



Dial-Log



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Jody Georgeson, EDITOR

Director's Report

By Herb Hackenburg

We've been asked to provide a home for a couple of small Pioneer museums that have been squeezed out of room in their original locations in Colorado Springs and Cheyenne.

Cheyenne

Pioneer volunteer **Bob Nichols** called from Cheyenne with a list of items from the Cheyenne museum storage room. He wanted to know if THG wanted any of them. We agreed to take most of the items and rather than mess with the Qwest delivery system charge codes and all of that, Bob and his wife packed the items, stuck them in the back of their SUV and delivered them directly to our storage area.

I took the Nichols on a tour of the archive and they were suitably impressed. Since they were meeting their Denver-based son, they didn't even take me up on my lunch offer. We may have a group of Cheyenne Pioneers come to THG for a visit.

Colorado Springs

I've been working with **Doug Cook**, a Life Member Pioneer volunteer from the Colorado Springs Museum. Our original plan was for me to drive to the Springs and look over "all of the stuff crammed into the little storage room," to select what we could manage to store.

That was the plan, but I forgot it. It was 10:45 am, Tuesday, June 3, when the archive phone rang. When Carol told me it was Doug Cook I uttered an oath at myself. I apologized profusely to Doug. Doug said I still had time to get to the Springs to give the talk to the Pioneer Club, which was the main thing on the agenda anyway.

I grabbed my "presentation box" and walked to the light rail stop. Got aboard the Littleton train without missing a step. Thirty-five minutes later I got into my car and nine minutes later I awakened my wife, helped her get ready and we were back on the road in 14 minutes.

We got to the Pioneer meeting 20 minutes early, had a nice lunch and I gave one of my better presentations to 41 Pioneers. I'll go back to look over the museum materials sometime in July, an appointment I plan to keep.

Time Capsules

By Herb Hackenburg

Did you know that there is an actual International Time Capsule Society? One of the things this august organization does is to keep track of the world's stash of time capsules. The ITCS estimates that, worldwide, there about 10,000 time capsules, 90% of which are lost.

Our interest in time capsules stems from one of those rare capsules that were not lost. In fact, your History Group played a major role in this capsule's official opening.

Many of our readers will remember that in 1983 Mountain Bell employees were encouraged to put together "divestiture" time capsules in each of its eight states. The public relations department even furnished the custom-made plastic capsules to be filled with memorabilia of the time. The capsules were "sealed" in January of 1984 and were to be opened at the turn of the century - 2000. The capsules were stored in company buildings in the state headquarters cities. Colorado had two capsules - one from Colorado State employees, the other from the "people from Corporate." When 2000 rolled around, telephone history (especially Bell System history) was not an item of official interest, so most of the capsules remained in their resting places dusty and undisturbed.



It was an e-mailed question to new Qwest CEO **Dick Notebaert** from employee, **Renee Lang**, which renewed the interest in the time capsule located in the lobby of original Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company's headquarters building at 931 14th Street, Denver.

Renee is a THG volunteer and spends many of her lunch hours inputting the THG photo collection into our database. More recently, Renee has been sorting and inventorying our collection of historic employee newsletters.

Most recently, Renee and **Jody Georgeson**, THG archivist, worked on the History Group's participation in the official time capsule opening conducted by Dick Notebaert and co-sponsored by Qwest, the Telephone Pioneers and the Telecommunications History Group. The capsule opening was held in the lobby of the MB headquarters building on June 16 at 3:30 p.m.

Qwest assembled a new time capsule to replace the one that was opened.

Bottom line, Renee and Jody put together an interesting and comprehensive program featuring historic displays and tours of the landmark headquarters building - in other words, a normal first-rate THG production.

By the way, the time capsule society is located at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia. Their web site address is www.oglethorpe.edu/itcs/. And yes, THG will register the new time capsule with ITCS.



Mildred Lammon & her quilt

The Memory Quilt Update

By Jody Georgeson

We've learned more about Mildred Lammon's quilt. One of our members, **Joan Lammon**, was Millie's sister-in-law. She and Millie's nephew (the executor of her estate) sent along pictures of Millie with the quilt at her retirement party. She also sent an organization chart with pictures of Millie and her co-workers at the time of her retirement. Many of them contributed squares to the quilt. Along with congratulatory letters and a certificate of sales achievement issued to Millie in 1978, these documents help round out the story our quilt tells.

Millie worked in the Colorado Commercial Department (Public Communications at the time of her retirement). She married Edward Clark in 1941 and began working at Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company in 1948. According to Joan, "Millie

would be so pleased to know the quilt is preserved and (will) be seen by so many."

The story inspired the Foothills Pioneers Life Member Club to donate part of the quilt's purchase price to THG. This generous donation will help us rescue more treasures. Special thanks go to **Kay Lambert, Louise Schroer and Donna Ulrey** for bringing the story to the attention of the Club.

Louise reminded us of another quilt that was raffled off at a Pioneers function in Wyoming during the 1980s. If any of you have information regarding this Pioneers quilt, we'd like to hear from you.

Shooting Insulators, revisited

Hi Herb,

I was just reviewing your latest edition of Dial-Log and almost started laughing when I read the article about not shooting insulators. I had left the northern district PR job earlier that year and always thought **Jim Wright** was the typical salt-o-the-earth exchange manager. (I remember the Banner, but afraid I don't recall Dru.) It also reminded me of the several "seasonal news releases" we did religiously every year, such as directory deliveries, call before you dig, Mother's Day calling volumes, the change to daylight savings time on the opr. services timer and our time of day machines, and Christmas calling volumes. Those were the days.

I'm glad to see things continue to roll along @ the History Group and hope you are doing well.

Take care,

Rick Hays

(Helena, Montana)



Betsy Bell

Acquisitions

We continue to receive new items for the collection. We have a number of telephone related phonograph records in the collection, and in the last few months we've received two new ones. **Jan Stoney** (Omaha, NE) sent a four-record set of "Bell System America on Tour" and **George Walker** (Gilbert, MN) gave us a NWB recruiting record from the 1970s.

From the estate of **Alvina Bornman** (St. Paul, MN) we received a photograph of a 1953 employee recruiting meeting and a 1930 "Telephone Co. Halloween Party." Special thanks go to **Stephanie DeSmit** of U.S. Bank in Minneapolis for her effort to find a home for the photos.

Not all of our collection is from the Qwest region. **Peggy Schaller** (Denver, CO) donated California telephone directories and 2 Remco Handiphone sets, and **George Patcigo** (Denver, CO) gave us a collection of material from the New York Telephone Company.

Betty Wetherbee (Arvada, CO) and **Wilma Jackson** (Denver, CO) - via **Donna Ulrey** - both contributed

Mountain Bell and Pioneers memorabilia and photographs.

Laurel Wadley (Sandy, UT) contributed many serials, including several issues of *The Utah Tie-Line*.

Marian Mahoney, from Pipestone, MN sent Pipestone directories from 1939 to 1970. **Audrey Hargrove** (Littleton, CO) donated several U S WEST "cowboy" posters. Now we're lacking only two for a full set.

Bonnie Newkirk (West Valley, UT) gave us material about the Utah flood and some wonderful Bell System Long Distance ads featuring that adorable baby, Betsy Bell. **Dorothy Payne** (Minneapolis, MN) sent a wonderful collection of anniversary jewelry she had received from NWB and U S WEST.

Ray Cordsen (Boulder, CO) contributed a variety of documents from as far back as 1892, all relating to the telephone industry in Colorado. **Bernice Geiger** (Bismarck, ND) sent a NWB employee booklet containing dozens of recipes for hamburgers.

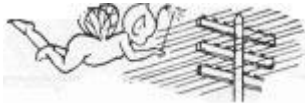
Hobe Corning came by one day to bring us photographs from **Kathy Palmer** (Salt Lake City, UT). The photos were of Frederick H. Reid, president of MST&T from 1924 to 1943.



Several of the photos show Reid (right) with James Melton, an acclaimed tenor who made regular appearances on the Bell Telephone Hour during the 1940s.

Several of our members donated artifacts - volunteer **Pat Emigh** gave us a Country Junction designer phone; **Ron Trout** donated a Dex award clock and BRI Partnership award; **Fred Jacobs** brought a number of wonderful items, including a Princess phone campaign clothes brush, two promotional sewing kits, a MB Centennial poster, and a #202 telephone. **Leone Rogers** of the Salt Lake City Pioneers sent an Olympic torch with case, torch relay team jacket and associated paraphernalia from the 1984 summer Olympics. (The Pioneers organized the cross-country run, and the cadre runners were all Bell System employees.)

Thanks to all of you who have donated your treasures. And to the rest of you - remember us when you're cleaning your basements and attics.



Housing the Twelve Thousand -

Home Life at Hawthorne,
as Described By a Veteran Employee

The following article appeared in the March 1913 issue of Western Electric News. WECO's Hawthorne Works at Chicago manufactured about 200,000 receivers and transmitters, and 600,000 telephone cords per month.

The situation of the Hawthorne Works is probably unique, in that it looks like the country, is in the city, and is completely surrounded by some of the most attractive residence districts in Chicago. We are about seven miles from the business district of the city. . . (nearby) are suburban communities such

as Morton Park, Berwyn, La Grange, Oak Park, and Austin.

With all these residential sections so close at hand, it is not surprising that many of us "Hawthorn-ites" have chosen to live within a mile of the works . . . The "family" spirit so typical of Hawthorne is further increased by the fact that we are most of us neighbors at home as well as at business.

I myself live in the western district, in a detached cottage. I chose neighborhood for two reasons. First, because I never cared for apartment life; and second, because I hate to travel long distances. I can leave my house at 7:15 in the morning and walk to the works in 15 minutes. Think of this, O ye Jersey commuters!

I rent my house at present, but in two years more I hope to be able to build for myself. We have a pretty good vegetable garden at the back, but I want more room, so that I can raise chickens. My friend, Frank Hefele, who is in Department 2336, first put the idea in my head. He has a regular young poultry farm in his back yard - and I'd certainly like to have the fresh eggs and chicken dinners he has!



Frank Hefele with his chickens

But you mustn't get the idea, just because we raise chickens, and even keep a cow sometimes, that we Hawthorne fellows are a lot of hayseeds. Don't you believe it! In the first place, we're only about twenty minutes' ride, by elevated or trolley, from the attractions of the city, so that we can go to "town" every night, if we feel like it. In the second place, we have all sorts of local attractions that you wouldn't find in the country proper. At Riverside, for instance, . . . there are half a dozen picnic groves and small amusement parks, besides the finest kind of boating and canoeing, all summer.

I have a whole house here, six rooms and a bath, gas lighted, and I pay \$18 a month rent. Some of the houses are as low as \$15 a month. There are any number of apartments at that price or even lower, while the more pretentious ones rent for \$25 or \$35.

This article will, I hope, give other readers of the News a rough idea, at any rate, of the community we have built up out here.



The water tower at Hawthorne



The Museum of Communications (Seattle)

As many of the central offices in the Pacific Northwest were being replaced with new technology, individuals in that region began an effort to preserve the history of the industry by saving the equipment that, better than any other source, describes the American telecommunications technology evolution.

U S WEST provided portions of two floors in the telephone company central office near Boeing Field in order to create space for the installation of the historic switching equipment and other artifacts. The result is a remarkable museum in which working central office switches of every vintage can be viewed. This collection is believed to be the only one of its kind in the world.

Members of Washington Chapter 30 of the Telecom Pioneers have operated the museum since 1985. **Don Ostrand** is director of the museum, and also serves on THG's Board of Directors.

The museum is open on Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by appointment. Admission is free, although donations are welcomed. If you plan to be in Seattle, we urge you to visit this wonderful collection.

You are also invited to view their web site at www.museumofcommunications.org.



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