



Dial-Log

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Jody Georgeson, EDITOR

Executive Director's Report

By Herb Hackenburg

Big Job

Earlier this month, I finished the first phase of a two-phase project. The request was from Philip F. Anschutz, Qwest's major shareholder, art collector, American Western history buff, philanthropist, and local billionaire. We've been working with Qwest Treasurer Robert Woodruff directly on the request.

The request was to assemble a complete collection of historic western telephone company stock certificates from the Telecommunications History Group's vast stock certificate supply. In addition, the collection was to include a loan of each of THG's rare certificates so that these certificates could be professionally color-copied and returned to the THG archive. That's not all. Historic research about each certificate was also requested. The Anschutz Project has turned out to be the largest project the History Group has ever been asked to do.

Phase One of the project includes pulling a prime specimen of each different historic telephone company stock certificate we hold in our archive,

clean it, repair it (if needed), place it in a 3 mil Mylar D protective sleeve, price and record it.

Phase Two of the project is researching the history of each certificate and putting the research in a narrative format. With the help of volunteers **Ken Pratt** and **Dale Norblom**, and two major East Coast scripophilists/stock certificate dealers*, I've already conducted much of the requested basic research. Part of this research is to build Qwest's "family tree," which by definition means family trees of U S WEST, Mountain Bell, Northwestern Bell and Pacific Northwest Bell. This research will result in the basic telecommunications history of the American West. A few interesting aspects of this part of the project is research around various historic personalities who signed the certificates such as scalawags like H. Vance Lane, president of Nebraska Telephone and Rocky Mountain Bell, and Frederick Fish, president, AT&T.

* Frank Hammelbacher, Norrico, Inc., and Dr. Ted Robinson, Frost & Robinson Collectibles.

Then there are legends such as Casper Yost, who served as president of as many as 12 telephone companies at the same time; Theodore Vail, builder of today's telecommunications network; and Edwin Bell Field, who built Mountain Bell into a model AT&T local service company.

And there are local historic characters who signed certificates such as Leadville's Horace W. Tabor and his first wife, Augusta; Alex Livingston, a founder of Livingston, Montana; Colorado's Phipps family; and J. L. W. Zietlow, who for decades successfully fought AT&T's and J. P. Morgan's attempts to takeover his Dakota Central Company.



The certificates themselves tell stories because they serve as company birth and death certificates, and their vignettes can also convey telephone history. Then there are scripophily facets such as *Founders' Certificates* (very good), *issued, but uncanceled* (good), *territorials* (very good), *scissor-cancellations* (very bad), and which company printed the certificate blanks (good and bad).

Anyway, after a month's work this is the status of the Anschutz Historic Telephone Company Stock Certificate Collection. It is instantly the largest privately held telephone company stock certificate collection in the world.

(Currently George Teas, Springfield, Virginia, has the largest collection with about 350 items. This collector has been in the hobby for nearly 30 years.) The Anschutz collection will *begin* with 455 different certificates. Of the 455 certificates, 411 will be originals, 44 will be full-sized, color copies. As the History Group uncovers "new" old certificates, we will continue to add to the Anschutz Collection. The 455 certificates are from 292 different telephone companies. The companies have been incorporated in the territories of Arizona, Dakota, New Mexico, Utah and the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The oldest certificate, *North West Telephone Exchange Company*, Minneapolis, was issued in January, 1879 (the company was incorporated in 1878).

The research on the collection will provide enough material for a unique telephone history book, which THG may want to publish in the future

Recent Additions

Since the last board meeting the History Group had the opportunity to acquire the complete U S WEST law library, and the reference library located in the Mineral Ave. Service Center. Unfortunately, we don't have the room for such large collections (using movable high-density shelving, the law library took nearly all of the space of a 40- by 30-foot room, and the Mineral St. reference library took 2,500 square feet. Volunteer Jerry Wild and I hand-picked scores of key items (e.g., FCC Reports Vol. 1 through 45, from the Law Library

and Western Electric's last complete card catalog/and microfiche including the special cabinet housing from Mineral St.) and had Qwest ship them to us. Jody and the volunteers already have the new items shelved and entered into our database.

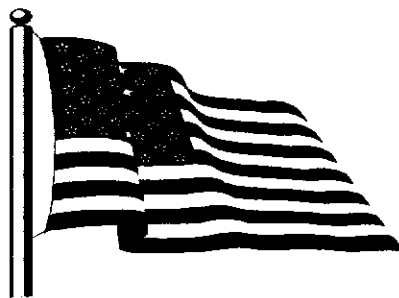
THG Director **Bob Runice** gave us an excellent collection of CECO and divestiture related material.

DeMuth and Hackenburg Take a Tour



I continue to conduct public tours of the Mountain Bell Headquarters Building. My last tour was a private one for Charlie Wooley, who has just purchased the Equitable Building. Charlie took THG Director **Larry DeMuth** and I on a tour of his new purchase, then we returned the favor. According to Charlie (and he's considered to be an expert) quality-wise, the Mountain Bell Headquarters Building stands head and shoulders above the Equitable Building.

By-the-way, before our meeting with Charlie, Larry donated a box of historic material to the History Group--the main item being the original secretary's report (every page signed by Larry) of the first U S WEST board meeting conducted in 1983, *before* there was an official U S WEST. The meeting's main agenda was the initial official organization of U S WEST, so this report is of major significance to telephone history. (A sidelight: AT&T was more than a bit upset with U S WEST's audacity, but there wasn't much they could do about it.)



Winds of War

By Florence Rush

You may remember previous selections from Mrs. Rush's unpublished manuscript "Hot Rail", about the family life of a lineman working for the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company during the 1930s and 1940s.

At this time in the narrative, the family was living at 595 S. Gilpin Street in Denver.

Sunday, December 7, 1941 - nothing out of the ordinary was happening.

Whether or not we went to church, I don't remember. I know I had baked the pies and was planning on a roast beef dinner. Lee was in town for the weekend, and Nana was coming over to do her wash. Shortly after Dad's death, she and my little brother-in-law, Alfred, gave up their home and moved into a small apartment. There were no washing facilities at the apartment so she came each Sunday to wash.

She was outside at the clothesline when the telephone rang. The call was for Lee. It was about noon time. When Lee left the telephone he announced, "We are at war." He said he must get down to the office immediately after calling the men who drove into Denver with him and instructed them to also get

to the office, where they were told to return to the job and finish it as soon as possible. All this news was indeed a shock and I ran out to the clothesline to tell Nana about it. Lee left with his suitcase and without eating Sunday dinner.

Nana, the children and I, tried to digest the news and what it will mean in the future. Somehow we got through the day.

The construction job was soon finished, and Lee was called into the office again, together with four other men. They were offered a Second Lieutenant's rating in the Signal Corps if they will volunteer to join the service. Lee did not agree to join due to the recent loss of his father and our moving into our first permanent home. The other men joined with the promise they would be stationed somewhere in the U.S. and would be acting only as "teachers" in the Signal Corps. This did not happen. Each of them was immediately sent overseas to different places. Unfortunately, none of them received a furlough back to the U.S. until the end of the war.

Contest Results!

Brad Eckel, a Qwest employee at 700 W. Mineral in Littleton, Colorado, was the first to answer correctly. Milk Street was the first address of the American Bell Company – Alexander Bell's telephone business in Boston.

We admit that the question was more vague than it should have been. There were several answers that could be true, but Brad was the first to answer the way we originally had intended.

Other guesses were:

- AT&T's headquarters
- Where AGB first tested the phone
- Location in Boston of the beginning of the telephone industry
- Oldest toll office, closed in 1970
- The street where AGB worked & lived when he invented the telephone
- A "milk street" is where we deliver service to everyone on the street
- Ben Franklin's birthplace
- AGB went to the Hershey's store on Milk Street to get his chocolate!

Thanks to everyone who participated. We have some very creative readers out there!



Volunteer Corner

By Jody Georgeson

Our volunteers are back in the swing of things. We're happy to report that **Don Hoffman** is feeling better, and will continue with his project to inventory our audio-video collection. **Bruce Amsbury** helps with the A.V., and has been working on another project involving posters and pictures. **Curt Furness**, **Renee Lang**, and **Bob and Annetta Haack** continue to inventory and catalog our photographs – an almost overwhelming task.

Georg Ek is back from his trip to Europe. **Ken Pratt** and **Dale Norblom** are still working on the pallets full of documents in our storeroom. They've

gotten so much done that we can actually see the floor in there.

Betty Vigil and Terry Quirke are our directory experts. They have nearly all the old telephone directories entered in the database, and are busy doing "cleanup." We can finally look up directories when we get a request. (We used to put people on hold while we went to look in the archives, so this is much more efficient.)

Mike Flavin continues to build new databases and refine existing ones. **Jerry Wild** keeps our computers running, works on old telephone equipment, and lately has been helping me reorganize our reference library.

The reference library is a great source of knowledge for researchers and amateur historians. It contains volumes about the history of the telephone industry and technology; biographies of famous and not so famous telephone people; and essays and speeches by leaders of the industry. We have recently acquired an extensive selection of legislative documentation and commentary. There are catalogues from suppliers of telephone equipment and catalogues of telephone collectibles. We have histories of many telephone companies – Mountain Bell, of course, is represented by Herb's book, *Muttering Machines to Laser Beams*.

Speaking of *Muttering Machines*, if you don't have a copy, or have been thinking of giving a copy as a gift, now would be a good time to order. We have only a limited supply left and once those are gone there will be no more printed.

From all of us – staff, volunteers, and board members – to all of you – our members and supporters – Happy Holidays and a wonderful, prosperous New Year!



A RECIPE

This poem was originally published in the Dakota Central Employees Magazine, November 1 1930. It was submitted to them by Lillie Terpena, Night Operator, Aberdeen, SD.

It takes a lot of patience
And quite a lot of "knack,"
It takes a ton of cheerfulness
And about as much of tact.
It takes large lumps of willingness
And a Quantity of push
And several pounds of helpfulness
And several pints of rush.
It takes lots and lots of sweetness
And understanding, too,
And not a little quick-wittedness
And honesty, true-blue!
And yards and yards and yards of smiles
And fingers nimbly quick,
Co-operation all the while,
True courage that will stick.
A voice that smiles across the wires,
A brain that's wide awake.
A spirit that flames high like fire
And a heart that does not quake;
A lively sense of humor, keen,
The quality of a mediator –
All these, together with some more
Will make an operator.