

20th Birthday of Cable Giving Wings to Video



The recent 20th anniversary of the invention of the coaxial cable system found the two Bell Telephone Laboratories engineers who invented it comparing their first experimental model with the newest type of the cable which today transmits television programs as well as telephone messages.

Lloyd Espenschied (left) holds a section of the early, experimental cable, installed in 1929. His colleague, Herman A. Affel, holds a section of the modern, eight-tube cable now being installed in the Bell System's expanding coaxial cable network.

By the end of 1950, approximately 12,000 miles of coaxial cable are expected to be installed, furnishing heavy-capacity communication pipelines between virtually all the large cities in the East, Middle West and Pacific Coast.

Today's cable can carry 400 simultaneous telephone conversations or two video programs on each pair of the eight tubes. Recent advances at the Laboratories are expected to at least double, and possibly triple this capacity.

Mobile Voiceways Aid In Mammoth Copper Mine

The world's largest open-cut copper mine, in Bingham Canyon near Salt Lake City, is using the mobile telephone in operating its electric ore-carrying and maintenance trains.

This system, installed recently by the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, consists of four land stations and mobile equipment in six electric locomotives, two rail "speeders" and in the mine superintendent's automobile. The service is expected to speed up repair and maintenance work in the mine, which has 140 miles of tracks running along 43 different levels.

She's Operator, Mayor Too

The first woman mayor of Teterboro, N. J., recently appointed by the community's borough council, is Mrs. Vera Martucci, 36, a supervising operator at the Hasbrouck Heights telephone exchange. She plans to stick to her job with the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company and devote her spare time to duties of being mayor of the community of 40 residents.

TOP SERVICE MARK HELD BY ALBANY PHONE WORKER

James H. Thompson of Albany, N. Y., recently captured the top long service spot among the 73,000 employees of the New York Telephone Company. A bookkeeper in the auditor of disbursements office for the Upstate area of the company there, Jim recently began his 51st year of employment.

"We did it the hard way then," Jim reflects concerning bookkeeping in 1899, when he started as a messenger with the Hudson River Telephone Company. It was the era of steel pens, eye shades, high stools and long working hours. He recalls that bills were then written in long hand.

Another telephone employee who completed almost 51 years of service was Edward F. Murphy of Flushing, L. I., who retired on April 30. Eddie served the New York company in its Manhattan area since 1898. Then it had only 1,000 employees and some 16,000 telephones, compared with the present total of 4,600,000.

Eddie's family has to date contributed 165 years of service in the company. His late father had 37 years of service, which his brother is now matching. Two of his sisters and his two daughters have also been employees.

The two cities with the greatest number of telephones in the world, are New York and Chicago with 2,768,600 and 1,460,400 telephones, respectively, at the beginning of this year. The two cities have more telephones than France, Italy and Spain combined.

At the beginning of this year, there was an estimated total of 25,000,000 telephone subscribers in the United States. The nation's estimated total of telephones was 38,200,000.

Nearly 94 per cent of all Bell System toll and long distance calls are now put through by the operator while the calling person holds the line. This is a new high record.

The Bell System has increased the number of its telephones nearly 50 per cent since V-J Day, compared with 25 per cent elsewhere in the world.

'GOOD NEIGHBORS'

Are the 153 Telephone Companies in N. Y. Statewide Service

Life is happiest when neighbors swap courtesies and cooperate in services. That applies not only to people individually but to organizations such as those providing telephone service in New York State, in the opinion of Edward V. Moran, general agent of the New York Telephone Company's Upstate area, at Albany.

In his capacity Mr. Moran heads a group whose full-time job is getting along with neighbors—the 152 other telephone companies in the State with which his company connects in rendering Statewide service.

Some of these telephone neighbors are big, others small. The New York Telephone Company operates more than 4,600,000 telephones. The Rochester Telephone Corporation, the nation's biggest independent company, serves about 170,000 telephones, and the Upstate Telephone Corporation of New York operates more than 33,000 telephones in large areas of seven counties in the Adirondack region. The smallest of the New York companies is the Cameron Mutual Telephone Company, which serves only four telephones.

Neighborhoodness between the companies finds its most frequent expression in everyday things like ironing out wrinkles in operating procedure, states Mr. Moran. More spectacular, however, was the expression when fire destroyed the central office of the Cape Vincent Telephone Company. Then the Lewis & Hall Telephone Company of Manlius supplied a needed switchboard and crews of the New York Telephone Company pitched in, helping to install the board, so Cape Vincent's service was restored in 48 hours.

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada installed its 1,500,000th telephone recently, marking the addition of half a million telephones in four years.

New Congo Radio Service Brings Jazz to Jungles

A new radio service to natives in the Belgian Congo, which has been inaugurated in six local districts under the direction of native announcers and technicians, is displacing the old system of tom-toms as a means of communication in the jungle. The National Geographic Society, announcing this new step forward, also hinted that the throb of distant drums in the Congo will probably be accompanied now by trumpets and saxophones of modern orchestras.

Drum communication has a language of its own, with each blow representing a spoken syllable. The drum itself, hollowed from a hardwood tree, is limited to two tones—the result of cutting the wood thicker on one side than on the other. But these tones, produced by good drummers, can "spell out" surprisingly complex messages.

During its first year of operation, the mobile radiotelephone on the New York Central Railroad's crack passenger train, the "Twentieth Century Limited," handled 5,288 calls.

Tangier 'On the Line'

The international city of Tangier, overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar in North Africa, is the latest addition of cities of the world that can be reached by Bell System radiotelephone from the United States. Calls between the Moroccan seaport and this country are routed via Madrid, Spain, and New York City.

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NEW CENTER IN NETWORK FOR LONG DISTANCE CALLS

A major addition to the nation's network for expediting long distance telephone calls by operator toll dialing was placed in service with the recent opening of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company's new long distance center in Boston.

This sixth major control point in the network, together with the other New England communities tied into it through Boston, brings to about 600 the number of cities and towns in the United States to which long distance calls can be dialed by the operator. All told, approximately 30 per cent of the Bell System's long distance calls are now handled in this manner.

Conservation Department Mastic Fire Plan Includes Modern Radio Equipment

Under a state conservation department master fire plan, Adirondack area rangers soon will guard against forest fire outbreak with mobile and hand radio transmitters.

Bids on 77 pieces of equipment, including walkie-talkies, small transmitters and mobile transmitters will be opened Thursday by the conservation department's Division of Standards and Purchases.

Included in the lists are 23 six-pound battery-operated, portable pack type AM two-way radios; 22 battery-operated AM two-way 50 pound radios for use in fire towers; 26 two-channel transmitters and receivers for truck duty and five larger receivers and transmitters for use in district stations.

The radio controlled fire fighters will be directed from a department airplane or a fire tower.

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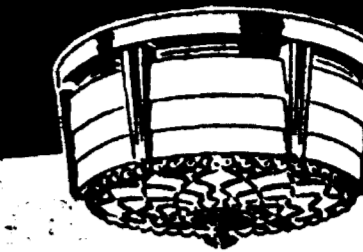
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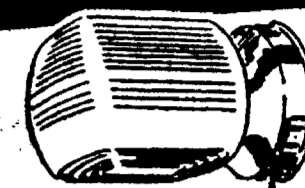


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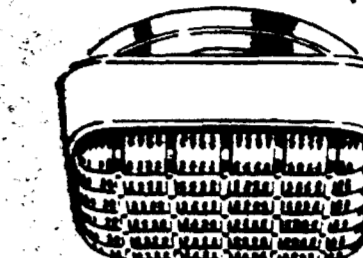
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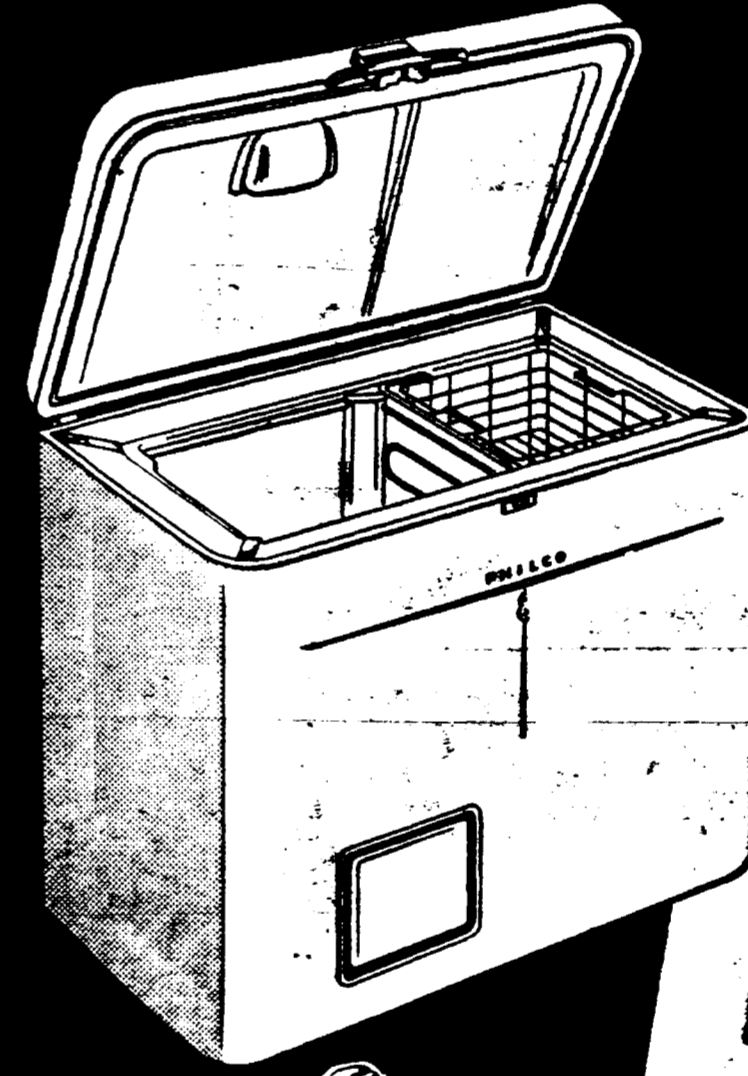
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