

Dial Log



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Jody Georgeson, editor

Director's Report

by Jody Georgeson

Who Are Our Members?

The telephone, like the railroad, contributed greatly to the expansion of our country, and was the technology upon which our current world-wide communications systems were built. Our hundreds of members are the force that preserves this important history. Who are they?

Long-time THG member **Laurel Wadley** writes, "My Mother worked for Pacific Telephone before she got married. I started working for General Telephone after graduating high school, and then moved to Pacific Telephone a few years later. I met my current husband while I was at Mountain Bell in Denver and he was working for Mountain Bell in Salt Lake City (what you would call a really "long distance" romance). His Dad was a 5th Level for Mountain Bell when we married, and the President of Mountain Bell-Utah attended our wedding. The telephone company is in my blood and has brought my life many good things: job security, good benefits and a wonderful husband. This is why I support THG 100%. The telephone Industry is my heritage and maybe one day it will be my Granddaughter's heritage too".

We have nearly 600 members in good standing. Telco retirees and current employees make up the bulk of our membership. Genealogists comprise another large portion, especially those whose ancestors include telephone company employees. Other members are scholars and historians, elected officials, and telephone collectors. 8% of our memberships are for organizations, such as Pioneer chapters, telephone companies and historical institutions.

Members hail from all over the United States, with a few from outside the U.S. Not surprisingly, 50% of our members are from Colorado and Washington, the states where we have our museums and archives. 7.5% are based in Arizona and 5% each hail from Iowa and Minnesota. Oregon and California each harbor about 3.5% of our members, and Utah is home to another 2.5%. Three of our members reside in Canada, one in Sweden, and the furthest in Australia. The other US states make up the rest of our far-flung membership.

THG Endowment and Membership Drive

A giant thank you those who have renewed their memberships and/or donated to our endowment fund!

As of the end of the year, we have reached 83% of our \$1 million endowment fund goal. The endowment is invested with The Denver Foundation, a non-profit organization that manages and administers funds for individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations that have specific charitable objectives. (More information about the Denver Fund can be found at <http://www.denverfoundation.org/>) The earnings from this investment will augment our membership donations and income from operations.

You have already donated 58% more this year than at this time during last year's membership drive. Thank you all for allowing us to continue our efforts to preserve and share the history of the telecom industry!

In Memory Herbert Warrick, Jr.



Herb was born on Sept 10, 1923 in Seattle, WA and passed away Oct 2, 2012, on Mercer Island, WA. Upon graduating from Roosevelt High School, he began his career with Pacific Bell as a bicycle messenger. He was drafted into the US Army where he was sent to a special college for leadership, and was stationed overseas.

When he returned home he continued his long and successful career with Pacific Telephone & Telegraph. He retired as AVP Special Services and Engineering from Pacific Northwest Bell in 1983. Retirement found him engaged in another successful business as president of Securities Holdings Inc, an alarm systems company.

One of Herb's proudest accomplishments was the preservation of vintage telephone equipment from PT&T when the company went wireless. Herb established the Museum of Communications (now located at 7000 E Marginal Way S in Seattle) to showcase the history of the telephone and the equipment that made it work.

Herb was an outstanding leader, greatly respected and admired by everyone. He was known for his integrity, intelligence, strong work ethic and leadership. Herb is survived by his wife, Cecelia, and their combined 22 family members.

Herb served on the THG Board of Directors from 2002 until his death. We will miss Herb's leadership at the Seattle Museum of Communications, and his service on the Board.

United Telephone Building

Goodland, Kansas

If you find yourself in Goodland, Kansas, stop by 1003 Main Street, where you'll see a fabulous telephone building. The following is taken from GoodlandNet LLC:



The unique building at the corner of 10th and Main was finished in 1931, the most prolific construction year in the history of Goodland. Built specifically to house the rapidly growing system of communication, the telephone, this was the fourth location in 30 years for the business.

A Rock Island Railroad employee, J. M. Jewell, brought the first phone system to Goodland, and in November 1902, a permit was granted . . . to the Goodland Telephone Company . . . In 1922, it became the United Telephone Company. . .

Under United Management the company continued to grow, with more than 1,000 telephones being used within the city . . . In 1931, the system was deemed obsolete and the newest and most modern equipment was selected to be housed in a new building at the SE corner of 10th and Main. One of the first dial systems in the state was installed in October 1931. (*In 1937, United Telephone merged with Southwestern Bell.*)

One of the best examples of Art Deco in a large area, the design and decoration of the building was overseen by Mr. Colby Hamilton, an employee of United, who researched every aspect of the Native American symbols used in the interior and exterior design. Telephone poles, carved to simulate totems, are used as beams in the lobby ceiling, and the service desk was a masterpiece of carving and artwork. Heavy oak Mission Style chairs, table and large settee graced the lobby for the comfort of waiting customers.

The building as it stands retains its original exterior. Many changes have occurred throughout the interior. The mechanical equipment was removed in 1957. The changes in management and deregulation of the Bell Company changed forever the function of this fine memorial to an age of pride and progress.

During the next 25 years, as new and modern techniques became the norm, a new and much more compact building was erected to the east, which houses all the necessary equipment to serve businesses, homes, and the computers vital to the times.

Lobby furnishings from the original building have been preserved by The High Plains Museum and interested private parties. At present, the building is owned by the County, also the owner of The Sherman County Court House, the other Art Deco building much photographed and sketched by artists who visit Goodland.



GO FIGURE

The Telecommunications History Group Archives, 2012

20	Number of years in existence
398	Number of collections
5809	Boxes of records
40	Drawers full of photographs
8146	Historic telephone directories
2100	Number of volunteer hours during 2012

THG Volunteer of the Year Renee Lang

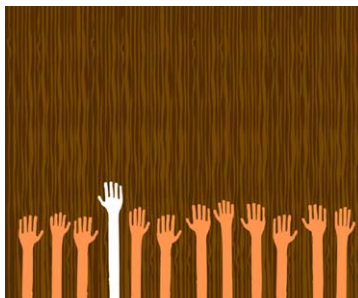


We celebrated our wonderful volunteers on November 28, with a luncheon at The Spaghetti Factory in Denver.

Renee Lang was named 2012 Volunteer of the Year. Renee began volunteering with THG while still working full-time at Qwest. Over the years she has been involved with nearly all aspects of the archives and museums. She has worked extensively with the photograph collection, and is a docent for the 931 14th Street tours.

Renee became our secretary this year, when Marty left to take a full-time job. She frequently discovers telecom-related artifacts during her antique store and estate sale raids, and still finds time to volunteer when we need to move exhibits or operate special events. (Sometimes she even volunteers her husband, Jim!)

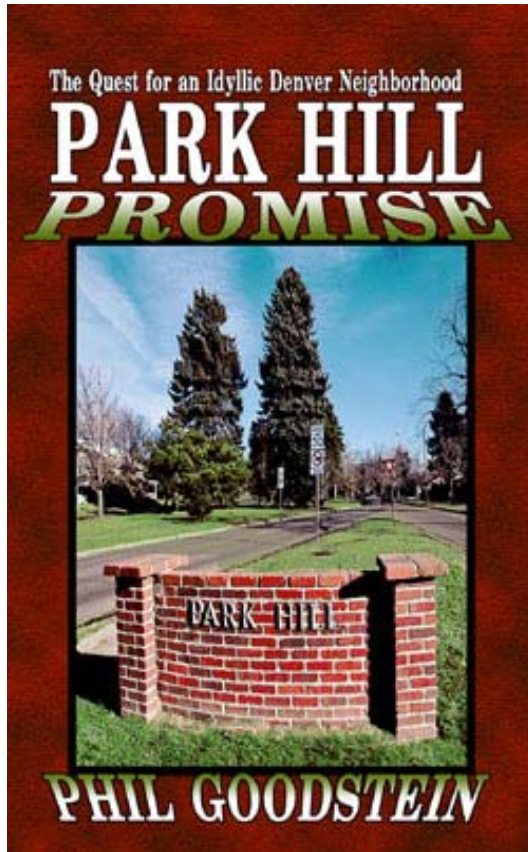
We are grateful to all of our volunteers and to our all-volunteer board. Thanks for all the hard work you put in on behalf of the History Group!



Book Review

Park Hill Promise: The Quest for an Idyllic Denver Neighborhood.

Phil Goodstein. Denver: New Social Publications, 2012. vi + 598 pp.
ISBN 0-9742264-7-5. \$29.95. maps, illustrations, index.



In 1938, Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph opened its new East Station at the northeast corner of Bellaire Street and Colfax Avenue. Replacing the existing East Denver exchange at 1463 York Street, the facility routed all phone numbers beginning with a three. It handled calls from Franklin Street to Yosemite Street between Cherry Creek and 41st Avenue.

This tidbit, along with mentions of the EAst 2, DEXter 3, FLorida 5, EMerson 6, FRemont 7, and DUdley 8 exchanges, comes across in a fascinating new book, *Park Hill Promise*. It is a history of the renowned area of Denver to the east of City Park and north of Colfax Avenue. Along the way, the book tells about the neighborhood's impressive houses, historic churches, fine landscaping, and colorful characters.

Additionally, it probes the racial tensions during the 1960s and 1970s, including how Park Hill developments were at the core of court-ordered busing for school desegregation in the city.

A mostly affluent area that emerged around the beginning of the 20th century, Park Hill has been a premier address for corporate executives. Among those making it his home was Frederick H. Reid of 2256 Dexter Street. A native of Scotland, Reid went to work as a youth for the telephone company. He served as president of Mountain States Telephone from 1924 to 1943. Such vice presidents of the local branch of AT&T as Harry E. McAfee of 2354 Albion Street and Ray Marion Morris of 1636 Monaco Street Parkway were also in the area. The company's general auditor, Paul E. Remington, was at 1665 Jasmine Street around the time of World War II.

The mention of such people and the East Station only touches the surface of *Park Hill Promise*. In researching the book, renowned Denver historian Phil Goodstein used the archives of the Telecommunications History Group. He includes a photo of the East Station from our records. In describing this neighborhood, the book probes the city of Denver as a whole as well as its communications history.

Museum Celebrates 72 Years

The museum in the 931 14th Street building in Denver has been around now for 72 years. Originally, it was open only to employees. For the past 20 years, THG has been able to offer public tours on an appointment basis. This story, from the May 1940 edition of the Mountain States Monitor, describes its beginning.



A view of the display cases constituting our Historical Museum in the headquarters building at Denver.

The Telephone Historical Museum in our headquarters building at Denver is open. The exhibits, gathered through the cooperation of our people all over the territory, have been placed in cases specially made for the purpose to display these interesting relics of telephony to best advantage.

The committee in charge of this work is W.G. Rubel and Hubert Sharp of the Engineering department – equipment; and John C. Fleming, Advertising department – documents and photographs. The Plant departments in Utah, Wyoming, Arizona and Colorado also have furnished material.

In addition, there are many pictures and interesting documents waiting to be catalogued and displayed and given proper attention in the Museum.

Telephone History and Conjecture

by Herb Hackenburg

Author's note: This is an article about a United States president's attempt to transgress the Constitution and national and state laws; and an unlikely hero who refused to allow it to be implemented on his watch. The intent of the article is to inform the reader of a unique piece of telephone history. It is not a political statement.

The genesis of this article is a book review I read recently in the *Kansas City Star*. The book was *Enemies: A History of the FBI*, by Tim Weiner. According to the reviewer, Brian Fishman, the book is unfair to the FBI because it emphasizes valid imparities, but nearly ignores the FBI's significant crime-fighting success.

Weiner did give "props" to the FBI for how it initially handled *Stellar Wind*. FBI director Robert Mueller refused to reauthorize the pervasive surveillance program despite enormous pressure from the George W. Bush White House. Attorney General John Ashcroft, a Republican, had determined that *Stellar Wind* was both illegal and unconstitutional.

This is where telephone history comes in. *Stellar Wind* was the code name for a massive surveillance program designed and implemented soon after the 9/11/01 attack. The National Security Agency (NSA) was authorized to monitor all telephone, internet and transactional (e.g. credit card) communications. In other words, this was a "warrantless wiretap" on nearly all of the nation's communications networks and everyone who used them. The idea was to find terrorists inside and outside of the U.S., and stop attacks before they could be implemented. The program did have a safety valve in that it had to be reauthorized every 45 days by a special commission.

With one notable exception, the nation's big telephone companies authorized secure rooms in their major switching centers where NSA agents monitored the traffic. The powerful NSA computers' special software helped the agents by keying on certain names (near-eastern, those on the White House enemies list, community activists, journalists), certain addresses (mosques) and certain words (bomb, detonator) that were part of the call, e-mail or transaction.

One of the designers of *Stellar Wind* was David Addington, Chief Counsel for Vice President Dick Cheney. Unnamed Washington insiders have said Addington and Cheney believed in the unitary executive branch of federal government, meaning that the executive branch is just a little more powerful than the legislative and judicial branches – despite what the Constitution says. The unitary executive branch concept has not been refuted.

Anyway, *Stellar Wind* was put into operation in an amazingly short time as far as government bureaucracy goes. Across the nation, NSA agents attended to their wiretaps in the secure rooms of the nation's telephone companies, spying upon millions of conversations and transactions of the American public with their computer-aided data mining. The mined data accumulated at the rate of a complete *Encyclopedia Britannica* every four seconds, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And every 45 days, *Stellar Wind* was recertified.

It was March 2004 and it was recertification day, a job that President Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft had quietly done at least 20 times. It was also March

2004 that the Justice Department Office of Legal Counsel determined that *Stellar Wind* was illegal and unconstitutional.

In the same month, John Ashcroft suffered an attack of acute pancreatitis. He was taken to George Washington University Hospital. The barely-conscious Ashcroft was in his room with his wife when White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales came into the room and begged Ashcroft to sign the *Stellar Wind* renewal. Ashcroft had just been informed that the program was illegal and he would not sign it.

White House staffers tried to get FBI Director Mueller to sign. He also refused. So the President reauthorized *Stellar Wind* on his own, calling the program “. . . the crown jewels of national security.”

This was an equal opportunity illegal program. John Conyers, ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, took no action when he was informed that *Stellar Wind* was illegal. A young Democratic Senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, worked to provide immunity from prosecution for the cooperative telecommunications companies.

There was one major U.S. telecom company that did not need immunity, because it never allowed the illegal wiretaps to be installed. It was Qwest. When NSA agents asked Qwest for access to all its networks, CEO Joe Nacchio said no. In effect, he said bring us a lawful wiretap warrant and we'll help you in every way we can. No warrant, no wiretap.

If you believe in privacy of communications as much as I do, then you will understand why I call Nacchio's stand heroic. (I *do not*, however, condone the actions that earned him a stretch in prison.)

Now for a bit of conjecture:

Some time ago, Newsweek did a story on the White House enemies list that was a product of *Stellar Wind*. New York Governor Eliot Spitzer was on the list. He was just getting ready to bust some heads on Wall Street for assorted transgressions when he was attacked in the newspapers for his heavy use of a credit card at one of New York City's posh escort services. He resigned from office in disgrace.

Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich was on the enemies list and he recently entered a federal prison in Colorado with a 12-year sentence. It's likely that Joe Nacchio was on the list for being uncooperative. He is also in federal prison. Interesting. . .



Another year is nearing its end. We at THG are thankful for a busy, productive and prosperous 2012. And we want to thank all of our loyal, long-time members, and to welcome all the newcomers. Perhaps you will make a resolution to come visit us in 2013. We hope you have warm and peaceful holidays and a wonderful New Year!

