



Dial Log



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Jody Georgeson, editor

A Note From Our Director

As another year comes to a close, I always like to take time to reflect on what's happened at the Telecommunications History Group over the year.

We continue to listen to the needs of our members and opened our museum in Seattle, The Herbert H. Warrick, Jr. Museum of Communications, for your enjoyment on Sundays from 10a.m. to 3p.m. We would love to have you stop by and see the historic working telephone equipment. We had a sold-out Doors Open Denver event this Spring, so be sure to get your tickets early for the event next year. We continue to partner with organizations like our friends at National History Day Colorado and the Lakewood Heritage Center.

On a more somber note, we lost a great telecommunications leader and a strong supporter of THG with the passing of Jack MacAllister. He will truly be missed.

2016 is sure to be a pivotal year as we roll out our new 3-year strategic plan. Please consider joining us as a volunteer in fulfilling our mission of acquiring, preserving, and promoting our heritage. Call us at 303-296-1221 and we will be happy to put you to work.

Thanks to those who have renewed your memberships. The numbers are still rolling in for this year and it is because of your support that we are able to continue our efforts. If you haven't sent your renewal, there's still time – you don't want to miss a single issue of *The Dial-Log*.

Enjoy this Holiday Season with friends, family and loved ones. From all of us at THG, Happy Holidays! See you in 2016.

Warm regards,

Lisa Berquist

The Telegraph Changed life in Glenwood Springs

The following is excerpted from an article by Willa Kane of the Frontier Historical Society that appeared in the Glenwood Springs, Colorado Post Independent, August 4, 2015.

Samuel F.B. Morse's telegraph was a simple invention but essential to communication and commerce in every community. Although Glenwood Springs had grown from its tent town origins in 1883 to a thriving community of substantial structures in 1886, it had no telegraph system linking it to the outside world. Fortunately, the vision and drive of Aspen businessmen Henry Gillespie, C.H. Jacobs and W.W. Cooley would bring Morse's technology to Glenwood Springs.

Clamor for a telegraph line connecting Aspen and Glenwood Springs came in October 1885. With the town's incorporation and the establishment of its first city government, Glenwood Springs was poised to become an economic power in the Roaring Fork Valley.

"A telegraph line connecting Aspen with Glenwood Springs would no doubt prove a paying investment," wrote the Rocky Mountain Sun newspaper. The Aspen Daily Times concurred. Gillespie, Jacobs and Cooley filed for incorporation of the Aspen and Glenwood Telegraph and Telephone Co. in January 1886 and immediately began plans for construction.



By February 1886 subcontractors started digging the holes for the telegraph poles. In March the pole-setting crew began the installation of the 1,100 poles, roughly 26 per mile. They were followed by crews stringing wires. By April 1886 it was announced the line was complete and operational. . . .

While the advancement in communication undoubtedly improved life within Glenwood Springs, the proliferation of telegraph and electric poles standing in the gutters of the town created a new set of problems. The Glenwood Springs City Council, in answer to the unregulated setting of poles, approved an ordinance to enforce the orderly . . . erection of telegraph and electric poles, and to declare those already set in the gutters a nuisance.

Telegraph service quickly became part of everyday life, and a disruption in service was a disruption in business activity. In June 1887, Judge Thomas Rucker of the District Court ordered an injunction against the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, which was building the track grade for its railroad from Glenwood Springs to Aspen. Reportedly, the track graders were dismantling the telegraph line . . . whenever the line was in their grade path. This left both towns without a connected service.

David Moffat, financier and a member of the board of directors for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, purchased the profitable Aspen and Glenwood Telegraph and Telephone Co. in July 1887 [*and apparently*] sold the line to the global telegraph giant

Western Union . . . in 1888 the Ute Chief newspaper reported the Glenwood Springs office netted over \$300 for the month of November.

The Western Union Telegraph office provided employment opportunities within Glenwood Springs. The pay was not high, but the jobs were reliable and steady. Most working in the Glenwood Springs office . . . were young unmarried women, who earned the highest public esteem for their proficiency and professionalism. Operators Miss W.C. Vaughn, Kate Ewing, Clara Bacon and Pearl Lord and messenger boys Harold Cross, Karl Rosenberg and George Bell had an obligation to keep the trust and privacy of those they served since they handled sensitive business, personal and financial matters within the community.

The telegraph . . . connected businesses, transferred money and made economic expansion possible. The transmissions of the telegraph kept the community informed of local, state, national and world events. It helped fight crime and assisted in the quick apprehension of criminals.

With the telegraph, the future arrived in Glenwood Springs.

Willa Kane is the former archivist of and a current volunteer with the Frontier Historical Society and Museum. The museum is at 1001 Colorado Ave., Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Summer hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For more information call 970-945-4448.

Frederick L. Kahn



We recently received the working papers of Frederick L. Kahn, sent to us by his family. This fascinating collection consists of technical journals, notes, correspondence and addresses given by Mr. Kahn during his long career in the telephone industry. We are fortunate that the family sought us out, since we have very little in our collection from Automatic Electric. Equally important is the documentation of systems in other countries.

Mr. Kahn received his education and early experience in Germany, where he attended the Institute of Technology in Berlin. He began working for the Automatic Electric Company in 1923 and became well-known throughout the telephone industry. His many assignments gave him a broad knowledge of traffic engineering, cost studies, and system analysis and design. In 1958, he became the Director of the Telephone Switching Systems Development Department of the Automatic Electric Laboratories.

After his retirement, he assisted in the design of systems in Israel and Argentina. In 1960 he received the Talbot G. Martin Award in recognition of outstanding contribution to the art and science of communication.

High-heeled sneaker

By Ruth Amos, Lebanon, Missouri

This article originally appeared in The October/November issue of "Country," and is reproduced with their permission.



A head full of curls and her favorite pair of red going-to-town high heels still left Aunt Berta a hair short of 5 feet tall, but to the five dozen or so residents of our Ozark town, she was as big a character as they came. Even as she aged, with her flaming hair fading and her beloved red heels forsaken for frumpy black oxfords, her raucous laugh, quick wit and gift of gab kept her a fixture of the community.

When her husband died, folks worried about her living alone in the boondocks. Aunt Berta just laughed and said she was never alone with her old crank telephone and the party line. When your phone rang, everyone's phones rang, and a combination of long short rings identified the party being

called. But none of that mattered to Aunt Berta. When she heard the phone, she'd pick up, listen and join in. Nobody minded; it was just how she kept in touch.

Then, in the summer of 1959, the phone company put in dial telephones. People still shared party lines, but now only one phone rang when a call came through. Aunt Berta was devastated. She could still eavesdrop, technically, but she'd never know when to do it.

Almost overnight, Aunt Berta changed. Without the constant contact the old crank phone provided, she felt isolated. We all called her often and told her to call us anytime, but she just replied sadly that she knew we meant well, but it wasn't the same as being part of the community.

Well, a few weeks went by, and suddenly Aunt Berta was back to her chipper old self. No one could figure it out for days, and then we caught her picking up on our phone calls again. Somehow, even though her phone didn't ring, she knew just when a call was coming through. After many mysterious looks and smug smiles, Aunt Berta finally confessed her secret.

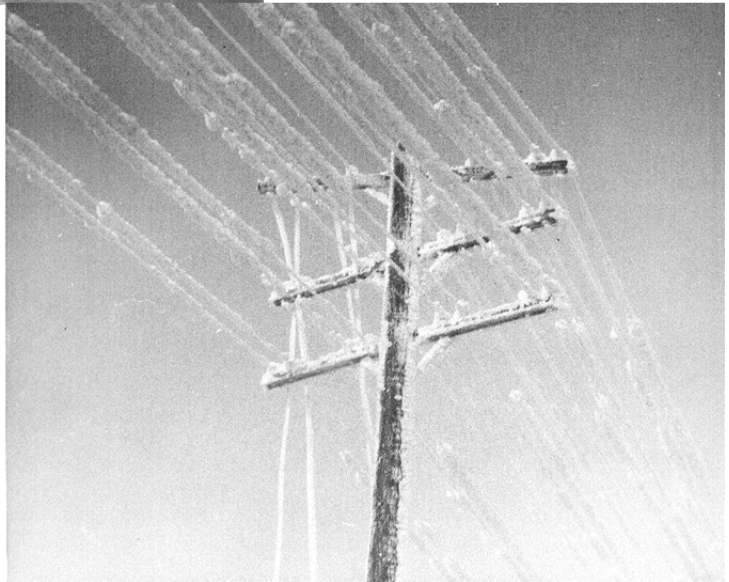
It seems that one day, just as she reached for the phone, the receiver vibrated. She picked it up and heard her neighbor say hello. Bingo!

So she fetched one of her old favorite red heels. With the toe balanced on the receiver and the heel teetering on the edge of the counter, the vibration from an incoming call would send the shoe clattering to the floor. Better yet, she could hear it from any room in the house.

So once again, Aunt Berta and her red shoes were the talk of the town, and everyone had a good laugh to boot.

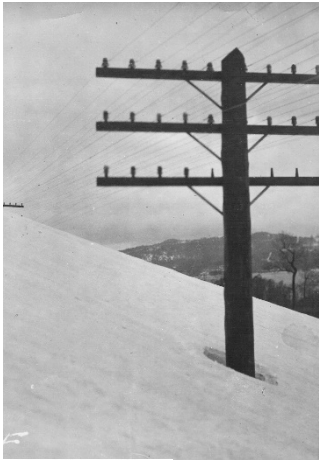


SNOW





& ICE



What was Happening . . .

in 1890, 125 years ago?

- New York City's first coin telephones were put into use at Barclay Street Ferryhouse.
- Congress passed the Sherman Act which prohibited contracts, combinations and conspiracies in restraint of trade, and outlawed monopolies or conspiracies to monopolize.

in 1915, 100 years ago?

- The first transatlantic radiotelephone transmission took place through the transmitting station at Arlington, Virginia to the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- The Western Electric Company was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. (Western Electric became the manufacturing arm of the Bell System.)

in 1940, 75 years ago?

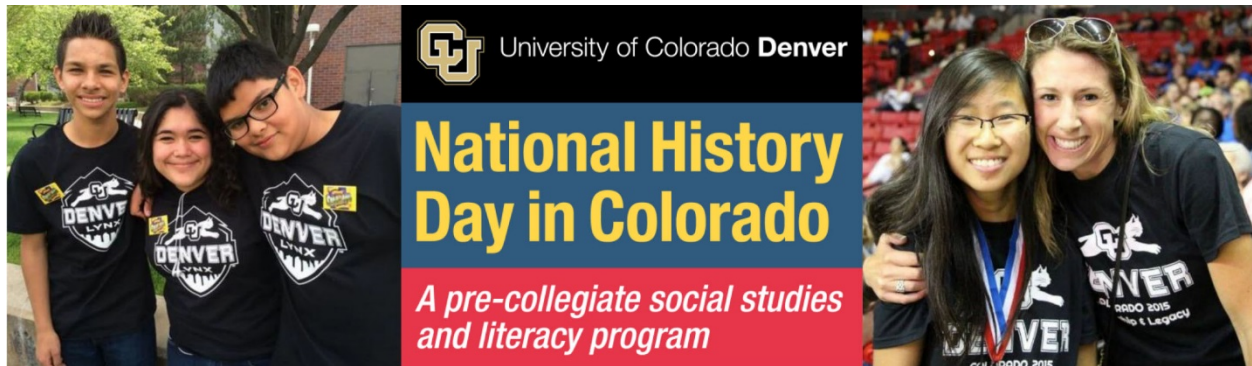
- War games in the Gulf states tested the availability of telephone services for anti-aircraft defense and other military communications.
- The Republican National Convention was transmitted over coaxial cable from Philadelphia to New York for local television broadcasts.
- The first remote operation of a computer over a long distance circuit took place from a teletypewriter at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, to a computer at Bell Labs in New York City.

in 1965, 50 years ago?

- The New York State law authorizing electronic eavesdropping (wiretapping) was declared unconstitutional by Justice Nathan R. Sobel in Supreme Court in Brooklyn, NY.
- The first commercial communications satellite, Early Bird, was launched into orbit from Cape Kennedy. Commercial service via satellite began between the U.S. and Europe.
- A product trial of AT&T's Picturephone service began in the New York and Chicago headquarters of the Union Carbide Corp.
- For the first time, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Paul VI, visited the U.S. Circuit and channel requirements far exceeded those needed for any other major news story, including the funeral of John F. Kennedy, the Democratic and Republican conventions, and the Gemini space launches.

in 1990, 25 years ago?

- MCI declared the first stock dividend, at a semi-annual rate of 5 cents.
- The last hand-cranked party-line manual telephone system in the U.S., serving 18 residents of Salmon Creek Canyon, Idaho, was removed from service.
- President George Bush signed the Telephone Operator Consumer Services Act of 1990, designed to protect consumers from abuses and regulate alternative operator services.
- New York Telephone retired the last No. 1 crossbar switch in service in the United States.



More than just a day, this is a year-long program an academic program at the University of Colorado Denver benefitting Colorado middle and high school students. Each year, 15,000 Colorado students participate in National History Day in Colorado, with the winners going on to the National History Day contest in Washington, D.C.

The Elementary Poster Contest is the newest addition to the National History Day in Colorado program. The Poster Contest is a scaled-down version of the History Day exhibit category, and is specifically designed to prepare students in the upper grades of elementary school to complete History Day projects in middle and high school. The contest is open to 4th and 5th graders, and must be done on a Colorado History topic that relates to the following year's theme.

National History Day challenges students and teachers nationwide to ask amazing questions and uncover life-changing answers by engaging in historical research, interpretation and creative expression. It teaches 21st century skills, civic engagement, critical thinking, writing and research skills; prepares students for college, career and citizenship; and inspires students to do more than they ever thought possible. This year's theme is *Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History*.

THG is a proud partner of with National History Day in Colorado. We grant a special award to the best project on a communications subject, volunteer as judges, and offer to assist students with their research.

Please support National History Day by encouraging schools in your area to get involved and/or by getting involved yourself as a volunteer.

National History Day in Colorado's web site is

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Centers/ColoradoHistoryDay/Page/ColoradoHistoryDay.aspx>

To find out about activities in other states, check out the national site at <http://nhd.org/>



***Happy Holidays to you and your families
from all of us at
Telecommunications History Group!***



THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS HISTORY GROUP, INC