

More Than 9,400 Different Items Are Available

Plymouth's Western Electric Houses Largest Phone Supermarket

In Plymouth at the Western Electric plant stands Michigan's largest telephone supermarket. In the sprawling 10-acre building, more than 9,400 different items ranging from the latest Touch-Tone push-button telephones to paper clips are stocked.

Within a few minutes after being phoned in, an order for a reel of telephone cable destined for Tonawanda, Michigan's most westerly point, can be cut to the desired length and sent on its way.

Last year more than 700,000 telephones left the Western Electric Company's Distributing House for Michigan homes and offices.

The Michigan Distributing House is formally named, is operated by Western Electric, the manufacturer and supply unit for the Bell System. It is one of 35 telephone supermarkets situated throughout the nation, serving the Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

The job of tending the tele-

phone supermarket is so complicated it takes electronic data processing equipment to handle incoming orders to assure one-day service. A conveyor system throughout the vast warehouse speeds the loading of telephone equipment.

In addition, Western Electric reconditions large numbers of service-worn telephones—more than 40,000 monthly for Michigan.

In a year, Michigan Bell spends around \$4.5 million to repair equipment from screwdrivers to complex carrier equipment, which enables two pairs of wires to carry a dozen or more conversations simultaneously.

Service-worn telephones are stripped down, new or rebuilt parts are inserted, and then the rebuilt phones are sterilized, sprayed, and polished so that it takes a trained inspector to tell one from new stock. About 10,000 telephones a month, many of them manual phones without dials, are stripped and junked.

W. F. Ames, general supplies superintendent for Michigan Bell, points out that the primary job of the 641-man crew of Bell and Western Electric employees at Plymouth is to send out hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of new telephone equipment each year.

As might be expected, the orders are telephoned to Plymouth. An order received at 8 a.m. will be headed for its destination by nightfall, Ames said.

Huge tractor-drawn vans, after being loaded meticulously, pull out of Plymouth at night and within minutes are on a freeway bound for Grand Rapids or Kalamazoo, or the "milk train" run to major Bell garages in metropolitan Detroit.

The trucks and tractors, equipped with radiotelephones, can pinpoint their location during breakdowns or can offer assistance at the scene of an accident.

Coming back, the vans carry loads of phone equipment, including scrap wires, damaged phone booths, and worn tools.

The scrap wire and metal is destined for Western Electric's Nassau Smelting and Refining Company at Staten Island, N.Y., where it is melted and refined into new wire and parts.

Phone booths are refinished and sent out again to join the 5,800 outdoor booths pro-

vided by Michigan Bell. The booths are repaired for use.

Also stockpiled in the Michigan Distributing House is equipment that would be needed to provide emergency communications in the wake of tornadoes, floods, and other disasters.

While the task of restoring damaged telephone equipment isn't the principal task of these telephone people, the memory of the disastrous tornadoes that struck Michigan in the 1950s keeps them ever ready.



CRATES OF PHONES move along a conveyor belt system after being inspected at the Western Electric plant—where the state's largest telephone supermarket, is located in Plymouth. Phones are rebuilt, sterilized, sprayed and polished. More than 700,000 phones left the Michigan Distributing House for homes and office throughout the state.

NOTICE

State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie is calling a public hearing at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 1964, in the auditorium of the Wayne Memorial High School located on Glenwood Road in the City of Wayne.

The purpose of this hearing is to explain to interested citizens the proposed location of Interstate Route 275 in Wayne County and its hold in accordance with Section 116 of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, Section 128 of Title 23, U. S. Code.

It is proposed to construct Interstate Route 275 in Wayne County as a divided, limited-access freeway from a point at the Wayne-Monroe County line just east of Grafton Road, north to an intersection with proposed Interstate Route 96 in Plymouth Township near the southwest corner of the city of Livonia.

This meeting is also held to hear testimony from interested citizens regarding the economic effect of this proposed highway facility upon the area involved.

Sept. 9, 16

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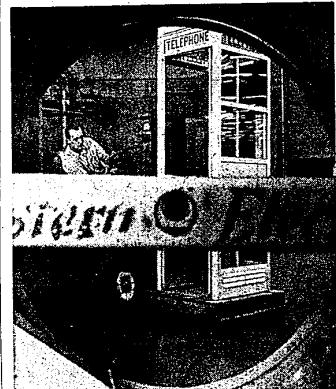
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NEW PHONE booth, destined for a roadside or sidewalk location somewhere in Michigan, is loaded aboard a truck by a lift truck operator at the Michigan Distributing House, the largest telephone supermarket in the state. It is one of the 3,800 outdoor telephone booths provided throughout Michigan by Michigan Bell.

Will Sponsor Medical Class

A course in medical self-help, designed to help people survive in the event of a nuclear war or natural disaster, will be held soon in the Emergency Operating Center, Police Administration Building, 15050 Farmington Road, Livonia. It was announced Monday by W. A. Cooper, Civil Defense director for Livonia.

This medical self-help training course is designed to teach the proper methods of "survival" as well as how to handle emergency medical problems which could happen in any family. Subjects to be taught include radio-

active fallout and shelter, healthful living in emergencies, artificial respiration, bleeding and bandaging, fractures and splinting, burns, shock, transportation of injured, nursing care, infant and child care, and emergency childbirth.

In addition to this training course, speakers are available wherever it is deemed necessary for local civic organizations, church groups, P.T.A. meetings, etc.

Anyone interested is asked to call Civil Defense Headquarters, GA 1-2000, ext. 257.

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