

## HELLO! CENTRAL! (CONT.)

THIS WRITER'S LIMITED RESEARCH INDICATES EACH TOWN HAD ITS 'HOME' (INDEPENDENT) COMPANY. A MERGER, IN 1913, MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR 'HOME' AND 'BELL' SUBSCRIBERS TO USE THE SAME LINES, ENABLING THEM TO CALL ANY OTHER 'HOME' COMPANY PHONE IN MICHIGAN. PRIOR TO THE MERGER MERCHANTS WERE OBLIGED TO HAVE TWO PHONES.

A NEW RINGING CODE ALSO CAME INTO BEING: NUMBERS FOR CALLING IN PLACE OF LONG AND SHORT RINGS. PARTY LINE SUBSCRIBERS WERE ADMONISHED TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THEIR OWN NEW RINGS. "ALL SUBSCRIBERS MUST LOOK UP AND CALL BY NUMBERS AS THE OPERATOR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PUT UP ANY CONNECTION WITHOUT. NO DIRECTORY WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THE OPERATOR. C.G. ROLISON, MGR."

THE ARGUS REPORTER CONTINUES: "THE NEW RULING...RELATIVE TO CALLING BY NUMBER WILL BE STRICTLY LIVED UP TO WE UNDERSTAND, AND YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN YOUR PARTY TILL THE NUMBER IS GIVEN, SO DO NOT BLAME THE OPERATOR."

AN EARLY EXAMPLE OF '911' CAN PERHAPS BE FOUND IN THE CITY CLERK'S NOTICE IN THE SEPTEMBER 9, 1931 ISSUE OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS: "A SHORT TIME AGO A NUMBER OF HOUSES IN TOWN WERE PILFERED BY BURGLARS. WE NOW HAVE A NIGHT WATCHMAN IN TOWN WHO CAN BE REACHED ANY TIME DURING THE NIGHT BY CALLING CENTRAL. IN CASE OF FUTURE TROUBLE OF THIS KIND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU IMMEDIATELY CALL CENTRAL, WHO WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR NIGHT POLICEMAN AT ONCE."

EVEN IN THOSE DAYS SOME OF US HAD 'CALLER I.D.' OF OUR OWN INVENTION. WHEN ON A PARTY LINE IF ONE WISHED TO CALL A FRIEND AT 4151, BY DIALING 4155 IT WOULD RING THREE TIMES AND THE PERSON CALLED WOULD KNOW WHO WAS CALLING. THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAD TO BE PREVIOUSLY MADE OF COURSE.



1910 Desk Set. The traditional black finish makes its first appearance in this pedestal telephone made of cast brass.



1919 Dial Telephone. This new kind of phone required complex new switching equipment.

JUST BEFORE WW II THE SWITCHBOARD IN THE BANK WAS ELIMINATED AND THE BUSINESS OFFICE, WHERE ONE PAID THE BILL, WAS MOVED TO THE INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE OFFICE OF JAMES R. HAYNOR, 408 W. MAIN.

IN 1955, R.H. ENGLEHARDT, AT THE TIME AREA MANAGER FOR MICHIGAN BELL, POINTED OUT THAT FROM THOSE EARLY BEGINNINGS THE EXCHANGE GREW RAPIDLY UNTIL THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 2800 TELEPHONES IN THE BRIGHTON EXCHANGE. "THE PRESENT AUTOMATIC DIAL SYSTEM WITH TWO-LETTER, FIVE-DIGIT METROPOLITAN NUMBERS IS CERTAINLY A FAR CRY FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF CRANK-TYPE TELEPHONES," ENGLEHARDT SAID. "BUT THE PIONEERING SPIRIT OF OUR EARLY BRIGHTON CITIZENS, IN ACCEPTING A NEW IDEA, WAS THE SPRINGBOARD FOR THE TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TELEPHONE SYSTEM HERE." (TO BE

CONTINUED. THE WRITER, MARIEANNA BAIR, IS ANXIOUS FOR READERS TO CONTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, STORES, ETC. 229-6402)

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