to our collection of specialized phone company tools and helped us by helping us to buy two high-quality antique phones to replace phones AT&T recalled from our museum display.

Ken Pratt has finished shelving the directory collection and has nearly finished shelving the Bell System Practices collection. Carol is inputting the collections in our database.

Jerry Butler has finished the initial phase of archiving our black and white photo collection, which means we can now locate specific photographs by file folder name.

Dale Norblom, Ken and I attended a day-long historic preservation seminar which was held at the Colorado Historic Society, Denver Public Library and the Denver Museum of Art. Ken and I went on to attend a special demonstration at the Rocky Mountain Restoration Center. We all agreed that it was an interesting and educational day.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Thanks to Board Member John Herbolich, who is now a contract instructor at the U S WEST Training Center, we acquired nearly 200 telecommunications history and reference books from the Training Center's library which has been deactivated. The collection included 30-volume set of Christopher H. Sterling's Telecommunications; six of the top seven history books written about Alexander Graham Bell; A Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, with stand; and a $300 book cart. Thank you, John.

Carol and I met with Bill Morey, who at the time was in charge of U S WEST's records storage. He is a dedicated, knowledgeable, hard-working young man with a keen sense of history. During our visit, Carol and I acquired a 386 PC, six boxes of photographs from Arizona and small box of material from the Rocky Mountain and Colorado Bell telephone companies. One item in the small box was a "broadside" from the Columbian Exposition promoting an English nonelectric telephone which none of our antique telephone experts had ever heard about. Bill also gave us a U S WEST Records Retention Manual and asked for our input on the new manual. Since our visit, Bill has been promoted and works for U S WEST, Inc.
Jerry strain collection. The collection contains more than 200
invaluable items. Professor Thomas Coates (908) 679-2389
received items from various sources.

On Monday morning, May 15, was the day: Workroom finished.

Introncantly, Jerry's son and his two daughters were ready when he
choked till this Jerry's son and his two daughters were always invited along.
Eager to John who was taking pictures with a new camera and asked
Jerry to join him on a flight to see the new collection.

John's initial request was turned down, but on S West Media,
John then attempted to transport Jerry via the S West Corporate
stream. The request was also refused.

Commerical air travel was also ruled out.

So Jerry and I packed the boxes and brought them down to the
history office. Jerry and I packed the boxes and brought them down to the
concessions area, Jerry and I packed the boxes and brought them down to the
items in this collection. We took notes and tagged most of the
boxes on this yellow pages since many of the boxes contained some
articles.

When the old minutes were written down to the
paper to take effect.

We knocked on Jerry's front door. After Jerry's caretaker
opened the door, we had to wait a few minutes for Jerry's path
found. Jerry invited me in and to his home for a visit and to pick up his


Recently, while reviewing possible volunteers for the history

The work of others in the YP promotion business.

Throughout his career, Jerry had scores of his work and
meetings, and his performances in his work and

"We work for the little yellow pages (YP) promotion group."

988.

Jerry strain yellow pages memorabilia collection.
VIP VISITORS

Public Broadcasting Service Producer Morgan Wesson and Alexander Graham Bell’s great grandson, Edwin S. Grosvenor, spent four days researching in our archives. Morgan and Edwin are co-authoring a book, with the working title of Bell and the Telephone. The book is scheduled to come out around Bell’s 150th birthday in March of 1997. Morgan is also an assistant producer for Far Speaking, an American Experience PBS special also to be broadcast in March. The two men have researched in the 20 top telecommunications archives in the country and were truly impressed by what we’ve accomplished and the material we have available.

HISTORY GROUP HOSTS TELECOMMUNICATIONS HISTORY GROUP SYMPOSIUM

On June 19, I, as general chairman, convened the Fourth International Symposium on Telecommunications History in the Auditorium of U S WEST’s Denver Service Center. It was a small, but interesting gathering. There were 14 presenters and 17 participants.

History Group Board Member and Program Committee Chair Eleanor Gehres welcomed the group to Denver and did a magnificent (and honest) sales job for both the History Group and the Denver Public Library.

The keynote address, "The Tangled Web of Patent Number 174,465" was delivered by Dr. Russell A. Pizer, now teaching, after a 30-year Bell System career. The general gist of Russ’s paper was that there was a lot of hanky-panky around A. G. Bell’s patent, including a strong case for graft in the U.S. Patent office. Research shows that most of the "Tangled Web" was caused by Gardner Greene Hubard, Bell’s politically connected father-in-law. After convincing Bell to give his wife (Hubard’s daughter) all (except one) of his shares of American Bell Company stock (Bell received one-third of the original stock issue, George Sanders and Hubard held the remaining shares), Hubard sent his daughter and her new husband to Europe for an eighteen month honeymoon.

While Bell was away, lawyers Sanders and Hubard did what they had to do to secure the telephone patent and build the Bell Company. Considering the patent was awarded from blueprints that electronically would not support an operational machine, and before any kind of working telephone was built, and ignored a workable telephone design submitted for patent (by Antonio Meucci) nine years earlier, Russ concluded his paper by saying he didn’t want to do any more research about the early days of "his" telephone company.

Since Russ is paying a handsome sum to have restoration specialists build a working model of the Meucci phone, one must conclude that
I could use some serious sprucing up.

The old building still has class, but the new system pales. The old building still has class, but the new system pales.

I conduct a tour of the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company headquarters building. The group plans an especially attractive program for the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company headquarters.

Library in Texas. The famous "Johnston Tapes," John also worked at the J. B. Johnson.

I launched the project at the Johnston Library, which John helped to transform. He helped the library.

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Howard was a delight. Howard was a delight. He was one of the architects to tell the assembled historians what happened at the National Archives and Records Administration-Rocky Mountain Region.

Board Member Joel Parker, who happens to be the director of the National Archives and Records Administration-Rocky Mountain Region.

Howard was a delight. Howard was a delight.

The event was attended in Albuquerque in 1984.

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Chairman's second paper discussed the first automated switching systems were getting from his company too.
Advanced telephone collector Dick Erickson kicked off the second day with a paper and a demonstration on early American pay phones and how they worked.

The whole gang then trooped down to the Denver Public Library, where director Raymond Clark showed the absolutely amazed historians the world's most advanced photo digitization project. Eleanor was also on hand to show off her fantastic Western History archives (the photo project is also part of her department).

Five more papers were presented in the last afternoon.

Penn State's John Rossi (a diplomatic historian) presented "Full and Free Communication Trans-Pacific Cable, radio and U. S. Diplomacy, 1919-1923". Basically, the paper concerned the island of Yap in the South Pacific. The island is of absolutely no use to anyone, except as a communications hub for trans-Pacific cables. As a result of losing World War I, Germany lost Yap to the victorious allies, specifically Japan. How the British, Dutch and the United States treated Japan and Japan treated them over Yap may have provided some of the early tinder in the Pacific in World War II.

Antique telephone expert and collector (and History Group volunteer), Georg Bk, presented a paper on the first use of the telephone to transmit cardiac data transmission. In 1958, Dr. Eugene Porter Montgomery transmitted EKG's over the telephone across the desolate eastern plains of Colorado. While Dr. Montgomery was saving lives, Mountain Bell and the rest of the Bell System was fighting him every inch of the way. It had to do with FCC regulations concerning "foreign attachments" to the telephone network.

Indiana University's Charles Twardy presented "The Ubiquitous, Elusive Vander Weyde and His Telephone." This paper was about another inventor who said he invented the phone before A. G. Bell. He claims to have demonstrated a working model in New York City in 1869. Since Vander Weyde was the editor of a popular technical journal, Manufacturer and Builder, he was hard to ignore. He also published articles in the Scientific American and several other technical journals. Strangely, some of Weyde's articles praised Bell, others chastised him. Eventually, Vander Weyde seems to have disappeared completely from the pages of history.

Laura Watson, museum administrator, Canadian Forces Communications and Electronic Museum, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, presented, "Living a Legend in Aklavik, the Life and Times of Frank Riddell." This is a delightful story of a young recruit in "Signals"-- as the Canadians call their Signal Corps -- who helps build and maintain a communications system in Aklavik, just south of the Arctic Circle. Along the way, this unassuming, nebish-like little man: learns to speak a plethora of native dialects; becomes a crack rifle shot;
Southwestern to distrust and dislike the telegraph and to censor. The telegraph's use as a tool of power led to its eventual demise. Today, the telegraph is remembered as a symbol of the power struggle between the North and the South during the Civil War. The telegraph allowed for the rapid transmission of information across vast distances, enabling commanders to coordinate their forces and strategy.

Southwestern's distrust of the telegraph extended to its newspapers, which were often critical of the telegraph's role in spreading false information and undermining public trust. The telegraph's influence on southern politics and society was significant, as it allowed for the rapid dissemination of news and propaganda.

Southwestern's concerns about the telegraph's impact on society were not unique to the South. Other regions, such as the Northeast, also had concerns about the telegraph's role in shaping public opinion and influencing election outcomes.

In conclusion, the telegraph's legacy is complex and multifaceted. While it revolutionized communication and information dissemination, its use also raised important questions about the role of technology in shaping society and political power.
their newspapers and/or cause them to publish idyllic versions of
the lives of the South's "servile population."

George Howard, program chairman, antique telephone collector and
New York judge, wrapped up the symposium with some excellent verbal
applause for the symposium's participants and stated that he
honestly felt the Fourth Symposium was the most interesting, the
most educational and the best run of all--and he's attended them
all. He also thanked the Telecommunications History Group for all
of its work in hosting the event.

Feedback from presenters and participants after the two-day
symposium was extremely positive. Historians and/or staff members
from Lucent Technologies, Washington State University, University
of Denver, Colorado Council of Higher Education, the FCC and the
Smithsonian expressed regrets that they did not hear of the
symposium in time to present papers and requested special
notification if and when the next "Call for Papers" is issued.

HISTORY GROUP PULLS IN A FEW BUCKS

After the two-day telecommunications history symposium, the
Telephone Collectors International (TCI), held their annual two-day
national show in the lobby of the U S WEST Denver Service Center.
Nearly 90 collectors from across the nation displayed their
collections of antique phones and telephone memorabilia--some for
show, others for sale.

The History Group purchased three new resource books, had several
pieces of our telephone collection reidentified and finally got the
word about our odd, pink insulator--we'll talk about it in the next
newsletter, but it's rare and worth some money.

The TCI holds an auction at the end of its show every year. The
History Group, with the help of Denver's TCI members (especially
Georg Ek), assembled and offered 12 "telephone collectors resource
books", at the auction. Each book was unique and contained
material unavailable anywhere else in the world. We also sold a
couple of my history books and received a nice donation. In total,
the History Group made $1,230 from the TCI show. More important,
between the symposium and TCI show, we made solid contacts and
friends all over the United States and Canada.