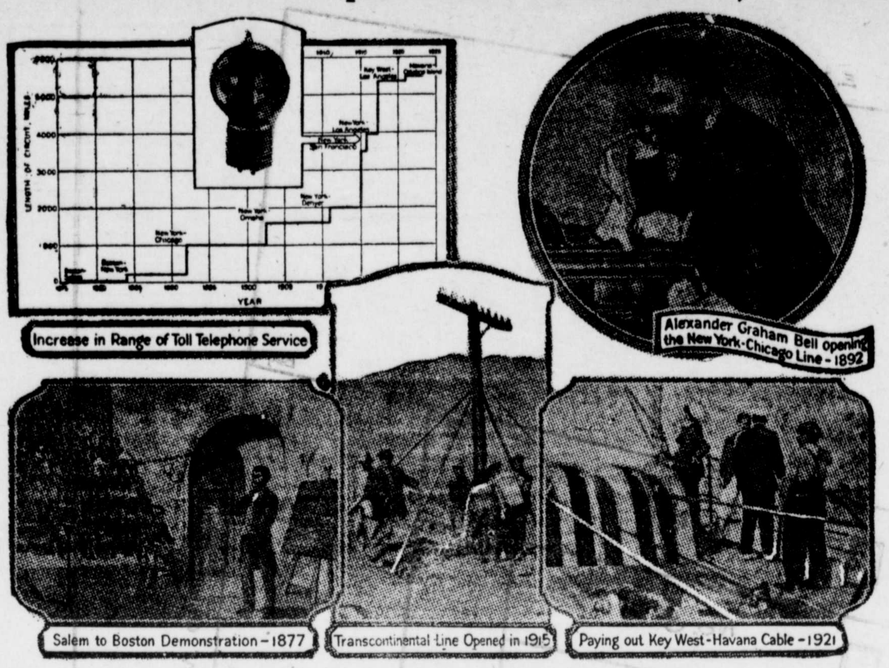
Two Miles Was "Long Distance" 48 Years Ago
Now Telephone Circuits Stretch 5,500 Miles



By JOHN B. O'BRIEN

Two miles in 1876, 5,500 miles today—all the way, in fact, from Havana, Cuba, to Catalina Island off the coast of Southern California—is the record in the remarkable development of toll telephone service in this country. The range in conversation has gradually extended until now it is possible to telephone between any two states in the Union.

The first conversation by overhead lines occurred on October 9, 1876. It was between Boston and Cambridge, a distance of two miles. The experiment was a complete success and was followed on October 26, 1876, by what may be termed the first long distance conversation in the world. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, talked from Salem, Mass., over a wire with his assistant, Thomas A. Watson, in Boston, 18 miles away. This was the first public demonstration of the telephone and it served to bring home to the people of the nation that there was now a new word in the language, a new idea in the scientific world.

After this, developments were rapid. By 1880 a line had been constructed between Boston and Providence, a distance of 45 miles, and this was followed by the opening, on March 27, 1884, of the overhead line from Boston to New York, 235 miles.

With the opening of the New York-Boston line, long distance telephony began to be a real factor in the nation. At last it was realized that the telephone had become more than a neighborhood affair. It was an epoch-making event in the history of long distance lines.

From that time on the development was steady and certain. The 900 mile goal was reached on October 18, 1892, when the New York-to-Chicago line was opened. By the early years in the present century the line had been extended to Omaha, and on May 8, 1911, New York and Denver were connected by telephone. The range of conversation was then 2,100 miles, but the telephone engineers were not satisfied. For years they had been looking forward to the time when a transcontinental line could be established and, within four years of the opening of the line to Denver, their dreams came true.

In 1913 the overhead line between New York and Salt Lake City, 2,600 miles, was opened, and on January 25, 1915, the Atlantic Coast talked to the Pacific when Boston and San Francisco were connected by wire. It had taken 40 years of pioneering effort to make it possible to talk between these points, 3,650 miles away, but it was an event that served to justify the most sanguine hopes of Alexander Graham Bell and the friends who never lost confidence in him when the telephone was but a feeble, little toy, able to articulate only a few, unintelligible sounds.

Next came the extension of the line to Los Angeles, followed on April 11, 1921, by the first conversation between Havana, Cuba, and Catalina Island, via submarine cable, overhead and underground lines and radio telephone—distance, 5,500 miles.

Today twelve "repeaters," spaced at intervals of about 250 miles, are used in a New York-San Francisco telephone connection. All told, there are now over 4,000 repeaters in the country.

The new art which has made long distance conversation sound as if the other party were "talking from a telephone just across the street," has been built up with the vacuum tube, a device adapted to telephone use by the laboratories of the Bell System, as one of its fundamentally important parts.

GRAINS OF COAL HELP YOU TALK OVER TELEPHONE

Minute Carbon Granules Change Sound Waves In Air Into Electrical Currents.

Most people think of coal as a substance used either to furnish heat or to generate power, but it has another and most important function—it helps us to talk.

In every telephone transmitter there is a quantity of coal which is placed in a receptacle in the transmitter just behind the thin, metal diaphragm against which the voice strikes. When one speaks into the mouthpiece the voice makes the diaphragm vibrate and that shakes up the loose contacts in the little pile of carbon granules. This produces a change in the electric current, there being a strong current when the diaphragm is pushed in, and a weak current when the diaphragm is pulled out.

The party at the other end of the wire is able to hear because the receiver has a diaphragm that moves back and forth with a strong current when the diaphragm is pulled in, and a weak current when the diaphragm is let go. Thus sound waves are set up almost like those which went into the transmitter at the other end of the wire.

The coal used is obtained from a particular vein of anthracite which engineers of the Bell System have found to be especially suited for use in telephone transmitters. This coal is given a special treatment such as cleaning, drying and grading, before it is used.

In the event of a coal strike, it would have to last for several years before interfering with the manufacture of transmitters, as one pound of this coal is sufficient to fill 700 transmitters, and two or three tons a year would supply the million and a half transmitters made for the Bell System annually and leave some over for the use of European customers.

OLD WORLD LAGS IN TELEPHONE INCREASE

The contrast between the attitude of residents of the Old and the New World toward that great modern convenience, the telephone, is shown by the fact that the City of London, with a population of seven millions, has but 400,077 telephones, while Toronto, the capital of the Province of Ontario, with a population of only 600,000, has 130,375 telephones, about one-third the total number in London.

In other words, London has but 5.7 telephones per hundred of population, while Toronto has 21.73 telephones per hundred of population.

NIGHT OPERATOR FINDS JOB FULL OF ADVENTURES

"Big News" Usually "Breaks" When Rest Of World Is Soundly Sleeping.

Do more thangs happen in the night time than in the daytime? Have you ever stopped to consider how many fires, floods and big disasters occur during the night as compared with the daylight hours?

The night telephone operators know that for constant interest, romance, adventure and mystery, the long lines during the night, were they able to broadcast their ever-continuous message-carrying story, would require a Robert Louis Stevenson, a Philips Oppenheim, a Joseph Conrad and a Victor Hugo, combined with a composite of Charles Dickens and Charles Reade on the side, to correctly record the goings-on.

When the Black Tom explosion occurred during the war, it literally turned the night time into day time, not only in New York City itself, but in the east generally, for the explosion was heard even as far distant as in New England and Maryland. It occurred about 1:30 o'clock in the morning and immediately calls began to come in over the long lines. Soon traffic conditions along the telephone lines were equal to any day-time conditions then known.

Frequently the newspapers relate how Miss So-and-So stuck to her post until everyone else was safe, and usually it is a night operator who is the heroine. Police records alone show how important a part she plays in the world of fires, floods, explosions, burglaries, murders and kindred calamities.

BELL SYSTEM BUILDINGS TO DISPLAY HOUSE FLAGS

Flying from the staff of every Bell-owned telephone building throughout the country is now a blue and white flag which has been adopted as the house flag of the Bell System.

The design comprises a blue background, two white discs, the smaller of which is superimposed on the other, a blue representation of a Bell with the inscription "Bell System" in white letters. This design has been used for many years throughout the Bell System as a seal or trade mark. The bell is supposed to symbolize the sending forth of greetings, warnings and other messages, and, of course, it also memorializes the name of the inventor of the telephone.

WHY OPERATORS ROLL THE R IN SAYING THR-R-EE

Why do telephone operators habitually say "thr-r-ee?"

It has been found that sounds such as th, f, v, s and z are the most difficult to understand because they depend upon very high frequencies. Some frequencies of th, f and v exceed 5,000 a second which is about the maximum frequency of human voice waves.

In her training for telephone work she has been instructed that the th sound is difficult to hear over the wire and must be accented if it is to be understood. In her effort to speak the difficult sound intelligently, she usually puts so much stress upon it that it becomes something like "thuh." This causes her to make two syllables of the word "three."

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY ALMOST HALL OF FAME

Adam, Caesar And Many Other Immortals On List Of New York Subscribers.

Adam never had a telephone, but his name is listed in the New York City telephone directory just the same. So are the names of Moses, Homer, Alexander, Caesar, Cicero and many others famous in various fields of human endeavor.

Nomenclature is a fascinating study, and New York's telephone book, with its list of 765,000 names, is a fertile field for investigation. Here will be found not only the surnames of Byron, Shelley and Keats, but also those of Pope, Burns, Scott, Carlyle, Macauley, Tennyson, Poe and Stevenson. Other distinguished characters whose names appear among the New York telephone subscribers are Columbus, Cromwell and Napoleon—indeed, the list might be extended almost indefinitely.

While New York has more telephone subscribers than any other city in the world, it has by no means a monopoly on famous names; and an interesting hour can be spent in seeing how many well-known characters in history or fiction have namesakes in the telephone directory of one's own home town.

PASSES MILLION MARK

The millionth telephone owned and operated by the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, was installed March 25 at Peoria, Illinois.

JAMES N. LANE GOES FREE

Kent County Jury Releases Former Baltimore Policeman, Now Kent Farmer, After Hard Fought Legal Battle

Within the gray walls of the Kent County Courthouse on Tuesday night, James Norman Lane, former Baltimore policeman, but for the past few years a farmer in Quaker Neck, Kent County, heard a jury of twelve representative citizens of Kent say the words which contained for him more melody than any grand opera which ever cast its harmony throughout a music hall, and these words were "Not Guilty." From a confinement of about six months in the county jail, awaiting trial, Mr. Lane, by these words, can return, and probably will return, back to the quiet and reposeful life of the country, far from the turmoil of the court room, with its keen and searching scrutiny into the affairs of men, to again take up the thread of his life and weave the destiny of his career for the future. It is a far cry from the county jail, barred from the world of friends and loved ones, to the peaceful pursuits of farm life, with the happy influences of home and family, and Mr. Lane will doubtless, in a few years, with the great eraser, Time, as his helper, and with the great soother, Work, occupying his moments, forget this period in his life, when the law, doing its duty under the statutes, and seeking to protect its citizens and enforce its principals, clutched him with its strong arm and placed him before the High Tribunal of Justice for the purpose of determining whether or not he had violated the law of the land, which constitutes the citidal of justice and safety.

The case for which James N. Lane was tried was the killing of James Jones, colored, on a right of way leading from the former's farm in Quaker Neck, Kent County, to the main highway, on December 4, 1923. It seems, according to the evidence, that Lane was bringing a load of hay from the Dunn farm to his own farm on that day when held up by the deceased Jones and a white man known as Reds. With clubs in hand these men threatened the man upon the hay load. He whipped up his horses and the men relinquished their hold. Burton Lane, brother of the defendant, was behind in a dearborn and the men, threatening him with their clubs, were soon engaged in combat, Burton Lane and Reds Fazenbacker, the former armed with a pitchfork and the latter with a club, the chief combatants, with Jones as a reserve force in the unequal attack. The combined attack of Fazenbacker and Jones upon Burton Lane forced him to drop his pitchfork to the ground, as he fell to earth, which the ready hands of Jones seized to meet the fast-approaching Norman Lane as he came to his brother's assistance, also armed with a deadly fork. Fazenbacker and Burton Lane, at grips upon the ground, struggled for supremacy and Fazenbacker, the younger man, soon had his older, although larger, adversary underneath, and began hammering upon him with tremendous effect.

In the meantime, Norman Lane, also armed with a pitchfork, was rushing to the aid of his fallen brother, now almost helpless before the attack of the two men. Jones rushed to meet him, and two long-pronged, deadly pitchforks clashed out there along that right-of-way, over which there had been so much contention in the past. Back and forth, with deadly intent, the two men, powerful of build and with the hearts of fighters aroused, lunged at each other.

Norman Lane, using his left arm as a protector, an instinct born of the human race and evidenced in every march of humanity across the wastes of time, was the first to feel the keen and searching blade of his opponents as his left arm was pierced. The whirling men, each watching for his chance, never relaxed their vigilance. Again the blade of Jones crashed through the Lane defense and again the white man was wounded. Then Lane struck and his keen blade, backed by every ounce of powerful right arm, pierced his opponents brain. He rolled to the earth and his earthly spirit soon took flight to another sphere. The balance of the fight soon concluded. Fazenbacker was in flight, and Lane went to his home, called up Sheriff Goodman, who arrested him to await the verdict of a jury of his peers upon his action.

The case drew to the Court Room the largest crowd in recent years. A full court, consisting of Judges Adkins, Wickes and Keating, was on the bench Many women were in the room throughout the trial. Beginning on Monday morning, the case occupied the attention of the court all of Monday and Monday evening; beginning on Tuesday morning again, it was not concluded until almost midnight on Tuesday. State's Attorney S. Scott Beck represented the State; Wm. Frazier Russell, Esq., and Wendell Allen, Esq., the latter from Baltimore, represented the defendant. Mr. Allen is an alumni of Washington College.

The State's chief witness, Mr. George Townsend, was eye witness of the fight. Mr. Lane was his own strongest witness, and told a straight tale from beginning to end. He told, without a break, how he had passed along the right-of-way after the load of hay; how two men mentioned above had threatened him with clubs; how he had evaded them; how he had picked up Mr. Frank Stoops on the road; how he had gone to a phone and called up the Kent Sheriff and asked for advice and assistance; how he had returned with his load of hay, accompanied by his brother in the rear; how Jones and Fazenbacker had held him up with clubs and cursed and threatened him; how he had gotten away from them; he told how his brother was also held up, got from his team and went to grips with his two foes out their on the lonely road; he stated with straightforwardness how he, seeing his brother beaten to earth by unequal forces, rushed to his aid; how he and Jones engaged in mortal combat; and how, after being twice wounded, he had drove his fork to a vulnerable spot. The State was unable to break down Lane's testimony with its witnesses.

At the conclusion of the case, on Tuesday evening, State's Attorney Beck, addressed the jury. He gave the case of the State of Maryland vs. James Norman Lane in a most clearly-defined manner, offering law from many souces to substantiate his claim, and finally waived the State's claim for first degree murder and asked for second degree murder.

Wm. Frazier Russell, Esq., chief counsel for the defense, speaking first for Lane, made the most brilliant oratorical effort of his career. He held the crowded court room spellbound as he recited from textbooks the laws of self defense and the ones which allowed a man to go to the aid of his brother when in deadly peril in combat. Many of his audience were in tears, as he reached his many climaxes and delivered a dramatic appeal for the release of the defendant. His address had a most telling affect upon his audience and was not without its effect upon the sturdy men who composed the jury.

Mr. Allen succeeded Mr. Russell. Those who had attended court during the case had heard Mr. Allen before and much was expected of him. He did not disappoint his hearers or his client. In a clear, even, concise manner, he brought his well developed case to the jury, giving his law in a well-defined way. Although young in years, Mr. Allen's speech shows years of preparation for the bar.

State's Attorney Beck came back for his final address to the jury near the midnight hour. He laid the final appeal of the State before the jury in a most capable manner, giving almost endless law in support of his contention for conviction. His power as a speaker was never, perhaps, more clearly shown. Not attempting oratorical flights, or theories of fancy, casting aside distinctions between races in law, Mr. Beck struck back at his brother lawyers with all the force of his years of experience and his knowledge of the law of the land. And, although not sustained in his contention for second-degree murder, he did his clear duty as an official of the State of Maryland.

Taken as a whole, it is doubtful if there has ever been, in many decades, a single case which called forth such oratorical efforts as did the case of State of Maryland vs. James N. Lane.

At the conclusion of the trial, a touching scene was enacted as Mr. Lane was released from the custody of the law. His family and many friends gathered about him, his children and wife clung to his neck, with faces streaming with tears. Many who had never seen him before offered congratulations. The verdict was a popular one.

ROCK HALL

The ferry is giving Rock Hall fine service now.

Mr. Benjamin Urie, of Baltimore, was week end guest of his sister, Mrs. Frank Jacob and Mr. Jacob.

Mr. Lucien Thomas moved Thursday to the apartments in town vacated by Mr. Jewell Thompson who went to the dwelling purchased from Mr. John Cullison.

Mrs. Mollie Thompson took her class, the second grade, on an outing Friday and surprised them by making the goal Tolchester.

Mr. Mark Pettibone has built a temperary home east of Rock Hall and moved his family into it until he can have a suitable dwelling erected.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Jones has as week end guests her sister, Mrs. Ivanhoe Willis, of Marshalton, Del., and Sunday her son, Mr. Hynson Jones, of Baltimore.

Mrs. Joshua Thomas last Thursday visited her uncle, Mr. Joseph Cannon who has dropsy at his home at Ridgely.

Mr. Elwood Taylor has returned from Dickinson College at Carlisle, Pa., for the summer, his father, Mr. James Taylor, driving up for him last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Donaldson have returned from a visit to relatives and friends in Wilmington, Del. and West Chester.

Mrs. Charles Thomas, in celebration of a birthday anniversary, entertained her Sunday School class and some of her little girl's friends Saturday.

Mr. John Kirwan and son, Mr. Edward Kirwan, of Baltimore, spent several days last week at Mr. George Downey's.

Mr. and Mrs. Sacker have been spending some time at their summer home here.

Mrs. Harvey Dickinson has as over night guests Sunday her children, Mr. and Mrs. George Rollison and Miss Marjorie Dickinson, of Baltimore.

Mrs. James Hadaway, of Flint, Mich., is visiting her husband's father, Mr. Walter Hadaway, and sister Miss Jennie Hadaway.

Mr. and Mrs. Haword Nails and child of Baltimore, were guests last week of Mrs. Nail's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Collison, Mrs. Nail's remaining over for this week. Miss Gladys Collison was home for the week end.

Mrs. Susie Lehman, of Baltimore, spent several days last week with her aunt, Mrs. William Biggs.

Mr. Michael Crowley, of Philadelphia, spent a couple of weeks with his niece, Mrs. Roland Bedwell.

—The Postal Department has just issued a bulletin showing the gigantic proportions of its yearly task. For instance it is noted that annually 23,000,000,000 pieces of mail are handled 2,000,000,000 pieces of which are letters. This means that an average of 112 letters are delivered to every man, woman and child in the United States yearly. To handle this mammoth business there are 351,000 employes including clerks, carriers, railway mail clerks and 51,393 postmasters. Their total pay reaches the vast sum annually of $441,622,517.

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A&P APPLE SAUCE	CAN	12½
ZA-REX Fruit Syrup	VUG	35c
Oregon new pack PRUNES	3 LBS	25c
Orange Brand—U. S. Gov't. Inspected REGULAR HAMS	LB	23c
A&P CORN FLAKES	3 PKGS	20c

Kellog's Corn Flakes package 8c
A&P Cider Vinegar 11 oz. bottle 12c
A&P Chili Sauce bottle ..... 18c—32c
A&P Peanut Butter jar ..... 17c—29c
Pacfic Toilet Paper roll 7c
A&P Ammonia 10 oz. bottle 10c
A&P Catsup bottle ..... 15c—27c
Sultana Corn can 15c
A&P Liquid Blue bottle 10c
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Shredded Wheat pkg. 11c

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SHORE TRANSIT SYSTEM

"Eastern Shore From End to End"

Time Table Effective May 1, 1924

GOING SOUTH

Rock Hall Ferry through Chestertown, Centreville to Easton.

ELKTON—CHESAPEAKE CITY—GALENA—CHESTERTOWN DIVISION.

	Daily except Sunday A. M.	Daily except Sunday P. M.	Sunday A. M.	Sunday P. M.
Lv. Chestertown		3.00	6.45	3.30
Lv. Betterton's Corner		3.21	6.55	3.51
Lv. Kennedyville		3.27	7.00	3.57
Lv. Locust Grove		3.37	7.10	4.07
Lv. Galena	7.00	3.49	7.20	4.19
Lv. Fredericktown	7.12	3.55	7.25	4.25
Lv. Cecilton	7.18	4.04	7.30	4.34
Lv. Cayots	7.27	4.23	7.45	4.53
Lv. Chesapeake City	7.39	4.25	7.50	4.55
Ar. Elkton (Howard House)	7.57	4.44	8.05	5.14
Ar. Elkton (P. B. & W. Station)	8.02	4.50	8.10	5.20

Meeting P. R. R. Express Trains from Baltimore at 7.55 a. m. and p. m.—Philadelphia, 7.20 a. m. and 4.34 p. m.

Connecting with P. R. R. Express Trains for Baltimore at 8.14 a. m. a. m. and 5.02 p. m. and 5.49 p. m.—Philadelphia 8.15 a. m. and 9.07 a. m., 5.35 p. m.

ELKTON—CHESAPEAKE CITY—GALENA—CHESTERTOWN

	Daily and Sunday A. M.	Daily and Sunday P. M.
Lv. Elkton (P. B. & W. Station)	9.10	5.50
Lv. Elkton (Howard House)	9.15	5.55
Lv. Chesapeake City	9.25	6.03
Lv. Cayots	9.35	6.15
Lv. Cecilton	9.55	6.25
Lv. Fredericktown	10.00	6.33
Lv. Galena	10.05	6.39
Lv. Locust Grove	10.05	6.41
Lv. Kennedyville	10.15	6.51
Lv. Betterton Corner	10.30	6.56
Ar. Chestertown (Voshell House	10.40	7.15
Lv. Chestertown		7.33
Lv. Church Hill		7.53
Ar. Denton		9.00

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