

First Telephone Was Used in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell

Editor's note: On July 15 Medford telephones will be equipped for direct distance dialing. This is the first of four articles on the conquest of the human voice over distance.

It took three minutes. And it might take an hour or more for the operator to put the call through. Improvements came steadily. The price of calls was slashed. Calls went through faster and voices became clearer. In a few years, long distance calling changed from an innovation to a commonplace part of business and social life.

But as the nation grew, the number of long distance calls grew at an even faster pace. Telephone engineers looked ahead and saw trouble. Not enough buildings for the long distance switchboards; and eventually more operators needed than there were women available for jobs. The only answer to the dilemma was for telephone customers to dial their own long distance calls - direct distance dialing - the service that will be introduced here July 15.

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BEDECKED WITH FLAGS—Last pole on the first transcontinental telephone line near Wendover, Utah, was bedecked with flags and signs for the meeting of wires linking the East and West in 1914.

Alexander Graham Bell's first crude telephone of 1876 was barely capable of transmitting a voice between two rooms in the same house.

But the same year the inventor, with the aid of improved instruments, was able to make history's first long distance call - talking via wires borrowed from a telegraph company for the experiment - all of 16 miles from Salem to Boston, Mass.

By 1884 regular long distance service was available between New York and Boston.

The network of telephone lines began to spread swiftly. The first line to cross the Oregon border into another state was the Pendleton-Walla Walla line built in 1889. This preceded the New York-Chicago link in 1892.

The year 1895 was when long distance service out of the Rogue river valley was inaugurated. A line was built from Grants Pass to Crescent City, the first phone line to cross the Siskiyou's Exchange phone service didn't follow until 1898, when local companies started in Ashland, Medford and Grants Pass.

That same year, 1898, the "world's longest" long distance line ran through the valley, en route from Spokane Falls (now Spokane), Wash., to San Diego, Calif.

If that long distance line was anything like those elsewhere, calling over it meant shouting to make yourself heard and straining for the voice at the distant end.

Answer Comes The answer to better long distance soon came from scientists like Leo DeForest, inventor of the vacuum tube. This and other developments led to ways of boosting along the weakening electrical impulses at repeater points.

For the first time transcontinental calling became a possibility, and in 1913 and 1914 lines were built from the East and West, meeting at Wendover, Utah.

The historic first coast-to-coast long distance call was made by Alexander Graham Bell in New York, talking to Thomas Watson, the laboratory assistant who had heard the first words over a telephone in 1876, in San Francisco.

Long distance was taking its first great strides, but it still had a long way to go. For example, the cost was high. The charge for a call from Medford to New York was

House Adjourns for Election, Ball Game

Washington—(AP)—In deference to the Virginia primary election and-or the major league all-star game, the House agreed to take the day off today. Otherwise, the eight Democratic lawmakers from Virginia who wanted to be in their home districts, and the scores of non-Virginia members who wanted to be at the local stadium, would likely have been subjected to a series of quorum calls that could have disrupted their plans. In asking unanimous consent Monday to adjourn the House until Wednesday, assistant Democratic leader Carl Albert, of Oklahoma, did not say what prompted the leadership decision to abandon work plans for today.

Hatfield, New York Governor Spotlight Civil Rights Issue

By YVONNE FRANKLIN
Mail Tribune
Washington Bureau
Washington (Special)—If it was the purpose of governors Nelson Rockefeller and Mark Hatfield during the recent Governors' Conference to spotlight the acute embarrassment of the Democrats over civil rights, they succeeded.



Franklin

group of states... prejudice and discrimination exist in every state."

He spoke of the need in Oregon in the past which brought about a fair employment practices law, and legislation covering transportation, housing, public accommodations, and "blazing a trail that relates to migrant labor."

"I do not believe legislation is the end," he continued. "It is the means to an end. Legislation and executive actions provide a tutor to help lead and direct public attitudes or opinion."

Hatfield and Rockefeller lost, for lame-duck Gov. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina began a filibuster which successfully prevented a vote on their amendment. At one stage during the afternoon, Hatfield and Hollings were in a eyeball-to-eyeball debate of the conference floor, with Hollings drawing at Hatfield that "You are ramming this thing down our throats!" and Hatfield forcefully yet quietly reminding Hollings that "I have been on the minority side (on issues) when we (Republicans) have burned. All we ask for is a vote."

Hatfield did not get his vote. Instead Gov. David Lawrence of Pennsylvania, seeking to end the filibuster so they could all leave to hear Bob Hope, proposed a motion that would allow any governor to sign any resolution with which he agreed.

Hatfield told those assembled that he didn't appreciate the parliamentary maneuvering that went on.

"At no time have I felt it proper to engage in parliamentary maneuvers to force a minority position upon the majority or to get out of an impasse. We are capitulating to a minority on civil rights."

He scored the Democrats again in a later interview. "The Democrats once again proved a lack of desire, as in the case of the Federal Congress and the present administration, to pass an adequate, forceful civil rights program. In simple language, they capitulated. They did not have the courage of their convictions."

"We haven't in mind any section of the country to impose the will of one governor or group of governors on a

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Homeowner Asks Burner Changes

An Ashland resident has asked the county court to see that a waste burner is improved at the Paul Workman mill before the mill goes back into operation.

Harry Reed, 171 Wightman st., Ashland, wrote the county court that a burner at the mill had caused air pollution of the area and should be corrected. He said he would back his request by petition of area residents if necessary.

The county court had been asked in June to defer its tax claims against the Paul Workman Lumber company. A group headed by Ashland contractor Thomas J. Parker plans to lease the mill, it was reported. The group would pay Workman per thousand feet of lumber manufactured, and B. K. Herndon and company, Ashland certified public accountants, would serve as trustees for the funds to be paid creditors. The request is awaiting a legal opinion from the district attorney's office.

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