

Residents of New Jersey City Able to Telephone Across Continent Just by Dialing

By FRANCES LEWINE
ENGLEWOOD, N.J. — It's routine here to telephone across the country just by dialing, in about 20 seconds.

Bell Telephone Co. customers in Englewood pioneered in 1931 a new 3-D — direct distance dialing — that now is possible in 101 communities across the nation.

Some 300,000 people in these areas in nine states can just flick the dial and be connected over distances as far as 3,000 miles away.

Thirty-five cities in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri and California will be added to the network in the next six months.

Some day, the telephone company hopes, all telephoning will be automatic, with the operator there only for trouble calls or special services.

Peak Automation
It's automation at the peak, with the most amazing electronic brain equipment doing all the functions of the telephone operators, plus making out the toll charges. The nation is divided into zones, each with a three-digit code, like 3-0-3 for Washington, D.C. The zone code is dialed and then the regular number.

The breath-taking expansion of modern times brought 32 million telephones into use in United States by 1936.

Human operators alone can no longer hope to cope with the more than 200 million calls that go humming over the wires every day.

Mechanization was the answer. Actually, dialing isn't as new as 20th century users may think. It was perfected within 13 years after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876.

The idea of dialing numbers, an electrical system of calling, came from Almon B. Strowger, who worked it out in 1889.

The first customers to get a crack at dialing were residents of La Porte, Ind., where the first telephone dial system was installed as long ago as 1892.

Today, nearly 87 per cent of Bell telephones are dial operated — a total of 46,200,000.

Usually Limited
But the dialing is usually limited to calls within a short range, probably 75 miles at the most.

A great upsurge of development following World War II got direct

distance dialing going in a big way.

By 1949, operators were able to dial transcontinental calls through the joining of East and West coast toll dialing networks.

The next step was to get the customers to do their own direct dialing over longer and longer distances.

A big stumbling block was how to get the toll charges on such calls, if the operator is eliminated.

The key was supplied by W. W. Carpenter, a prolific Bell labora-

tories inventor who now is retired and lives in Los Angeles, Calif. He took the problem home with him and, in his own basement workshop, perfected what is known as "automatic message accounting."

While you dial and as you talk vital data, a hole in your call is punched onto a roll of paper tape that looks like the rolls fed to the old player pianos.

Later, it goes through a machine that translates the punch-holes into toll charge bills.

May Sound Easy

It may sound easy, but the equipment involved in one typical dial center in Newark, N.J., takes up three stories with floor-to-ceiling apparatus that would fill 30 freight cars.

The guinea pigs of the direct distance dialing were 10,000 residents of Englewood, N.J., who were plunged suddenly into this science-fiction operation in the winter of 1931.

New Jersey Bell officials told them they now could dial across the

country with just 10 turns of their telephone dial.

Mayor M. Leslie Denning made the first official call to Mayor Frank P. Osborn of Alameda, Calif. It took 18 seconds to complete.

This suburban community was selected for the tryouts because its central office already had the latest type of dial equipment, the telephone company explained.

"The success of the Englewood trial," the company said, "made it possible to extend these advantages to other customers."

First to Originate

Last month San Diego became the country's first metropolitan area to originate calls. Users of 240,000 phones in the San Diego area are now able to dial from coast to coast and ring 20 million phones—about 35 per cent of the country's total—located in many sections of the United States.

Only Englewood and the other test areas are able to return the direct dial calls in the same manner.

The most distant point that a

dial call from San Diego will reach

is Boston. The San Diego caller will dial 112 to get onto the direct distance system, then the Boston code number 617, then the number of the party he is calling.

By the end of this year, two million customers at 100 locations will have direct distance dialing.

It usually starts with a change of telephone numbers. Instead of your old hometown exchange like Bloomfield, N.J., first thing you know your number is Pilgrim.

Then the phone company sends

along its brochures, explaining the whole setup and offering to let you "go to school" with its own instructors and make test dial calls.

A recent spot check indicated, though, that many users still prefer person-to-person calls because it saves tolls. If your party isn't at home. That requires an operator.

Need Operator

And, if you don't know the number of a faraway acquaintance, you'll need an operator to help you get it.

There are some technical quirks, too. Mrs. James G. Carmody of Girard, O., kept getting phone calls intended for the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. her number is Liberty 5-6700, the same as the Pentagon.

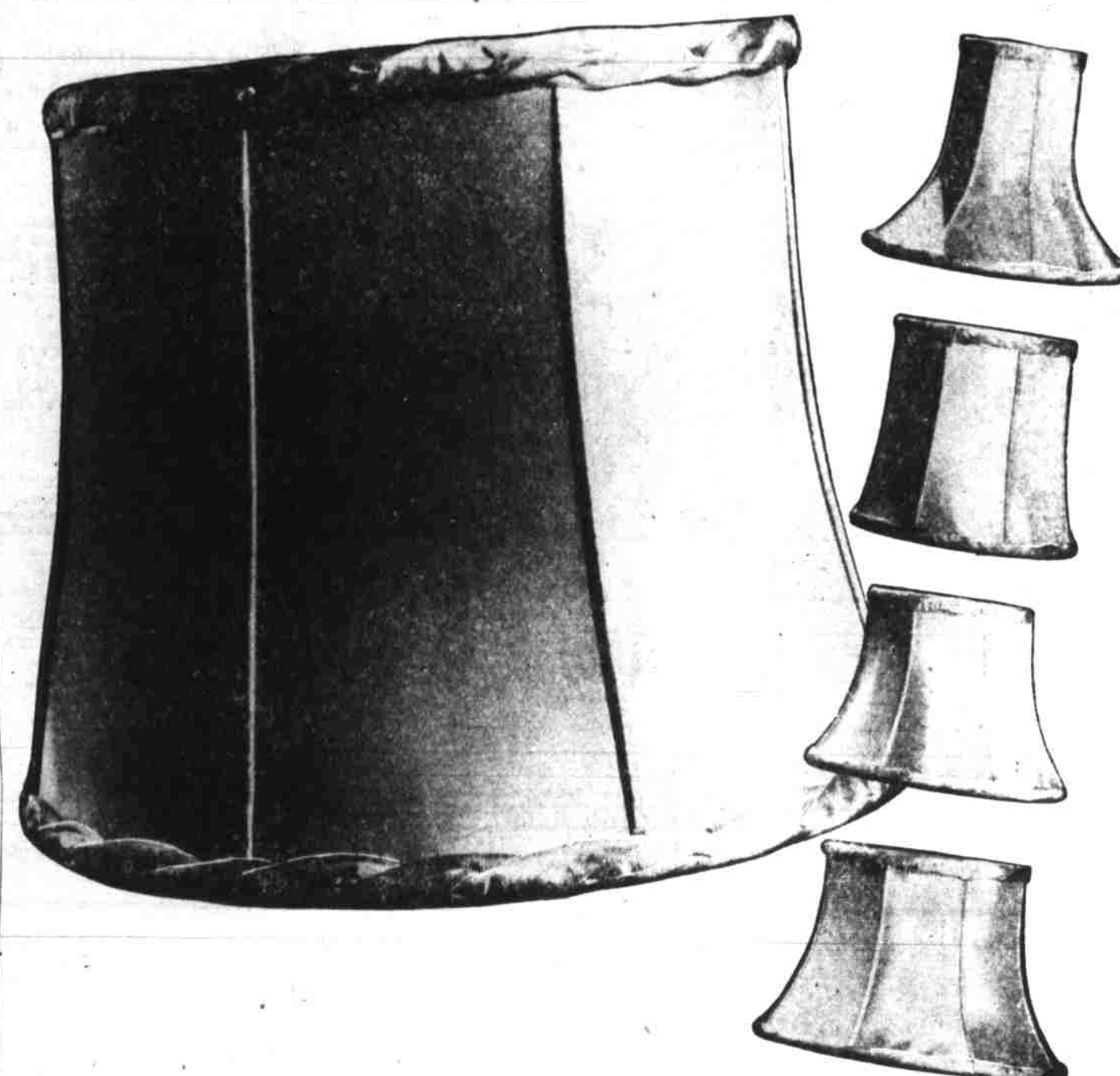
The calls apparently got mixed up when someone dialed the wrong "area code."

When the switchover caught up with a Bloomfield woman on a party line, she wanted to know if the same parties would be on her line as before. "They were pretty nice," she ventured.

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Court Martial Date Delayed For Sergeant

WASHINGTON — The court martial of Marine Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon has been postponed for two months to give his civilian lawyer "every opportunity to prepare his defense."

McKeon, of Worcester, Mass., is charged with manslaughter in the drowning last April 8 of six Marine recruits during a night disciplinary march he ordered. The court is to sit at Parris Island, S.C., the Marine training camp where the drownings happened.

The Navy, which announced Friday the postponement from May 14 to July 14, said it was acting at the request of Emile Zola Burman, McKeon's civilian lawyer from New York. Burman said prior commitments would not give him enough time to get his case ready by May 14.

Although McKeon has been assigned service lawyers, he is entitled under the military code of justice to a civilian attorney as well.

Korea Views First Video

SEOUL — Television made its debut in South Korea Saturday night.

Hundreds of viewers watched on 22 sets placed on street corners, at newspaper buildings and on school playground in Seoul. Station HUKZ, operated by Korean RCA Distributors (KORCAD), went on the air at 7:30 p.m. With a two-hour show of Korean classical court music, popular songs and folk dances and a Korean War documentary film.

The show was part of a three day test. KORCAD officials said they hope to start a regular commercial television program in the near future and plan to sell sets to the public as soon as regular programs begin. Range of the 300-watt station is four to five miles.

Twinkling Stars Boosts Weddings

NEW DELHI — Advice of the astrologer some times overpowers fear of the law against child marriage.

The stars twinkled so auspiciously last week on marital prospects that nearly 20,000 marriages were reported in the Jodhpur area in a single day.

Reports said one of every three marriages involved children between ages 4 and 16 although such marriages are illegal now.

Iraq Air Force Takes Up Guard

BAGHDAD — The royal Iraqi air force recently took over from the last departed British RAF to man the British bases under the new Baghdad defense alliance.

The defense ministry announced this weekend that the Iraqis now stand ready on short notice to defend the skies of Iraq and Arab states. The Iraqi air force celebrates its 25th anniversary May 14.

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