

## CANADIAN INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

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### Telephone's Early Days

In the letters of Madame de Hegermann-Lindencrone appearing in Harper's Magazine for November, an interesting glimpse is given of the early days of the telephone and other inventions now in current use. Writing from Cambridge in 1877 she says:—

"Johan has just come home from Boston bringing incredible stories about having talked in a machine called telephone. It is nothing but a wire, one end in Boston and the other end in Cambridge. He said he could hear quite plainly what the person in Cambridge said. Mr. Graham Bell, our neighbor, has invented this. How wonderful it must be! He has put up wires about Boston, but not farther than Cambridge—yet. He was ambitious enough to suggest Providence. 'What!' cried the members of the committee. 'You think you can talk along a wire in the air over that distance?' 'Let me just try it,' said Bell. 'I will bear half the expense of putting up the wire if you will bear the other half.'

"He was ultra-convinced of his success when, on talking to his brother in Cambridge from Boston in order to invite him to dinner, adding, 'Bring your mother-in-law,' he heard distinctly, but feebly, the old lady's voice: 'Good gracious! Again! What a bore!'

"There is also another invention called phonograph, where the human voice is reproduced, and can go on forever being reproduced. I sang in one through a horn, and they transposed this on a platina roll and wound it off. They put it on another disk, and I heard my voice—for the first time in my life. If that is my voice, I don't want to hear it again! I could not believe that it could be so awful! A high, squeaky, nasal sound; I was ashamed of it. And the faster the man turned the crank the higher and squeakier the voice became. The intonation, the pronunciation—I could recognize as my own, but the voice! Dear me!"

## Abstract of Telephone Patents granted in the United States

Prepared for *The Canadian Municipal Journal* by

Edward E. Clement,  
Telephone Patent Expert, Washington. D.C.

**SIGNALING SYSTEM.**—This invention relates to signaling systems such as are adapted to railroad and train despatching. Its objects are: to provide improved means whereby train despatching messages and messages independent thereof may be transmitted by different operators without interference, over a single line wire, and whereby the train despatcher will be able at any time to take possession of the line; to provide means whereby signaling impulses may be impressed upon the line without interfering with the voice currents, and to provide means in a signaling system of the above character whereby in each station a plurality of signals of different characteristics may be operated through the employment of a single selective calling apparatus.

Edwin R. Gill, Yonkers, N.Y., Assignor, by Mesne assignments, to Hall Switch and Signal Co. 1,070,371.

**HARMONIC SELECTIVE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.**—The main feature of this invention resides in the use of harmonic selective currents in combination, and in the use of selective devices at the substations responsive to such combination of selective current to control the signal bell circuits. With this arrangement it is possible to select from a far greater number of

parties with a given number of frequencies over a single circuit than is possible in harmonic systems now in use in which the number of frequencies required is the same as the number of stations to be selected. This not only reduces the number of generators but also the number of keys.

Arthur F. Poole, Wheeling, W. V. 1,070,726.

cally only to lines in which leakage may occur. According to this invention the disadvantage is overcome by the battery being normally separated from the line and, as occasion requires, connected to the same through a relay which cuts in simultaneously a time switch adapted to disconnect the battery from the line after a certain period. The relay, when being traversed by a current suitably puts itself into a holding circuit containing the time switch.

Gotthilf Ansgarius Betulander, Saltsjonacka, Sweden. 1,070,104.

**DEVICE FOR LOCKING DESK TELEPHONES.**—This invention consists mainly of two semicircular castings of metal hinged at the center. The hinge is provided with two coils of spring wire, one between the first and second section, the other between the second and third section and so disposed around the pivot of the hinge and the surfaces of the two semicircular halves that the clasp, when unlocked, will be automatically thrown open as the springs regain their normal state.

Clark D. Rhinehart, Jr., and Lubomir P. Saponoff, New York, N.Y., said Saponoff assignor to Thomas McGonigal, of Brock-

**TELEPHONE APPARATUS FOR TRAINS.**—The object of this invention is to provide a supplemental connection between that portion of the telephone circuit located in the train and the main line, which connection will at all times be connected to that portion of the telephone circuit in the train and which at the same time can be readily wound or unwound into a coil when connecting the free end of the supplemental connection to the main line connections.

Percy Robinson, Sudbery, Ont. 1,069,811.

**MICROPHONE.**—This invention has for its object to secure increased efficiency by providing that the carbon granules shall be confined circumferentially between conducting plates or diaphragms by a wall that, in contradistinction to the walls heretofore employed, is of a highly resilient character, being for this purpose made hollow and easily deformed laterally so that every diaphragm fluctuation produces a very material alteration in the area circumscribed by the inner surface of the wall, with the result that the granules are subject to disturbing motions at right angles to one another as each sound wave occurs,

**MICROTELEPHONE.**—The primary use of this invention is to assist the defective hearing of persons more or less afflicted with deafness. The device has the capacity for controllably selecting and amplifying certain sound vibrations, while minimizing others.

William B. Oliver, Collingswood, N. J., Assignor to Oliver Electric Co., Philadelphia, Penn. 1,074,286

**TELEPHONE REPEATER SYSTEM.**—This invention relates to telephone relay or repeating system, and more particularly to a system in which the repeating apparatus, including its local repeating circuit, is associated with the two ends of a link circuit in such manner that when the link circuit is connected with the main circuits it constitutes a connection between the two main circuits uniting them into a single compound circuit for through communication.

Herbert E. Shreeve, Milburn, N. J., Assignor to Western Electric Co., New York, 1,074,298.

**ENUMERATION OF TELEPHONE CALL.**—The invention consists in providing means whereby, on a call being made by a subscriber, the subscriber's enumerator and an enumerator in the subscriber's circuit at the exchange are simultaneously operated either by the exchange attendant or by the completion of the speaking circuit by the called subscriber, the current which operates said enumerators operating at the same time to cut this enumerator out of circuit.

Samuel Dickinson Williams, Newport, Wales. 1,074,677.

**TELEPHONE SYSTEM.**—This invention relates particularly to automatic or semi-automatic telephone systems in which the automatic switches are controlled over two sides of a metallic line circuit in series. In such systems it is usual to employ one or more slow acting relays in the automatic switches in order to prevent the release of the switches during the transmission of the impulses for operating them. The invention relates particularly to a combined quick and slow acting line relay for use in such selector and connector switches. This relay takes the place of the ordinary line relay, and also of the usual slow acting release relay, thus greatly simplifying the construction of these switches.

John G. Blessing, Chicago, Ill., Assignor to Automatic Electric Co., Chicago, Ill. 1,075,007.