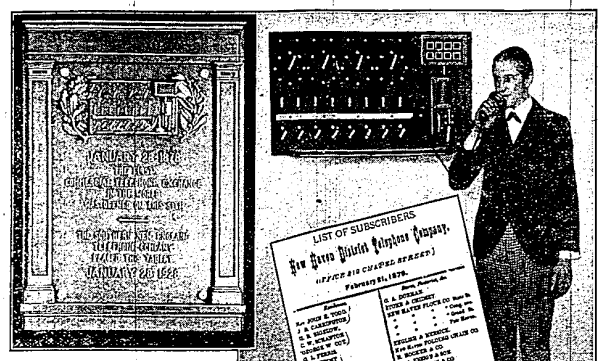
Telephone First Became Public Servant Sixty Years Ago, in New Haven, Conn.



Above: Bronze plaque on the site of the world's first commercial telephone exchange, in New Haven, Conn., placed there 10 years ago by the Southern New England Telephone Company.

The first commercial telephone exchange in the world was opened for service 60 years ago on January 28, 1878, with eight lines and 21 subscribers. Large picture shows a replica of the original switchboard, with a boy operator typical of that period. Inset is part of the first telephone directory.

January 28, 1938, is the sixtieth anniversary of the day on which the telephone entered its career as a public servant, with the opening of the world's first commercial telephone exchange in New Haven, Conn., by George W. Coy.

The telephone had been invented in Boston, Mass., in 1876, by Alexander Graham Bell. Among the first of Professor Bell's public lectures to demonstrate the possibilities of his invention was that at Skiff's Opera House in New Haven on April 27, 1877. It would have been strange if Mr. Coy had not been in the audience; not only was he manager of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraphic Company but he also furnished the wires and batteries for Bell's demonstration.

Coy was deeply impressed with the telephone and with Bell's expressed conviction that it would soon be in general use in homes and business places as a ready means of communication. He made an effort to secure the agency for the device in order to promote it in his home city.

In the meantime, he set to work to devise a way of utilizing the telephone as a means of *intercommunication*. Thoroughly convinced of its possibilities, he had conceived the idea that if many wires with telephones attached to them were brought into one place, some means could be devised of uniting them as needed so that any two of them could be made practically one and thus personal communication established at will among many widely separated people.

Mr. Coy was able to obtain the franchise he desired in September of 1877, and immediately started on his project of a commercial exchange. Applying his knowledge of the telegraph, coupled with a good bit of Yankee ingenuity, to the new invention, he succeeded in devising a switchboard which would accomplished the desired result—*intercommunication*.

By late January, enough subscribers had been obtained to warrant opening the service, and on January 28, 1878, Coy's switchboard was put into operation with eight telephone lines, and with 21 subscribers connected, each at the rate of $18 a year.

At first, service was given only during the day and evening, but after a month it became necessary to keep the board in operation continuously.

Progressing from a purely local service to one that was statewide, Mr. Coy's company eventually became, through several corporate changes in name, the Southern New England Telephone Company, which now serves Connecticut as a member of the nation-wide Bell System.

PILGRIMS BROUGHT FIRST APPLES TO THIS COUNTRY

The story of apples in general goes back so far one cannot readily say where fact finally displaces legend. The first edible apples in North America were brought by the Pilgrims to New England. We can trace apples back from their present stage of development and say with certainty that the first ones in America were so inferior in every respect that they could hardly be called the same fruit. It is known that the Indians liked this fruit which the white men had brought with them and were responsible perhaps to an equal degree with the pioneers, for planting trees far and wide over the interior.

Scenic beauty of Mt. Rainier National Park will be displayed in the State of Washington's exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair of the West at San Francsco.

$500,000 TRUST FUND GIVEN TO STATE COLLEGE

Science is to start steps toward matching up agriculture and industry to mutual advantage through a $500,000 trust endowment announced for the use of Michigan State College.

Income from the half million dollars is made available for research through an endowment from the Horace H. Rackham and Mary A. Rackham Fund. It is the first large private grant the state college has ever received.

Industrial uses for farm produce other than for human food is a brief description of one of the fields which is to be explored.

Administration of the income from the fund has been placed in the hands of a board of trustees. Members are R. S. Shaw, president of the college, V. R. Gardner, director of the experiment station, Hudson McCarroll, head of the chemical and metallurgical laboratory of the Ford Motor company at Dearborn, Michael A. Gorman, editor of the Flint, Mich., Journal, and Dexter Horton of Ann Arbor.

"Tentative plans," President Shaw explains, "call for a study of the development and manufacture out of ordinary waste materials such as straw or cornstalks of a material that can be incorporated with the soil, permanent or semi-permanent in nature to increase soil porosity, give a more spongy texture and increase water absorbing and water holding capacity. Flood, drouth and soil erosion are involved,—the three greatest land problems."

ALAN VILLIERS TO SPEAK ON ARTS SERIES PROGRAM

The thrilling story of the grain races from Australia to England will be told in motion pictures and lecture at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Wodward at Kirby, next Sunday afternoon, February 6, at 3:30 by Alan Villiers, brilliant author and fearless sailor.

Three times has Villiers rounded Cape Horn in a Windjammer. On his first voyage his shipmate was killed and when food ran short and storms battered his ship the second mate went mad. His second and third trips resulted in his winning the famous grain race, the outstanding sailing event of the year. In his lecture and motion picture, "By Way of Cape Horn," Villiers tells the dramatic story of the race. This lecture is the only one Villiers will give in Detroit this season.

Special lectures announced by the World Adventure Series include a series of three Tuesday evening lectures by Burton Holmes: "All Around the British Empire," February 15; "The Beauties of Germany," February 22; and "The Glories of Scandinavia," March 1. These start at 8:30 p. m. On Saturday evening, March 5, at 8:30 at Cass Technical High School auditorium, Mrs. Martin Johnson will appear in person with her motion picture, "Jungles Calling." This lecture contains the highlights of all the Martin Johnson expeditions.

Auditor General Talks With Treasurers

After completing a series of meetings that included interviews with nearly all of the eighty-three county treasurers in the State, Auditor General, George T. Gundry this week stated that he believed the tax sale next May would in most instances cause little confusion.

Gundry pointed out that one difficulty remaining unsolved was the publication of some descriptions as delinquent when payment of taxes had been made. This situation is unavoidable it was explained, and has developed as a result of the law which demands publication of delinquent taxes five weeks prior to the last term of Circuit Court held prior to the tax sale.

As a result the lists in some Counties are published months in advance of the sale and tax payers make payments while the lists are being compiled and published.

Gundry said that published descriptions on which payment has been made would be withheld from sale by the County Treasurers.

RED CROSS STARTS FUND FOR CHINESE WAR SUFFERERS

In response to an appeal which President Roosevelt has made to the American Red Cross, the Oakland County Chapter is preparing to receive and forward to the American National Red Cross funds for the relief of the war sufferers in China. Several Farmington women are aiding this project.

No campaign or canvass will be carried on in connection with this appeal. Contributions are to be entirely voluntary and only cash donations can be accepted.

The contributions in Pontiac will be received at the office of the Oakland County Chapter at 718 Riker Building and by Mr. Leo P. Atkins at the Community National Bank.

The County organization of the American Red Cross will function in this appeal through the directors in various townships with the exception of Royal Oak and Birmingham, who are making plans to handle the situation in their own way. The directors in the various townships are listed below:

Farmington: Mrs. John Schulte, Farmington; Mrs. Joe DeVriendt, Farmington; Mrs. James Martin, Farmington. Novi: Mrs. Warren Rice, Novi. Lyon: Mrs. Bert Tuttle, South Lyon. Southfield: Mrs. Jess McNeal, 27930 Calif., Drive, Birmingham.

NO CHANGE IN SOCIAL SECURITY, REDMAN SAYS

"There is no change in the employe-employer contribution rate for old-age insurance under the social security act," it was said this week by Walter B. Redman, manager of the Pontiac field office of this federal government agency.

"Recently many inquiries have come to our office as to the 1938 contribution rate under the old-age insurance plan," Mr. Redman said. "In some instances in Region V, of which this social security office is a part, it has been reported that employers are now deducting two percent from the wages of their workers, for old-age insurance.

"This is in error, as the contribution rate remains at one percent throughout 1938 and 1939. Both the employe and the employer are required to contribute one percent of wages which are covered by the social security act. The confusion probably is the result of new contribution rates now in effect under state unemployment compensation laws," Mr. Redman added.

"As the social security act now stands, the contributions for old-age insurance increase one-half of one percent, for both employe and employer, every three years. Starting in 1940 the rate will be 1½ percent, but there will be no change until that time as the law now stands," Mr. Redman said.

State Medical Society Starts New Service

The Michigan State Medical Society has created a Placement Service which, according to Dr. Henry Cook of Flint, President of the Society, is a "dual program designed to help any community which may feel the need of a doctor of medicine, and also to assist young physicians about to enter practice, or older doctors, to find locations."

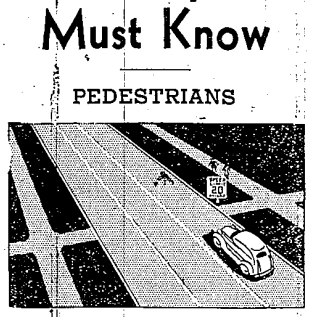
Dr. Cook's statement, published in The Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society which reached 4,200 Michigan physicians on January 17th, continues:

"Service to the people is the foundation of the private practice of medicine. Personal service to the patient typifies the art of America's system of medicine—an understanding, confidential, human relationship too precious to be sacrificed by the people.

"The distribution of this service to all who need it is the responsibility of the medical profession. The State of Michigan, unique in its geography, type of population, rural and urban areas, etc., presents an unusual problem. The question has been given exhaustive study by the Michigan State Medical Society, which fully recognizes the complexity of the situation. In a quiet way, the medical profession of the State has for years been developing workable programs for better and more complete distribution so that people in all groups may receive good medical service when they need it and at a price they can afford to pay.

What Every Driver Must Know

PEDESTRIANS



This series of articles was written to provide Michigan drivers with a means of studying the traffic laws in preparing for their drivers' license examinations. Since pedestrian deaths account for about 40% of the annual accident toll, the series would not be complete without a discussion of the person afoot.

Pedestrians should exercise the same caution as drivers. They should walk on the left side of the road so they can see approaching traffic and avoid it. They should avoid all forms of jaywalking and be especially careful at intersections with stop and go lights to cross only on the Green. Children should not play where balls and toys will roll into the street. Increased cooperation and alertness both by drivers and pedestrians will help save human lives.

Scott Anderson of Boswell, Ind., who claims the string-saving championship of the world, has collected 140 pounds of twine in 36 years.

Several robins flew in the open window of a North Side hospital in Chicago and upset the patients for an hour before being evicted.

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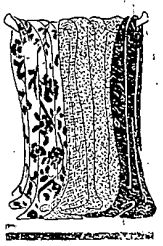

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- ☐ Home Arts Needlecraft 2 yrs.

GROUP B—Select 2

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- ☐ American Poultry Journal 1 yr.
- ☐ Breeder's Gazette 1 yr.
- ☐ Blade & Ledger 1 yr.
- ☐ Country Home 1 yr.
- ☐ Capper's Farmer 1 yr.
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