



When In Quarantine

PEOPLE who are in quarantine are not isolated if they have a Bell Telephone.

The Bell Service brings cheer and encouragement to the sick, and is of value in countless other ways.

Friends, whether close at hand or far away, can be easily reached, because Bell Service is universal service.



THE CENTRAL UNION TELEPHONE CO.

Telephone Building, E. High St.

R. B. HOOVER, Manager Springfield, Ohio

1918 Flu epidemic

Hello, Operator?

Research Team

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Special Thanks to
Pleasant Valley Historical Society



1912 advertisement



“Talk through the Hygienic Telephone Disc and protect yourself from all germ disease.” Hotels offered a new disc for each guest occupying the room. Hygienic Telephone Disc were patented in 1906.

Hello, Operator?

by
Beth Miller

During the coronavirus pandemic, I find one of my favorite past times of watching classic films to be even more engaging. Sometimes I don't notice the story or actors because I am concentrating on the décor, clothing or technology. Telephones are

the most intriguing. It is a technology that was quickly accepted and adopted for home usage.

In 1876 Alexander Graham Bell won the first patent for the telephone that enabled speech to be sent along wires. In 1877-78 the first phone line was constructed; the first switchboard was created and the first telephone exchange was in operation. By 1900 there were nearly 600,000 phones in Bell's system. That number increased to 2.2 million phones by 1905 and 5.8 million phones by 1910. The phone had become an indispensable tool.

Alexander Graham Bell proposed 'ahoy' as used in ships to be the telephone greeting. Thomas Edison's suggestion was 'hello'. Early usage of 'hello' was a way to attract attention or express surprise. Other early phone greetings were: "Do I get you?" and "Are you there?"

As a tribute to Bell when he died in 1922, all the telephones stopped ringing for one full minute. In the United States and Canada, 14 million phones were briefly silenced.

Teaching proper usage of the phone was important information that was taught to the public from the very beginning of telephone service. It was still necessary in 1917 to remind callers of the correct way to use the candlestick phone. My favorite classic films often show actors facing the camera and not speaking directly into the mouthpiece. Telephone companies distributed postcards with reminders of how to speak correctly into the telephone.



How To Use The TELEPHONE

Did it ever occur to you that you might not be using the telephone in the right way?

Do you speak sideways, above, below, or six inches away from the transmitter of your telephone?

You should talk directly into the transmitter—not simply at it. Keep your lips about one inch from the mouthpiece. Speak in an even tone. It is not necessary to shout.

There is much that can be said about the proper way to telephone, but these little rules will help.

When you Telephone—Smile

**SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**



1917 telephone usage ad

Ventura County rode the technology wave in 1902 with an Oxnard Courier headline announcing "Telephone List Growing (*phone subscribers*) Night Service and Long Distance Board in Sight if Patronage is Received."

By 1906 the Oxnard Courier reported in the headline "Watch Us Grow" and noted "Home telephones are becoming more popular than ever as in shown by the following list of subscribers...they are being installed as rapidly as possible."

The subscriber list covered Oxnard, Suburban and Camarillo. The list of ten Camarillo subscribers included A. Camarillo. Expanded service was reported on June 21, 1907 when the Home Telephone Company included service to "the people

of Las Posas (who) are rejoicing over their good fortune. They say that heretofore they have been shut off from the outside world."

One of the first house telephones installed in the town of Camarillo was in the home that siblings Adele and Anna Hernandez shared near Barry Street on Davenport. (*The home was on the corner of Davenport and Pujol, now Glenn Drive. Davenport was completely removed to make way for the freeway.*) Soon after graduation from business school in Santa Maria, Anna began a longtime para-legal career in the office of Charles Blackstock. Judge Blackstock wanted to be able to reach Anna whenever needed. The telephone became a necessary part of office equipment.

Oxnard Courier
dated Friday,
June 29, 1906

Watch Us Grow.

Home telephones are becoming more popular than ever, as is shown by the following list of new subscribers secured during the present month, and they are being installed as rapidly as possible:

OXNARD—

Parnell, G. W., res.
Vaughn, L. E., res.
Cotten, A. J., res.
Davis, Mrs. M., res.
Beck, Rudolph, res.
Hurst & MacAndrew, rink.
DeBroll, M. C., res.
Slaughter, H. E., res.
Ogelvie, Louisa, res.
Van Dellador, H. E., res.
Wilbur, Earl, res.
Austin, Geo. P., res.
Nierste, Dr. C. E., office.
Green, Robt., res.
Aaga, J. B., res.
Yokohama Restaurant.
Sberburne, N. C., bicycles.

SUBURBAN—

Seukinger, J.
Arnold & Lash, Hueneme.
Diedrich, J.
Maulhardt, Heitrich.
Kettler, J., Jr.
Henry, Geo.
Dobbin, Mrs. M.
Arnold Beet Dump.
Watchman's Shanty, Hueneme Rd.
Naumann Beet Dump.
Leesdale Beet Dump.
Sacrossa Beet Dump.

CAMARILLO—

E. W. Daily.
C. J. Daily.
W. P. Daily.
J. C. Hartman.
John Mahan.
W. H. Smith.
W. A. Arneill.
E. T. Hughes.
A. Camarillo.
Thos. McCormick.

Note—No charge will be made to talk with the subscribers at Camarillo.

Adolfo →
Camarillo

Oxnard Courier
dated Friday,
June 21, 1907

[No electricity in
Las Posas section
at this time.]

BUILDING TELEPHONE LINE TO SOMIS

The Home Telephone Company, which is always on the move, is now more than keeping up its record. It has obtained the right of way for a line from Oxnard to Somis by way of the Las Posas.

Telephone poles are scattered along the larger part of the proposed line and installation is promised for the near future. It will run through the Santa Clara ranch and along the main Las Posas road. The people of the Las Posas are rejoicing over their good fortune. They say that heretofore they have been shut off from the outside world, but now there will be a great change. They are now looking forward to the time when they will be furnished with electricity for light and power, a condition that does not appear so very far distant.

Besides promoting the telephone as a tool for business efficiency, telephone companies also saw a way to increase home usage with extension phones.



How Many Steps to YOUR Telephone?

AN extension from your present telephone to the floor above—to your bed-room, den or sewing room—saves stair climbing, time and bother. It is a blessing that the busy housewife will appreciate every day in the year.

The service costs but a few cents a week. No home should be without an Extension Telephone.

Call the Business Office to-day.

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY



Just as we have become accustomed to ordering items online, placing telephone orders was promoted in early advertisements.



Telephone operators played an important part for quality phone service. The first operators were teenage boys, who were often rude to callers. They were replaced with highly trained women who were polite and patient. Adolfo's great-grandson, Tom Marvel, recalls that during his Nevada childhood, local operators could easily track down a person's whereabouts by contacting other operators and businesses. At this same time, when his grandmother, Rosa Camarillo Petit (*Adolfo's daughter*) picked up her phone in Camarillo, she heard a dial tone. It was no longer necessary to connect with an operator who would inquire "Number, please."



General Telephone Co. business card that Adolfo Camarillo kept in his wallet. 1958

With improvements of the local phone service came telephone line upgrades. In the early 1960s, John Frisk was a telephone general lineman assigned to working on Pancho and Howard Roads near the Adohr Milk Farms on Pleasant Valley Road. John was a perfect choice for the assignment. He had spent his boyhood playing and working on the Adohr property that his father managed as foreman.

The upgrades took him to the home of Mary Howard Smith a longtime friend of the Frisk family. He “loved going to Mary’s house.” John had grown up riding her donkey, snacking on the limes of her prized grafted citrus tree and helping her with chores. John’s mother, Verna Frisk, and Mary were close friends. Mary knew she could depend upon Verna to help with work around the Smith Farm even with the difficult job of loading alfalfa.

John explained, that at the time, most of the homes had at least 10 customers to the party line. “With direct dialing, the goal was to have a minimum of a 4-party line.” The crew of 4 linemen made all of the improvements in just a few weeks.

All communities have unique stories about how their telephone operators served their area. For Ventura County, it occurred during the critical hours after the failure of the St. Francis Dam on March 12, 1928. The operators of the Santa Clara River Valley, in the path of the flood, stayed at their posts and transmitted warnings to operators in communities down the line. They saved countless lives.

The last of the old-fashioned manual telephone switchboards was located in Kerman, California (15 miles west from Fresno). They were phased out and replaced with computerized equipment in April 1991.

Just as in Adolfo’s day, when the operators were being eliminated from phone service, today’s receptionist-operators in offices have been replaced by the automated menu systems. Callers are quickly directed to the proper extension.

What is the future of telephones? In 1953, the president of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. predicted our usage of phones today, including personal phones that can be easily carried, translate languages and transmit images of the users as they talk!



1969 **PICTUREPHONE® SET**

See the person you're talking to? It's the newest step in telephone equipment. This is the Mod II Picturephone set now in pilot production at Western Electric. The picture unit has a "zoom" feature which permits individual or group viewing. Mod II includes a new 12 button Touch-Tone® telephone.

Yesterday's Telephones

When we finally reach the time of a post-coronavirus pandemic, plan a visit to the Pleasant Valley Historical Society to see their extensive collection of telephones! It is a wonderful place to learn about telephone history, design and usage.



Photo and Information Courtesy of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

Bill Doctorman Historic Telephone Collection

You can see how the old phones worked and “touch” history. The collection presents telephones from the late 1880s through the 1990s including box, candlestick, and cradle phones. You will find a real Princess phone, early pay phones, and an interesting collection of European phones. The display includes early manually operated ('operator') telephone switchboards, and early automated telephone switching equipment.

SMARTSVILLE—SONORA.		372
SMARTSVILLE. MRS. MARTHA Mc-CONNELL, Agt.		
Main	6.	Conrath, Louis, Res.
Main	5.	Holbrook, E. F., Physician, Res.
SMITH'S CREEK.		
SMITH'S STAGE STATION. C. E. SMITH, Agt.		
SNELLING. J. R. HORSLEY, Agt.		
SOLEDAD. MISS T. SOBERANES, Agt.		
Main	41.	Bingaman, W. H., Grain and Collecting.
Main	43.	R. R. Exchange Saloon, Joseph Froh.
Main	12.	Salvation Army.
Main	31.	S. P. Milling Co., Warehouse.
Main	51.	Stover, Dr. W. M., Physician.
Main	21.	Wahrlich, Cornett Co., Merchants and Grain Dealers.
SOMERSVILLE. JAS. RANKIN, Agt.		
SOMIS. A. SCHNEIDER, Agt.		
		Camarillo, A., Ranch.
		Hill, Samuel, Ranch.
SONOMA. F. CLEWE, Agt.		
SONORA. GEO. W. TOPPING, Agt.		
Main	173.	Artificial Ice Co., H. A. Preston, Mgr.
Main	141.	Bradford, S. S., Sash and Door Factory.
Main	266.	Bromley, Dr. R. Innis, Physician.
Main	334.	Burden Bros., Furniture and Undertakers.
Main	165.	Central Drug Store, Eddy & Co.
Main	264.	City Drug Store.
Main	10.	City Hotel, M. E. Sanford, Prop.
Main	45.	Colby, A., Res.
Main	44.	Colby, A. & Co., Magnolia Saloon.
Main	174.	Collins, J. J., Groceries.
Main	156.	County Court House.
Main	126.	County Hospital.
Main	186.	Cozzens, D., Furniture and Undertaking Supplies.
Main	6.	Curtin, J. B., Attorney and Notary Public.
Main	176.	Curtin, M. J., Res.
Main	125.	Danbacher & Ralph, Blacksmithing.
Main	263.	Daveley & Co., Wholesale and Retail Liquors.
Main	9.	Democratic Banner.
Main	143.	Gem Saloon and Lodging House, Thos. McGovern.
Main	164.	Gould, Dr. E. T., Office.
Main	161.	Same, Res.
Main	154.	Guerin, P., Res.
Main	145.	Hender, Thos., Genl. Ins. Agency.
Main	123.	Kelly, Pat, Livery Stable.
Main	151.	Kent, Dr., Office.
Main	121.	Knudson, W., Lumber Dealer.
Main	8.	Low, W. S., Victoria Hotel.
Main	43.	McClure, T. R., Real Estate.
Main	191.	McCormick, M., Sonora Market.
Main	193.	Same, Store.
Main	41.	McTarnahan, Carroll, Assayer, Mining and Civil Engineer.
Main	136.	Michel & Co., Groceries.
Main	181.	Mundorf, John, Hardware and Groceries.
Main	144.	Oppenheimer, H., General Mdse.
Main	146.	Same, Res.
Main	155.	Otis, F. P., District Attorney.
Main	195.	Patterson, D., Sonora Foundry.
Main	2.	Phillips, R. H., Reception Saloon.
Main	335.	Pickle, N. F., Livery Stable.
Main	171.	Raymond, Fred, Sonora Feed Yard.
Main	261.	Rehm, Ed, Dry Goods.
Main	166.	Shine, J. H., Livery Stable.
Main	3.	Sonora Branch Pacific Coast Savings Society.
Main	163.	Stanislaus Milling and Power Co., Frank Morgan, Agt.
Main	333.	Street, Frank, Attorney-at-Law.
Main	331.	Swensen, Peter, Sonora Bakery.
Main	231.	Tuolumne County Power and Light Co., Power House.
Main	233.	Same, Columbia Station.
Main	234.	Same, Ranch House.
Main	235.	Same, Rawhide Mine.
Main	7.	Tuolumne Independent, J. C. Duchoy & Sons, Publishers.
		Tuolumne Telephone Co., Thos. W. Wells, Mgr., Black Oak Mine.
Main	5.	Union Democrat, Office.
Main	167.	Walters, E. A., Res.
Main	32.	Wells, Thos. W., Res.
Main	43.	Welmore & Skelton, Groceries.
Main	185.	Wilzinski Bros., New York Store.
Main	124.	Wilzinski, Ellis, Res.
Main	135.	Wolding, M. J., Meat Market.
Main	153.	Yosemite House, W. L. Howes.

Courtesy of Pleasant Valley Historical Society

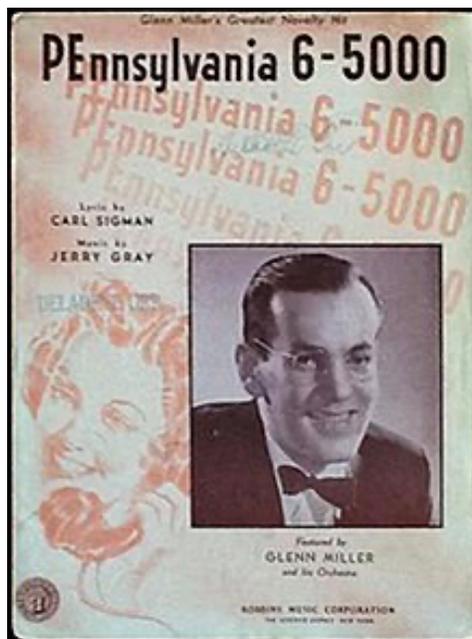
From the 1898 California Telephone Book
Adolfo Camarillo is listed under "Somis"

This telephone book was published in 1898 before the Post Office in Camarillo was established in mid-to-late 1899 and the Southern Pacific Railroad Company train line through Camarillo, which was completed by July 18, 1899.

Here is a link to the 1958 Camarillo telephone book courtesy of the Camarillo High School Class of 1969. Thank you to Linda Kehm (Holk)!

The telephone book containing only 8 pages is a treasury of names and telephone numbers.

<https://www.camarillohighschool1969.com/1958-camarillo-phone-book>



Glenn Miller & His Orchestra
"Pennsylvania 6-5000"

The song became a swing jazz and pop standard. Many big bands played in the Hotel Pennsylvania's Café Rouge in New York City, including the Glenn Miller Orchestra. The hotel's telephone number, Pennsylvania 6-5000, inspired the Glenn Miller 1940 Billboard hit of the same name. Music by Jerry Gray and lyrics by Carl Sigman. The instrumental was recorded by Glenn Miller and his orchestra in 1940.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZNsylvC0fsg>

Dial service starts Sunday, July 21



And when your new dial system goes to work, all telephone numbers change. New numbers start with the prefixes NATIONAL 2 and NIAGARA 4. We're mailing you a folder explaining the improvements in your telephone service.

Here's how to make the best use of your new telephone service

1. Look up the new numbers in your new directory before you call.
2. Jot down the new number so you don't forget it while you dial.
3. Dial the complete number—the first two letters and the numeral of the prefix, then the four other figures. For example, to call NATIONAL 2-3104, first dial N-A-2... then 3-1-0-4.

Direct Distance Dialing starts for NATIONAL 2 customers with 1- or 2-party service.

Starting Sunday, July 21, if you're a NATIONAL 2 customer with one- or two-party service, you can dial most of your own long distance calls. You'll find it's thrilling to dial places like Sacramento, San Francisco, New York and Chicago. And it's as easy as calling your next-door neighbor. Your *Direct Distances Dialing* booklet tells you how to do it. You'll want to keep the booklet for reference when you dial long distance calls.

For "Time-of-Day" just dial ROchester 7-8900



Pacific Telephone

Dial Telephone Service Ad: 1957

Do you have a story or photo you'd like to share?

Please contact Karin Farrin:

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Thank you!