

Annual Banquet Of Merchants and Manufacturers

The fifty-first annual banquet of the Merchants and Manufacturers association has been set for Thursday, March 13, at the Ambassador Hotel, the association announced today.

Fulton Lewis Jr. will speak on "Labor and the Law."

Arrangements are in charge of Lewis Allen Weiss, chairman of the annual banquet committee, who is assisted by Don Belding, Willis J. Boyle, J. A. Hartley and H. W. Tuttle.

In addition to Lewis, M & M members will hear a report from Dave F. Smith, president, and from Don Belding, chairman of the association's public relations committee.

Navy Veteran Is Recipient Of Battalion Book

Larry Benton, local police officer and veteran of the Navy C.B.'s, last week received a 9x12-inch leather-bound book containing pictures of every man in his battalion. The book, of remarkable workmanship and published from an \$1,800 23rd WSCB fund, depicted the battalion's activities over a period of 21 months.

Pictures of more than 1,100 servicemen appear, as well as scenic and operational views taken on many Pacific islands. It required nearly a year to gather information and secure pictures for the book publishing, Benton revealed.



FIRST TELEPHONE CALL . . . This is an artist's conception of the incident of March 10, 1876, at 5 Exeter Place, Boston, after the first complete sentence was carried via the telephone. As Bell was about to test a transmitter, he upset a battery and the solution spilled over his clothing. He called, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you!" The damage to his clothing was forgotten when Watson rushed into the room crying, "Mr. Bell, I heard every word you said—distinctly!" On Aug. 10 of the same year, the first long distance telephone call was received by Bell in the Robert Whyte's Boot and Shoe Store in Paris, Ont., Can. Robert Whyte, a close friend of Bell, was a great-uncle of Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald.

Torrance Family's Ancestor Aided Bell on First Long Distance Call

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Graham Bell, March 4, 1947, revealed for the first time to most Torrance residents that an ancestor of a local family had much to do with the development of the long distance telephone—in fact, the first long distance call conducted by the famous telephone inventor was received in the shop of this ancestor.

The associate of Bell's, who aided in many of the early trials of the telephone, was the late Robert Whyte, of Paris, Ontario, Canada, great-uncle of Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald and father of Miss Margaret Whyte, of Los Angeles.

Few local residents heard of the place in the development of the first long distance telephone which the Paris Boot and Shoe Shop owner shared, but on the 70th anniversary of the first long distance call, on August 10, 1946, a plaque was unveiled at Paris, Ontario, the site of the old Dominion Telegraph Company in the store building of Robert Whyte.

James Whyte, father of Grover C. Whyte, was raised from childhood in the home of Robert Whyte. Margaret Whyte has resided in Los Angeles for 25 years.

The first long distance telephone call was arranged after Bell had experimented for some time with the instrument, aided by Robert Whyte. The call was between two points only 8 miles distant, but the battery which had to be utilized was some 68 miles away.

The story, as told by the Bell Telephone Company, follows:

It was in the summer of 1876, at his father's home near Brantford, Ont., where he had conceived and described his "talking wires" invention in July two years before, that Alexander Graham Bell decided that his telephone had been developed sufficiently for a test to be made by electrical means and over a distance.

Bell wrote to Thomas Swinyard, managing director of the Dominion Telegraph Company in Toronto, asking permission to use the telegraph line between

Brantford and Paris. Thinking Bell to be just another crank, Swinyard at first ignored the request. But his young assistant, L. B. McFarlane, later a president of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, persuaded him to accede to the request.

Bell was given permission to use the line at a specified rental for an hour on the evening of August 10. That rent was never collected. Instead, the telegraph company, immediately following the successful transmission, made application for rights to the telephone as an adjunct to telegraph.

The transmitting instrument was set up in the Dominion Company's office in Brantford, and the receiver in its Paris agency in Robert Whyte's Boot and Shoe store which stood on the site of the present day Appleby McCausland block. With but one receiver at Paris, and one transmitter at Brantford, the primitive apparatus made possible a one-way talk.

The inventor's instructions for adjustments to the transmitting apparatus had to be telegraphed from Paris to Brantford. Early in the evening, Bell drove by horse and buggy to Paris, cradling the precious iron-box receiver in his lap.

George P. Dunlop, the telegraph agent, was not quite sixteen at the time. Mr. Dunlop had heard about Bell's experiments and he was eager to assist when the inventor introduced himself. He offered every cooperation and made Bell familiar with the telegraph arrangements. Then he hurried out to invite as many as possible of his best customers to be guests at the demonstration.

The news spread quickly. So many people arrived to see what was going on, there was no room in the store for everyone, and the door had to be bolted against late comers. The babble was deafening—both inside and out—and often the crowd hid to be cautioned to keep quiet.

Bell's Description

Then, to quote Bell's own words written into a report the next day:

"The experiments were very satisfactory as demonstrating the power of the undulating cur-

rent to travel any distance. At the same time, the experiments show certain difficulties. We shall have to contend with disturbances upon the line itself.

"The atmosphere seems to be in a curious electrical condition affecting the working of the lines.

"The moment I put the receiving instrument to my ear I heard perfectly deafening noises proceeding from the instrument even when there was no battery on the circuit. Explosive sounds like the discharge of distant artillery were mixed with a continuous cracking noises of an indescribable character. In spite of these disturbing influences, I could hear vocal sounds in a far-away sort of manner and when there was singing the air was distinctly manifest.

"The battery we used was in Toronto, 68 miles from Paris.

"Our first test was with a low resistance coil on our instruments, and as I said, vocal sounds were very faintly audible in Paris, the crackling noises being loud indeed. I telegraphed to Brantford by another line telling the operator to charge the electromagnet upon his instrument so as to place it on 'high resistance.' At the same time I made a similar change in Paris. The vocal sounds then came out clearly and strongly, and the crackling noises were not nearly so annoying, though they still persisted.

"Various songs were sung in Brantford, all of them being recognized at once in Paris, and I even recognized the singers by their voices.

"My father (Alexander Melville Bell) had made some experiments, so he told me he could not be present, and yet one of the voices I heard was so like my father's that I telegraphed back to inquire the name of the singer. It was my father after all!

"Words in any ordinary conversational key, with the voice scarcely raised above a whisper, were audible in Paris, but the articulation was in most cases unintelligible. I recognized at once: 'To be or not to be, that is the question,' etc. and 'Do you understand that' but sentences with which I was unfamiliar were not understood.

"The words of the songs were all intelligible to me, as I happened to be acquainted with them, with the exception of one 'Maggie May' sung by Mr. Griffin with other voices joining in the chorus, I could hear the combination of voices as distinctly as the single voice."

The circuit remained open until after 11 o'clock and a number of people at both ends tried the instruments.

A membrane telephone was located in the office of the Dominion Telegraph Company in Brantford, Ont. The iron-box receiver was in one experiment located in the town of Paris, about 8 miles from Brantford, the battery, however, being in Toronto, a distance of 68 miles from Paris.

On the basis of the distances quoted by Mr. Bell, the circuit mileage of the voice currents would be about 136 miles.

On the anniversary of the first call, an advertisement of the Bell Telephone Company reads:

"This is the 70th anniversary of the birth of long distance telephone service. Paris and Brantford were its joint birthplace.

"As the evening shadows lengthened on August 10, 1876, an excited crowd gathered in Robert Whyte's boot and shoe store in Paris to witness the reception of the first long distance telephone message in the world. There Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the tele-

Alexander Graham Bell Memory Honored On 100th Anniversary

Telephone people, educators, scientists and public officials throughout the world on March 3 paid homage to the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Bell's invention has become so common to Americans in the life of today that other facts about him are sometimes overshadowed. Yet, during his long and useful life he carried on many activities benefiting the human family, for which he should be remembered as well as for the invention of the telephone.

Today there are more than 30,000,000 telephones in the United States, each one a mark of tribute to the invention of the telephone 71 years ago.

Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on March 3, 1847. His rich life—which had an incalculably great influence on the world—came to an end on Aug. 2, 1922. As a mark of respect for these specifications, the Bell system were silenced for two minutes during the burial services.

His father was Alexander Melville Bell, who won wide fame as a teacher of correct speech and as a lecturer on elocution.

It was Bell's father who invented a form of "Visible Speech," code of symbols made up of curves and straight lines, something like shorthand. These symbols indicate the position and action of the throat, tongue and lips in pronouncing syllables and uttering various sounds.

Bell achieved the invention of the telephone by reasoning out two ideas. One was how to generate and use a current of electricity that would "undulate," as he put it, or vary in intensity as sound waves, shrill or deep, loud or soft, vary in the way they disturb the air. In short, he came to understand that to transmit sound electrically he had to have a current that could be "shaped" by sound.

Equally important was his conception of a transmitter—a practical method for shaping the "shapeable" current. Here Bell came to the conclusion that a single membrane or diaphragm would act like the human ear drum to gather the complexities of speech or sound in the air, and through its vibration bring about corresponding variations in the current flowing on the wire.

On June 2, 1875, came the "break" in telephone history. Bell and Thomas A. Watson were making ready the harmonic telegraph for a test. Bell at one end of the line was tuning up the metal reeds on a group of receivers. Watson in an adjoining room was sending the tones of the transmitters to phone, along with a number of Paris citizens, heard clearly and distinguishable the voices of speakers and singers taking part in an historical experiment at the office of the old Dominion Telegraph Company in Brantford, nearly eight miles distant.

"For Bell the moment was a thrilling one, and his eyes were bright with happiness. His dream had come true!"

George P. Dunlop of Toronto was one witness of the first call present at the 1946 ceremony. He said, "I'll never forget that call, nor will I forget Bell's excitement. The scene made such an impression on me that it seems it happened last night instead of 70 years ago."

A message was received from John C. Miller, 90, of Sinaluita, Sask., who was also present at the first call but could not be present at the 70th anniversary.

tance call took place (also over a telegraph line) between Boston and Salem, 16 miles, on Nov. 28, 1876.

And on April 4, 1877, the first telephone line built in Boston from the shop of Charles Williams Jr. to his home in Somerville, 3 miles, was put in service.

The story of the telephone from its inception has been one of tremendous growth and expansion down through the years. Modifications and improvements of the first crude instruments and equipment have today produced the realization of Alexander Graham Bell's dream.

Bell did not cease his experiments with the invention of the telephone. In fact, he went on into many other fields where his genius contributed much.

Bell Accorded Great Honors

During his lifetime, Alexander Graham Bell wrote and published some 65 papers and speeches on subjects related to the training of the deaf to speak; some 22 on the telephone, the Photo Phone and the Strophophone; four on medical and surgical subjects; four on eugenics and longevity, based on his studies of the census; six on his experiments in sheep breeding; eight on aerial locomotion; six on miscellaneous inventions and nine on general subjects.

He died at his home, Beinn Bhreagh, on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, a man whose memory would live as long as the spoken word.

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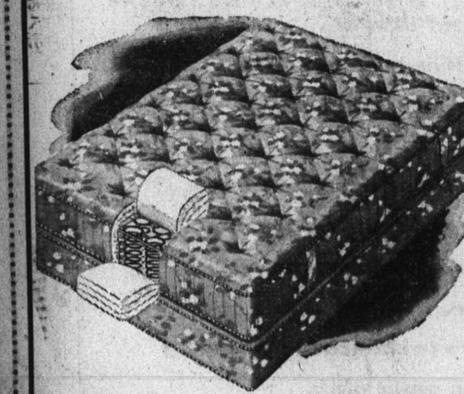
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