

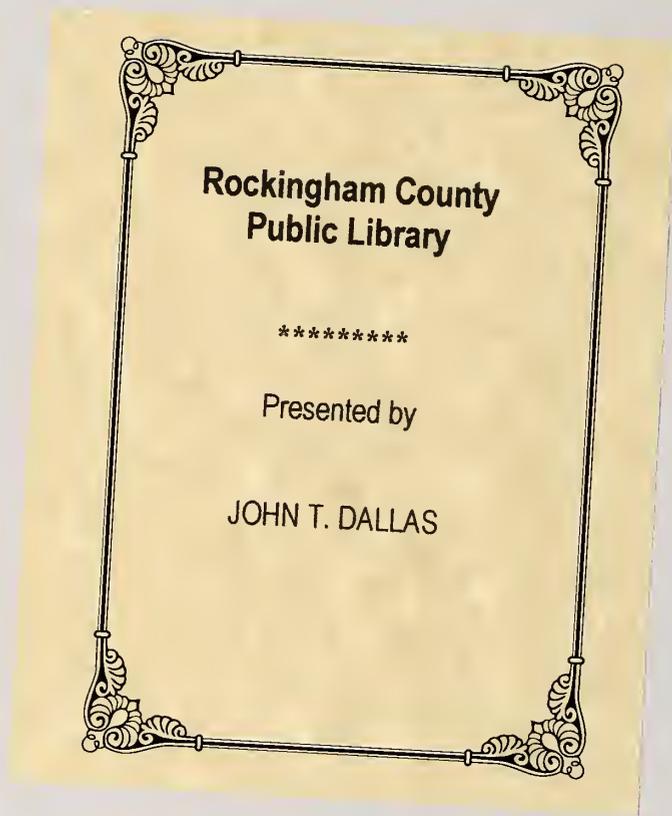
# The Telephone Comes To Reidsville

Reidsville  
North Carolina  
Reidsville Telephone Company  
Southern Bell Telephone  
BellSouth Telephone  
AT&T

Compiled By:  
John T. Dallas  
3943 Ribbon Grass Terrace  
Greensboro, N.C. 27405  
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**GENEALOGY  
REFERENCE**

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## The Telephone Comes To Town Reidsville, North Carolina

On 10 March, 1876, at the age of 29, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. One year later he formed the Bell Company. With the forming of the Bell Company, Alexander Graham Bell had registered patents on transmitters and receivers that would expire in seventeen years. When the patents did expire in 1894, the telephone sets which contained the transmitters and receivers that Mr. Bell had patented became readily available to start up independent Telephone Companies such as the Reidsville Telephone Company.

The Reidsville Review in 1894, announced that a telephone system would be in operation with a switchboard in the Review building which is believed to have been at 324 Scales Street. In 1903 soon after the Southern Bell had bought the Phone system from The Reidsville Review and Oliver family, a lease was signed with J.W. Peay being the entire second floor of a building on the Upper North side of the Peay block, on the West side of Scales street. This lease was signed to run from 1909 to 1913 for \$96 to be paid in installments of \$8 each. In 1903 the property had been rented from T.B. Doggett for \$24 per year and due in \$2 payments. By 1922 the Southern Bell Central Office has been relocated to the second floor of 36-38 Scales Street which is near the intersection with Gilmer Street. A new switchboard was installed on the second floor of Somers and Ware building on Gilmer Street just around the corner from the existing location of the Telephone exchange in 1923. On the night of the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 1923, the telephone company moved into its new home in Reidsville. It is believed that that the Telephone Exchange was always located on the second floor to make access to the building by aerial cable. At the Gilmer street location, the Piggly Wiggly grocery store was located on the first floor under the Telephone Exchange. In 1950. Southern Bell moved to a new building that it is located at now, 211 S. Scales Street.

The Reidsville Telephone Company was organized by Robert J. Oliver as manager, A.N. Evans as president and Francis Womack as Secretary-Treasurer in 1894. The poles and wire were ordered and placed by local workers and a switchboard was ordered and placed in the same building with the Review. The Review for August 1894 stated that the phone system was working nicely and there were 45 connections to the Central Switchboard. With local towns people doing the placing of poles and wire from the switchboard to the customer, there had to be an operator. The earliest operator in the Reidsville exchange has not been determined. The first operator for the telephone Company in Reidsville is believed to have been a male. The names of the early operators may be lost to time.

The Reidsville Review in 1903 stated that the Town's Telephone system had passed into the hands of the Bell Combination who would make it a first class operation. After the small independent Telephone systems were organized 1894, the Bell System had began buying up the systems.

By April 1904, the Reidsville Review reports the Reidsville Telephone system had been overhauled. It was noted that there about 150 phones connected to the switchboard and there were applications for eight or ten more phones. New metallic lines were being placed to Wentworth, Leaksville and Stoneville. New Toll lines were added to the Lynchburg and Greensboro Toll line routes. This would give them three circuits each

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way, triple the existing Toll lines. The Toll lines were placed with Copper wire and x-arms on the poles. In later years this was known as the Lynchburg-Savannah Toll line.

The system now was a common battery system with the batteries in the Central Office. At this time a new switchboard was required in the Central Office. A new operator would be required and Miss Nina Ellington of Wentworth was hired for this position. She would have spent 41 years with the Bell System when she retired in 1946.

In 1910, C.J. Hanes was the Bell System manager in Reidsville. He was asked to transfer to South Carolina. Some of the town people were getting up petition to have Mr. Hanes remain in Reidsville. Bell officials sent word that it would be in the best interest of Mr. Hanes to accept the transfer which he did. R.S. Williams was then appointed manager of the system. Sometime in this period of time the rural families decided that they should have the same benefits as the city dwellers. Farmers Exchange lines began springing up beyond the end of the lines of the Bell System lines with farmers placing their own poles and wires, also maintaining these lines. Bob Carter, County Historian will do an article on the Farmers Exchange at a later date. Please contact him with any information that you have on the Farmer's lines.

The year 1910 brought the telephone to Wentworth. A switchboard was added in Wentworth and connected to the Reidsville Exchange. The Bell system assisted the placing of the Exchange in Wentworth. The town and people of Reidsville were greatly benefited with this new exchange in Wentworth. This was a boast to the merchants, a great assist to Attorneys of Reidsville who held court in Wentworth and friends and families would be able to speak anytime they wished instead of having to take a trip to Reidsville. At this time the Bell System in Rockingham County had 14 Farmer Exchange lines extending from the Reidsville Exchange with approximately 8 subscribers per Farmers line which would have been over 100 subscribers in the rural areas.

At about this time in the history of the Bell System, Western Union Telegraph was acquired by the Bell System. This gave them over 1,000,000 miles of wire to add to the Bell systems 8,100,000 miles of wire.

G.C. Ashmore of Southern Bell in 1915 worked out an agreement with the International Telephone Company in the Leaksville-Spray area to extend a Bell Telephone and Telegraph Toll line to their switchboard in Spray from Reidsville. This was great convenience to customers of both companies in both town and it would connect two of the largest areas in Rockingham to each other by the phone.

In January 1923, a new multiple type switchboard was ordered and installed in the Ware and Somers building located at Gilmer Street. It replaced the trunk type switchboard in the Peay building on the lower side of Peay block located on Scales Street. With the new location of the telephone exchange to the Ware and Somers building, new poles and telephone lines were added on streets in Reidsville that did not have telephone service before. Telephones had come to Reidsville. As the growth was evident in Reidsville and the entire state of North Carolina, there was a gain of 3,746 phone lines in North Carolina in 1923. The same year the county commissioners had new electric lines installed to feed the Wentworth and they thought that there should be more and better telephone service to the Wentworth area. Right of way was obtained to built better pole lines to the Wentworth area.

In April 1924, Southern Bell Telephone began obtaining right of ways along the Reidsville-Leaksville highway (present day Ashley Loop). By 1925 these Rockingham

County residents would have telephone service. One of the residents that right of way was obtained from was E.P. Thomas, whose daughter, Audrey Borland owns the land today that has the easement on it. The easement allowed the telephone company to place telephone facilities anywhere on the property. This property is located in the Mt Hermon-Berry sections of Rockingham County. In the 1920's, the Greensboro District which included Greensboro, Burlington, Winston Salem and Reidsville held its annual banquet in Greensboro at the King Cotton Hotel. The General Manager, Col. W.B. Little was toastmaster and he told of the great gains all the towns had made in the last year in the number of subscribers. Miss Kara Whitt of Greensboro was given a 20-year service badge.

The year 1933 brought the death of Robert J. Oliver, the founder of the Reidsville Telephone Company. After the sale of the Telephone Company to Southern Bell Telephone in 1903 he had remained in the newspaper business with the Review. Mr. Oliver had the interest of the farmer at heart and establishment of the telephone in Reidsville proved to be of a great help to the farmers in the years that followed.

Southern Bell had moved their Telephone Exchange to the Ware and Somers building on Gilmer Street in 1923. On 4 March 1935, they rented a room on the first floor at 118 Gilmer for what was apparently the business office for the Telephone Company. Later that month on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Southern Bell leased for five years at 126 Gilmer Street, five rooms, and a hall on the west side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for a telephone exchange for the sum of \$600 a year.

A young telephone employee was sent to Reidsville from Greensboro around 1925. This employee was Gilmore C. McClintock who was to have a 42 years career with the Southern Bell when he retired in the 1960's. He appears to have been the first Southern Bell Craft employee in Reidsville that installed and maintained telephone lines. There had been managers here before that period that used local people in the setting of poles and placing of telephone lines. "Mac" as he was known in later years rose to the position of Reidsville Plant manager. Sometime around 1932, another Southern Bell employee was sent to Reidsville. His name was Herman Frye and as "Mr. Mac" had done before, he performed all the duties that was required of a telephone employee in Reidsville. Around 1941, a third person was hired to help with the installation and maintenance of the phone system. This employee was Si Martin. In the late 40's and 50's, with the growth boom after the war, many more employees were added in Reidsville due to a vast increase in the number of people desiring telephone service. Mr. McClintock left a long line of descendants employed at the telephone company. His daughter Edith Gunn Chaney, worked in operator services; her son, Max Gunn was a splicer in Reidsville for 30 years; another daughter, Peggy McClintock married John C. Warner, a telephone employee and John C. Warner Jr. was a the construction foreman at the Groom Road location until his retirement in Reidsville in 2008. Herman Frye also had a son who had a telephone career in Greensboro and Reidsville. His name was William "Bill" Frye who was a test deskman.

The year 1933 brought the retirement of J.S. Cutts, plant chief for the Greensboro District which included Reidsville, was honored at a retirement party at the Southern Utilities Clubhouse in Greensboro. Approximately 250 telephone employees from all towns in the district attended and heard Col. W.B. Little pay impressive tributes to Mr. Cutts.

Robie Bares graduated from Reidsville High School in 1937 and was looking for a job. She was hired by Southern Bell as an operator in Reidsville. She recalls the Telephone exchange on the second of a building on Gilmer Street which was located over the Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store. There were a long flight of stairs that you had to take to get to the switchboard. The customers were courteous to the operators most of the time but they wanted to be connected to the party they called as quickly as possible. Robie was with Southern Bell for ten years when she quit in 1947. The telephone company was going on strike and she did not want to do this.

E.A. "Buck" Bennett installed the 4000<sup>th</sup> telephone in Reidsville at Orell Real Estate Office in Reidsville. This was an increase of 1,985 telephones in Reidsville since 1943. Cable had been placed in 1948 to provide plant facilities for 800 telephone lines. A total of 539 applications for service were on hand.

Rural telephones were at greater demand than ever before in the Reidsville area and Rockingham County. Farmer's lines had been used since Bell South first came to Reidsville. Engineering and Construction departments were working overtime to place telephone facilities in reach of farm families in the county with the expansion of facilities. Higher rates were sought. In 1946 the business rate was \$3.50 and Southern Bell asked for a \$1.00 increase. No increase in residence was asked for.

In the 1940's, the Southern Bell Central Office was located on the second floor of a building on Gilmer Street that house the Piggly Wiggly Grocery store on the lower floor. On February 8, 1948 a piece of property was purchased from Kemp L. Smith at 211 S. Main Street for the purpose of building an office Building to house the Central office, Operator services and the Business office. In March 1950, plans were made and construction began on the dial building at this location. In the two years leading up to this date, many new employees were hired by Southern Bell to handle the high growth due to the end of the war. The new building was to be completed by October 1950. Dials were added to phones at the subscriber and the customer was instructed how to use this new dial telephone. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1950, the dial office was ready. At midnight the operators at the old switchboard, laid down their headsets, walked across the corner at S. Main and Gilmer Street to the new dial building, picked up their headsets and began handling the toll calls and fewer local calls.

The Lynchburg-Savannah open wire toll line had endured many years serving the Reidsville area to Danville and Greensboro. The year 1968 saw underground cable being installed to remove the iron, x-arms and insulators for this old line from the sky's of Rockingham County.

The year 1960 brought the area number 919 to Reidsville. People could dial their party long distance now without the assistance of an operator. With the need for less long distance service, the operators were moved from Reidsville to Greensboro in 1961. The Toll switchboard which had been located in Reidsville for 67 years was no more.

By 1967 the growth in the Northern section of the Exchange required the building of a new Central Office. This was in the Ruffin area and the Central Office was called the Ruffin Exchange

The year 1972 saw Southern Bell purchasing part of the old Airport property on Groom road. A work center was constructed here to house the outside forces who had been located at the South Main street location since 1950.

The business office was relocated from 211 S. Main Street to Turner drive in 1972. It remained here for 10 years. In 1982, the business office was moved to Greensboro as the Toll operators had done before.

In 1981, the Simpsonville Exchange was formed in the Bethany area which was the southwestern portion of the Reidsville wire center.

The year 1983 brought a big change in the Telephone in Reidsville. AT&T owned seven operating company of which Southern Bell was one. These seven operating companies were broken off from AT&T. Southern Bell had included 9 southern states. When they separated from the AT&T Bell System, they began to operate under the name "Bellsouth."

Ten years later big change was brought to the Reidsville area. Many surrounding area central offices had converted to No. 5xbar in the 1950's, but Reidsville had remained a step office. In 1993 it was converted to an Electronic Switching Office as it remains today.

The year 2004 saw more breaking up of the Reidsville area. Two of the Central Offices in the Reidsville area, Milton Exchange (formed 7 June 1955) and the Gatewood Exchange (formed 4 September 1955) were sold to an independent company, the Madison Telephone Company of Mississippi. These two exchanges were located in the northern part of the Reidsville area bordering Virginia in Caswell and Person Counties. They were connected to the Ringold, Virginia offices for their Toll services

The Southern Bell name had been in Reidsville for 82 years until it was changed to BellSouth in 1984. It remained BellSouth until it was bought by AT&T in 2007 which changed the name of the Telephone System to AT&T.

Some of the earlier employees of Southern Bell in Reidsville:

Robert J. Oliver	Manager	1894-1902
Nina Ellington	Operator	1905
C.J. Hines	Manager	1910
R.S. Williams	Manager	1911
Mary Meador Corum	Operator	1915
Fannie Clark	Operator	1915
Rebecca Emerson Matthews	Operator	1921
Carl G. McClintock	Installer-Maint	1925
Pulasky Boland	Janitor	1928
Herman Frye	Installer-Maint	1932
Robbie Barnes	Operator	1937
C.W. "Syi" Martin	Installer-Maint	1941

## The Reidsville Telephone Company

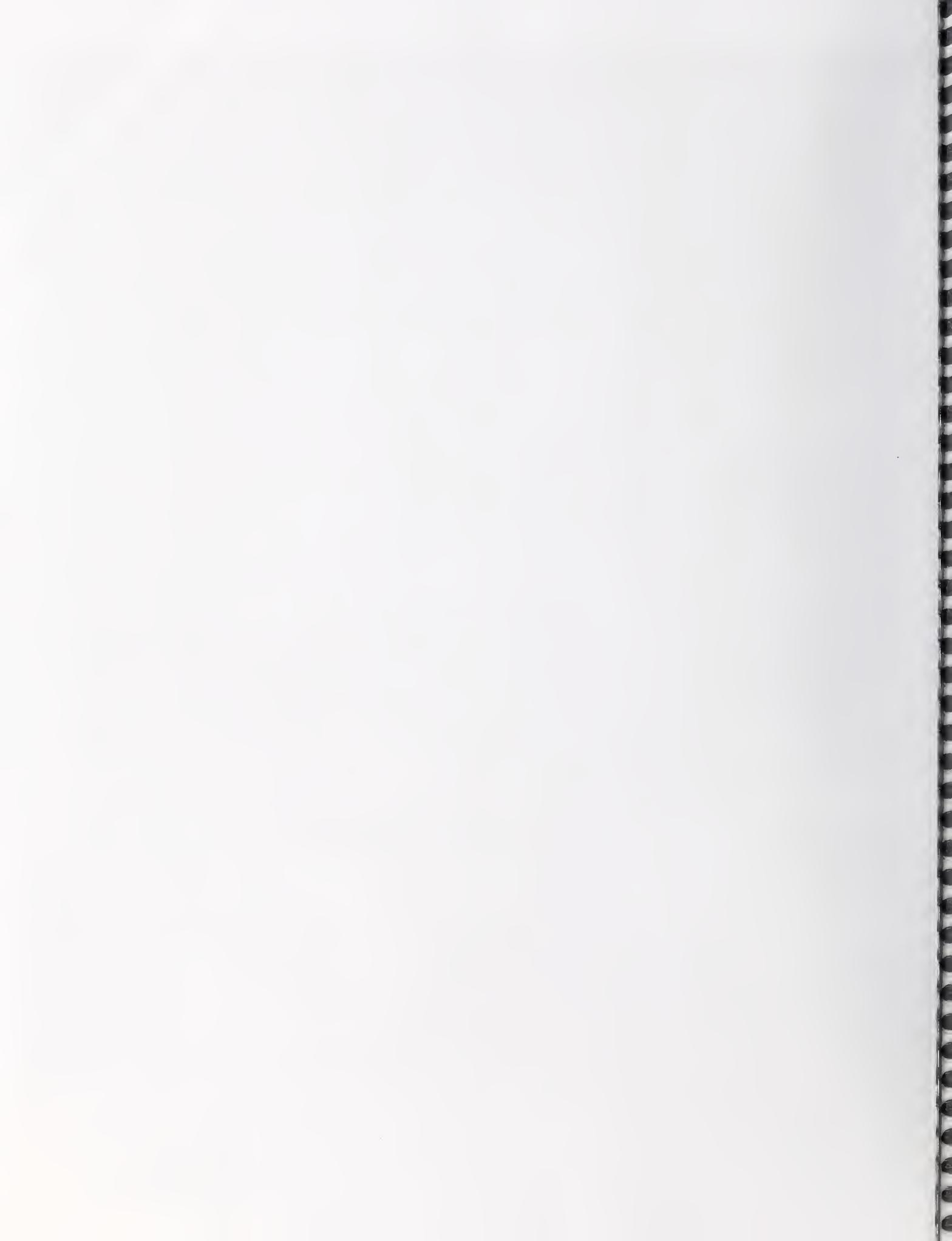
The telephone company in Reidsville was organized by F.J. Oliver in The Reidsville Review building in 1894 and this was the first telephone exchange in the county. The Review had as their telephone number, #1. This was to remain their number until the Dial telephone came to Reidsville in 1950. The switchboard was in the Review building at some location. The poles and lines were placed in the city by someone contracting to the phone company. There were initially 45 lines installed.

The telephone was powered by liquid acid batteries at the customer's home in Reidsville. A disadvantage of this arrangement was that the acid some times got on the rugs and floors and burnt holes in them. The dry battery was next used to power the phone lines from the homes. By 1902 the Bell system had acquired the phone system in Reidsville. With this the dry battery was removed from the customer premises. The common battery had been installed at the switchboard in the central office and this would remain the system used until 14 October 1950 when the Dial telephone came to Reidsville in the building of the new Dial Office on Main Street. This office contained step switching equipment until 1993 when the Reidsville area was cut to Electronic Switching.

- 1894** The Reidsville Telephone Company was founded by The Reidsville Review owner, F.J. Oliver, location unknown. The telephone numbers were 1 to 45 and The Review had the #1.
- 1902** According to Reidsville Review by 1902 The Bell System owned the Exchange in Reidsville with a Common Battery Exchange
- 1904** (5 April) Two toll circuits were added to Danville and two to Greensboro which makes a total of 3 lines each way.
- 1905** R.S. Williams manager in Reidsville
- 1909** (18 November) Bell Company buys Western Union Telegraph and gain 1,382,559 miles of wire.
- 1910** (15 February) Wentworth Exchange established with Switchboard for local service with a connection to Reidsville Exchange – C.J. Hanes Manager of the Reidsville exchange
- 1914** (6 February) Farmers Exchange line extended 5 miles to Miss M.M. Clack –J.H. Bennett and John Robertson will be on this line.
- 1914** (6 February) Mr. J.W. Wilson will be added to the Farmers Exchange Line that extends from Reidsville to Mayfield – There are already 11 subscribers on this line.
- 1914** Farmers Exchange Line serving Mr. L.L. Trent
- 1915** Southern Bell extends Toll line to the Leaksville Exchange Switchboard - G.C. Ashmore manager in Reidsville
- 1925** C.G. McClintock begins his career in Reidsville, moving from Greensboro
- 1932** Herman Frye begins his career in Reidsville
- 1950** (14 October) Moved from Common Battery Office over the Piggly Wiggly Building to the New Dial building on main street.
- 1949** (9 February) 4000<sup>th</sup> Telephone installed in Reidsville by Buck Bennett



Carl "Mac" McClintock, Reidsville manager for Southern Bell standing  
Matthew "Matt" Foster with headset. Lady at desk unknown Ca 1950  
Reidsville phone directory hanging from desk.





Southern Bell's Dial building on S. Main Street in Reidsville, N.C. This building was constructed in 1950. The former Southern Bell location over the Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store can be seen on the left side of this photograph.





Train wreck near Ruffin, North Carolina in 1951



- 1950** (14 October) Reidsville exchange changes from the common Battery to the Dial telephone by moving into the new Dial Building on Main Street
- 1955** (7 June) Milton Telephone Exchange established to serve customers in Northern Caswell and Person Counties
- 1955** (4 September) Gatewood Exchange established to serve customers in parts of Caswell and Rockingham County
- 1956** (9 January) Addition made to Dial Building on Main Street Claude Davis Manager
- 1962** Local Switchboard was phased out and all operators' calls went to Greensboro.
- 1967** Ruffin Exchange is formed from the Northern portion of the Reidsville Exchange
- 1970** (January) Bellsouth purchases part of the old Airport on Grooms road to build work center
- 1981** Simpsonville Exchange is formed from the Southwestern portion of the Reidsville Exchange.
- 1983** (December 31) Southern Bell ceased to be an operating Company of AT& T –The end of an era
- 1984** Bellsouth services was formed to as a service company for Southern Bell and Southeastern Bell.
- 1992** Bellsouth was merged into Bellsouth Telecommunications
- 1993** Reidsville – Gatewood – Milton – Ruffin install Electronic Switching Equipment in Central Offices
- 2004** Milton and Gatewood Exchanges sold to an independent Telephone Company, Madison Telephone Company of Mississippi
- 2007** (30 June) Reidsville, Simpsonville and Ruffin ceased operating as Bellsouth – They became part of the AT & T Corporation.

These are some of the individuals worked for the Telephone Company in Reidsville under the following company names. The company was organized in The Reidsville Review building as a an independent telephone company by the Reidsville Review in 1894 after many Bell System patents had expired and thus independents were able to enter the communication market. The Reidsville Telephone Company was incorporated in 1902 under R.J. Oliver as manager. Later that year the Reidsville Telephone Company came under the Bell System. The Review had the telephone number, 1, assigned in 1894 and keep that number until the Dial building was put into service in 1950. Around the turn of the century the Bell System acquired the communication system from The Reidsville Telephone Company and it operated under three names since then; Southern Bell, BellSouth and AT&T.

Alverson, Billy---PBX Installer---1950-1982  
Alverson, Houston---SLC ET-1990's  
Apple, Eddie---Frame/Supervisor---1950's  
Balsley, Evelyn---Switchboard Operator-1940's  
Bass, Sophia---Tstbd-1970's  
Bennett, E.A "Buck". Jr.---Installer-1950's  
Boland, Pulasky---Janitor---1928  
Boyd, Mary (Mrs. Lewis)---Switchboard Operator-1950's  
Bradley, Gil---Central Office, Gatewood---1990's  
Bradley, David---PBX, Installer---1950-1983  
Brooks, Thelma---Switchboard Operator---1947-1982  
Brumfield, A.B. "Buddy" Installer---1960'  
Burghe, Edna---Switchboard Operator---1940's  
Campbell, Jason---Supvr IR---2000's  
Campbell, \_\_\_\_\_----Cable Repair 1990's  
Cardwell, Ethel---Switchboard Operator---1950's  
Carter, Fannie Clark---Switchboard Operator---1915  
Carter, Mrs. Hugh (Eleanor)---Switchboard Operator-1950's  
Casey, Greg----Storeroom-1990's  
Cates, Pat---Central Office Foreman-1990's  
Caviness, Randy---Installer---2000's  
Chaney, Bobby---Cable Splicer-2000's  
Chaney, Mrs. Oscar---Switchboard Operator---1950's  
Chapman, W.O."Buddy"---Installer-Installation Supervisor---1990's  
Chappell, Harold---Switchman---1950's  
Clark, John---Supervisor-1970's  
Clark, Mrs. R.A. --- --1927-1962  
Clewis, R.L.----Installer---1960's  
Cobb, Robert--- --1951  
Coburn, John---Lineman---1950's (Transferred to Tennessee)  
Combs, Mrs. J.L.---Switchboard Operator---1950's  
Corum, Mary Meador---Switchboard Operator-1914  
Cross, Leroy----Storeroom-----2000's

Corum, Mrs. T.S. ---- ----1926-1962  
Costner, Robert---Installer---2000's  
Cox, C.W.---Dist. Plant Mgr.---Gnbo---1948  
Cross, Leroy----Storeroom----1900's  
Dallas, Elizabeth "Lib"---Switchboard Operator---1940's  
Dallas, John T.---Engineer---1965-1996  
Dalton, W.B.----Installer---1970's  
Davis, Charlie---Central Office---1970's  
Davis, Claude D.---Manager---1940's  
Devinnie, Frankie---Lineman-1990's  
Dixon, Nancy---Operator---1950's  
Eller, Layla Smithney---Switchboard Operator---1940's  
Ellington, J.D. "John"---Cable Repairman---1990's  
Ellington, Nina---Switchboard Operator---1905-1946  
Evans, C.N.---Reidsville Telephone Company, President---1902  
Frye, Herman---Line Foreman---1920's  
Gammon, Tom---Cable Splicer, Supervisor---1949  
Gann, Billy----Installer---1950's  
Gerringer, Dan---Switchman---2000'  
Gladden, Uluas---Cable Repairman-1960's  
Graves, Louise---Switchboard Operator---1940's  
Graves, Ray---Installer-Supervisor----1990's  
Grogan, J.D.---Installer---1950's  
Gunn, Barbara  
Gunn, Max---Cable Splicer---1990's  
Henderson, Coleman---  
Hogsed, Kevin---OSP Engineer---2000's  
Felker, Fred---Switchman---1950's  
Foster, Matthew---Switchman---1950's  
Frye, William "Bill"---Test Desk---1956-1986  
Frye, Herman E.---Supervisor---1930's  
Gann, William "Bill"---Supervisor  
Gillie, Martha---Operator Svcs---1950's  
Gunther, Alice---Operator Svcs----1916  
Grogan, J.D.----Inst-Const---1950's  
Hall, Melvin---Test Desk---  
Hanes, Chas. J.---Manager---1910 & Prior  
Hart, Terry---Installer, Central Office Supervisor---2000's  
Hayes, Eddie---Construction Foreman---1990's  
Henderson, Coleman---Switchman-1950's  
Hopkins, Alice---Switchboard Operator---1930  
Howard, Betty Ware----Central Office Clerk---1950's  
Hughes, Sam---Construction Foreman-1990's  
Hurley, Richard ---Switchman---1946-1977  
Huskey, Eddie ---Switchman---1990's  
Huskey, Flossie---Chief Operator---1930's---1962

Hylar, Bob---Cable Splicer-1990's  
Jarrell, Jerry---Cable Repairman---1990'  
Jarrett, Jerry---Lineman---1950's  
Jarrett, Wayne---Central Office---1970's  
Jobe, Jan---TstBd-1970's  
Jones, Hop---Lineman-1950's  
Jones, McAdoo---Installer---1950's  
Jones, Robie---Switchboard Operator---1937-1947  
Kincaid, George---Installer---1950's  
Kingsley, \_\_\_\_\_--Mgr----1915  
Little, Col. W.B.---General Manager Greensboro District---1927  
Livengood, Bill---Test Desk---1980's  
Mainor, W.M.---\_\_\_\_\_---1960's  
Manley, Edith McClintock ----Switchboard Operator---1950's  
Marsh, Dale---Installer-1970's  
Martin, "Sye" C.W.—Switchman-1941  
Matthews, Becky Emerson---Chief Operator—1921-1949  
McClintock, C.G. "Carl" ---Installer/Repairmen-General Manager---1919  
McGuire, Jerry---Installer---2000's  
McKinney, Arlen---Lineman-1950's  
Melvin. T. Otis---Supervisor—1980's  
Melvin, Annie Ruth---Operator---1960's  
Mickey, Otho---Installer-1950's  
Moore, Dorothy---Switchboard Operator---1940's  
Morris, Norris--- ---1970's  
Millis, Hall---Switchman-1950's  
Mullis, Bill---  
Mullis, Lee---Supervisor---1960's  
Neal, Charlie---Storeroom—  
Oaks, Roger---Swtch---1970's  
Oliver, R.J.---The Reidsville Telephone Company, Manager—1902  
Palmer, June.---Switchboard Operator---1960's  
Parker, Shirley---Construction Supervisor---1990's  
Parks, "Red"---Switchboard Operator---1940's  
Payne, Eleanor---Switchboard Operator---1950's  
Perdue, Eleanor---Switchboard Operator---1950's  
Poindexter, C.E. "Edd"---Lineman-1950's  
Poole, Mrs. Calvin---Switchboard Operator---1950's  
Pope, Jimmy---Installer---1990's  
Powell, Bill---Cable Splicer---1990's  
Richmond, Elvin "Curly"---Installer/Repairman---1960'  
Richmond, Steve---Cable Repair---2000's  
Regan, Ed-----Eng, Const Foreman----2000's  
Revis, James---Cable Splicer---1990's  
Rierson, Larry---Installer---1990's  
Saunders, Mike Sr.---Lineman---2000's

Saunders, Mike Jr.---Lineman-2000's  
Searce, Terry---Installer---1990's  
Sharp, Sue---Business Ofc---1960's  
Shepherd, Frank----Engineer---1970's  
Smith, Harold---Switchman---2000's  
Smith, Nancy---Switchboard Operator---1940's  
Smith, Richard---Central Office----1990's  
Smith, William D.---Construction---1970's  
Smithney, Hessie---Switchboard Operator---1940'  
Smithney, Ken----Construction-----2000's  
Spangler, Mary Smithney---Switchboard Operator-1940's  
Spivey, Lelia Mae---Chief Operator---1950's  
Stanley, L.G.----Installer---1950's  
Stone, Ricky---Cable Splicer---1900's  
Stratton, Mary---Switchboard Operator---1940's  
Strickland, Frank---PBX installer---1960's  
Sutton, Juanita---Frame Attendant-1970's  
Switzer, L.C----Mgr----1916  
Wallace, G.A.---Installer-1970's  
Ware, Dickie---Splicer -1970's  
Ware, Pat---Switchman-1970"  
Ware, Romania Garrison  
Warner, John C. Sr.---Installer-Frame-Supervisor---1950's  
Warner, John C Jr.---Installer-Construction Supervisor---2000's  
Washburn, Dot Wilson---Switchboard Operator---  
Wilkerson, J.L.----Contract Supervisor----1990's  
Wilkerson, "Jap"---Supervisor---1960's  
Williams, Charlie O.--- ----1951  
Womack, Francis---Reidsville Telephone Company-Secretary-Treasurer---1902  
Wosley, C.A.---Lineman-1950's  
Yow, Ann---Frame Attendant---1970's

APRIL 1896  
**REIDSVILLE**  
 N.C.

**SANBORN - PERRIS MAP CO., LIMITED**  
 117 & 119 Broadway  
 NEW YORK

Population 4,500.  
 1 Steam & No Hand Engines  
 No Independent Horse Carts - 2 Horse Racks  
 Water Facilities: Not Good.  
 1500' - 2 1/2" Hoop.

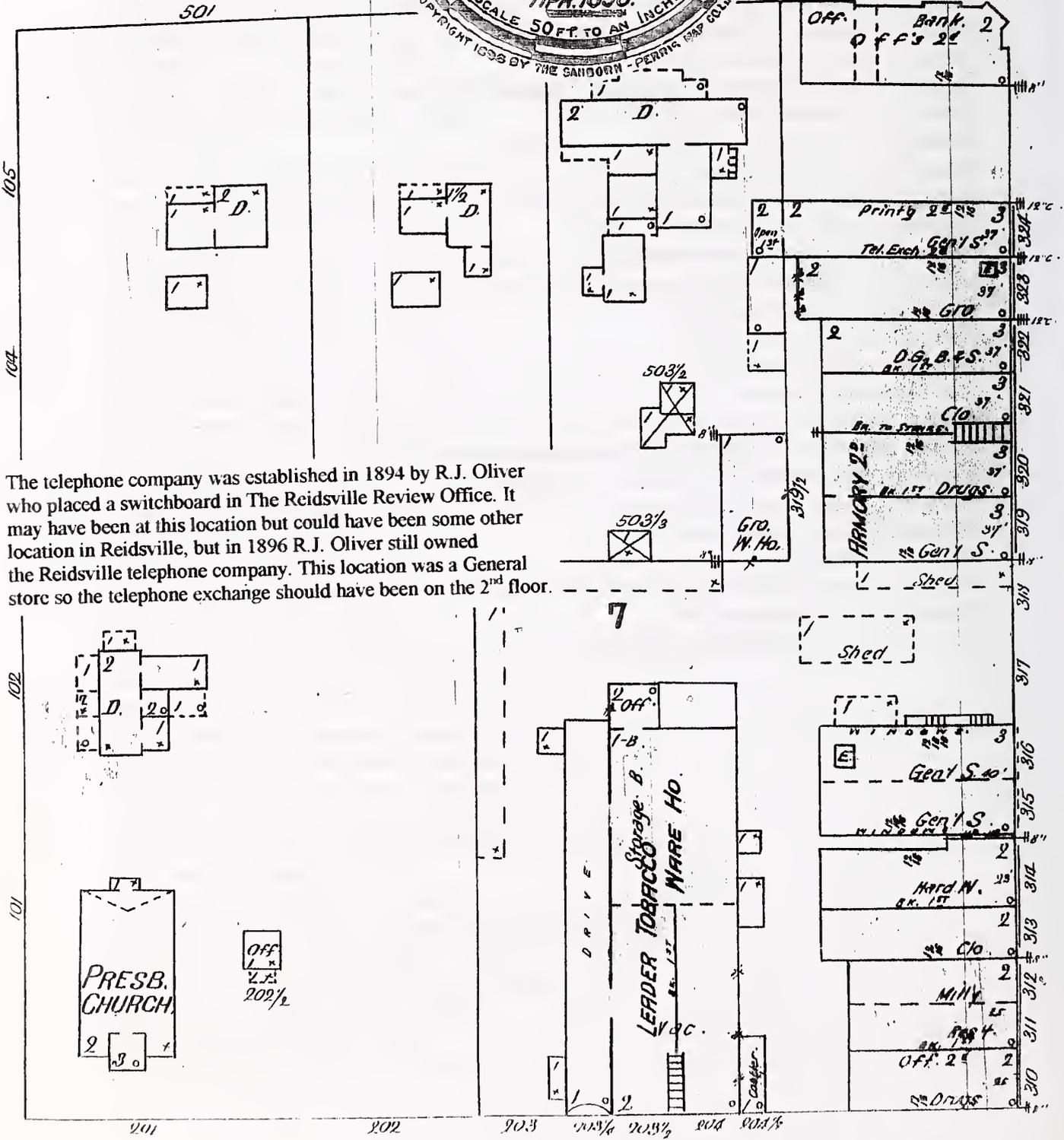
Prevailing Winds: N.W. & S.W.

**REIDSVILLE.**  
 ROCKINGHAM Co. N.C.  
 APR. 1896.

SCALE 50 FT. TO AN INCH.

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**MOREHEAD**



The telephone company was established in 1894 by R.J. Oliver who placed a switchboard in The Reidsville Review Office. It may have been at this location but could have been some other location in Reidsville, but in 1896 R.J. Oliver still owned the Reidsville telephone company. This location was a General store so the telephone exchange should have been on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

75'

SCALES

**GILMER**

**SANBORN - PERRIS MAP CO. LIMITED**  
 11 Broadway  
 NEW YORK

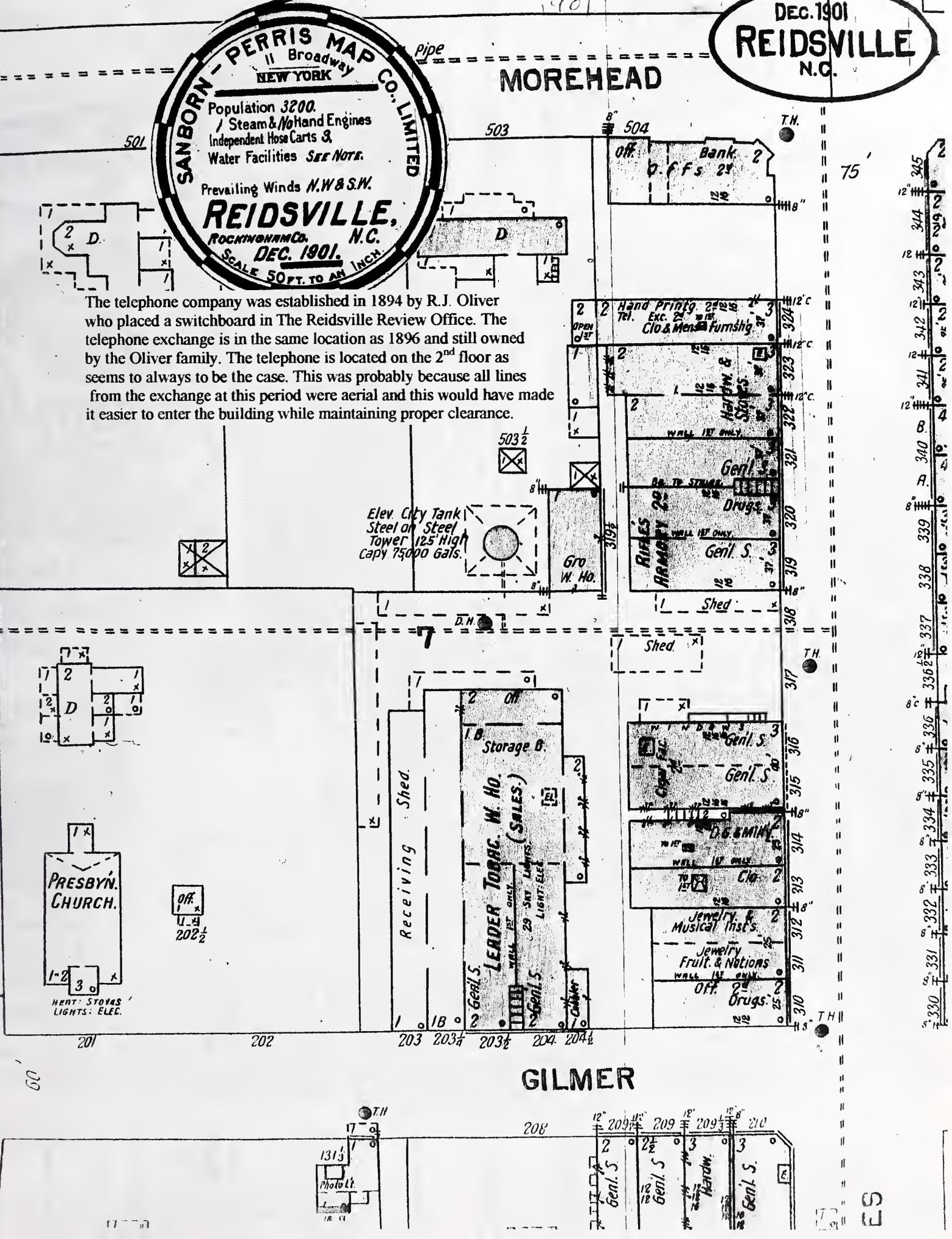
Population 3200.  
 1 Steam & 10 Hand Engines  
 Independent Hose Carts 3  
 Water Facilities SEE NOTE.

Prevailing Winds N.W. & S.W.

**REIDSVILLE,**  
 ROCKINGHAM Co. N.C.  
 DEC. 1901.  
 SCALE 50 FT. TO AN INCH.

**MOREHEAD**

The telephone company was established in 1894 by R.J. Oliver who placed a switchboard in The Reidsville Review Office. The telephone exchange is in the same location as 1896 and still owned by the Oliver family. The telephone is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor as seems to always to be the case. This was probably because all lines from the exchange at this period were aerial and this would have made it easier to enter the building while maintaining proper clearance.



Elev. City Tank  
 Steel on Steel  
 Tower 125' High  
 Capy 75000 Gals.

**PRESBYN.  
 CHURCH.**

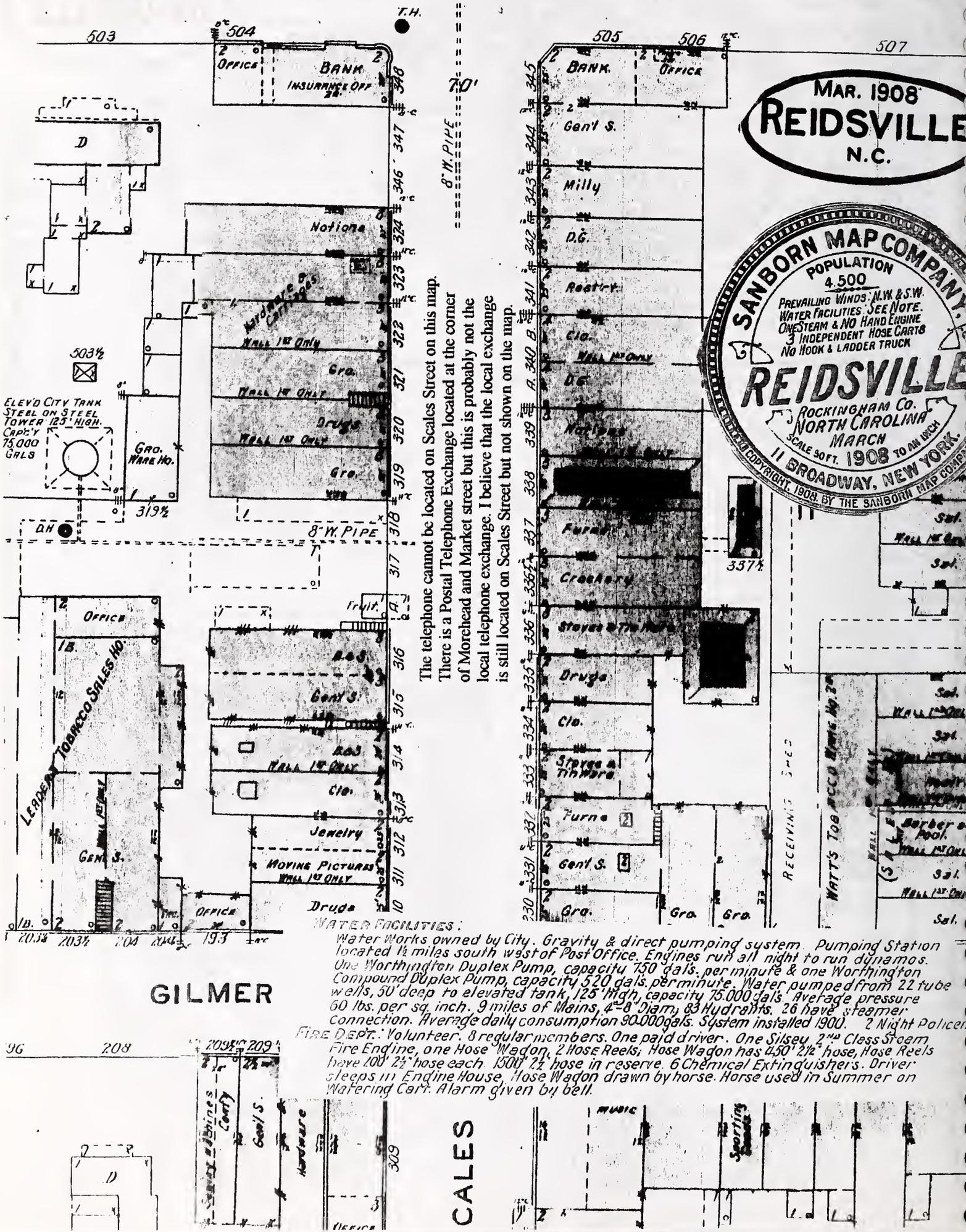
**LEADER TOBAC. W. HO.  
 (SALES.)**

**ARMORY 20**  
**Genl. S.**  
**Drugs.**  
**Shed.**

**GILMER**

# MOREHEAD

6" W. PIPE



MAR. 1908  
**REIDSVILLE**  
N.C.

**SANBORN MAP COMPANY**  
POPULATION 4,500  
PREVAILING WINDS N.W. & S.W.  
WATER FACILITIES SEE NOTE.  
ONE TEAM & NO HAND ENGINE  
3 INDEPENDENT HOSE CARTS  
NO HOOK & LADDER TRUCK

**REIDSVILLE**  
ROCKINGHAM CO.  
NORTH CAROLINA  
MARCH  
SCALE 30 FT. 1908 TO AN INCH  
11 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

COPYRIGHT 1908 BY THE SANBORN MAP COMPANY

The telephone cannot be located on Scales Street on this map. There is a Postal Telephone Exchange located at the corner of Morehead and Market street but this is probably not the local telephone exchange. I believe that the local exchange is still located on Scales Street but not shown on the map.

**WATER FACILITIES:**

Water Works owned by City. Gravity & direct pumping system. Pumping Station located 1/2 miles south west of Post Office. Engines run all night to run dynamos. One Worthington Duplex Pump, capacity 750 gals. per minute & one Worthington Compound Duplex Pump, capacity 520 gals. per minute. Water pumped from 22 tube wells, 50' deep to elevated tank, 125' high, capacity 75,000 gals. Average pressure 60 lbs. per sq. inch. 9 miles of Mains, 4" & 8" Diam, 83 Hydrants. 26 have steamer connection. Average daily consumption 90,000 gals. System installed 1900. 2 Night Policemen

Fire Dept.: Volunteer. 8 regular members. One paid driver. One Silsey 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Steam Fire Engine, one Hose Wagon, 2 Hose Reels; Hose Wagon has 450' 2 1/2" hose, Hose Reels have 100' 2 1/2" hose each. 1500' 2 1/2" hose in reserve. 6 Chemical Extinguishers. Driver sleeps in Engine House, Hose Wagon drawn by horse. Horse used in Summer on Watering Cart. Alarm given by bell.

# GILMER

# CALES

ELEV'D CITY TANK  
STEEL ON STEEL  
TOWER 125' HIGH.  
CAP'Y  
75,000  
GALS

LEADER TOBACCO SALES HO.  
GEN. S.  
OFFICE

Office  
Gent. S.  
Hall 1st Only  
Clo.  
Jewelry  
MOVING PICTURES  
WALL 1st ONLY  
Drugs

BANK  
Office  
Gent. S.  
Milly  
D.G.  
Restry  
Clo.  
Hall 1st ONLY  
D.G.  
Notions  
Furn.  
Crockery  
Stores & Tinware  
Drugs  
Clo.  
Stores & Tinware  
Furn.  
Gent. S.  
Gro.

RECEIVING 3-22  
WATT'S TOBACCO SALES HO. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Barber & Pool.  
WALL 1st ONLY  
Sol.  
WALL 1st ONLY  
Sol.

203 203 1/2 204 204 1/2 193  
Scales St  
Gent. S.  
Hardware  
209 209 1/2  
D

309  
D

MUSIC

Sporting Goods



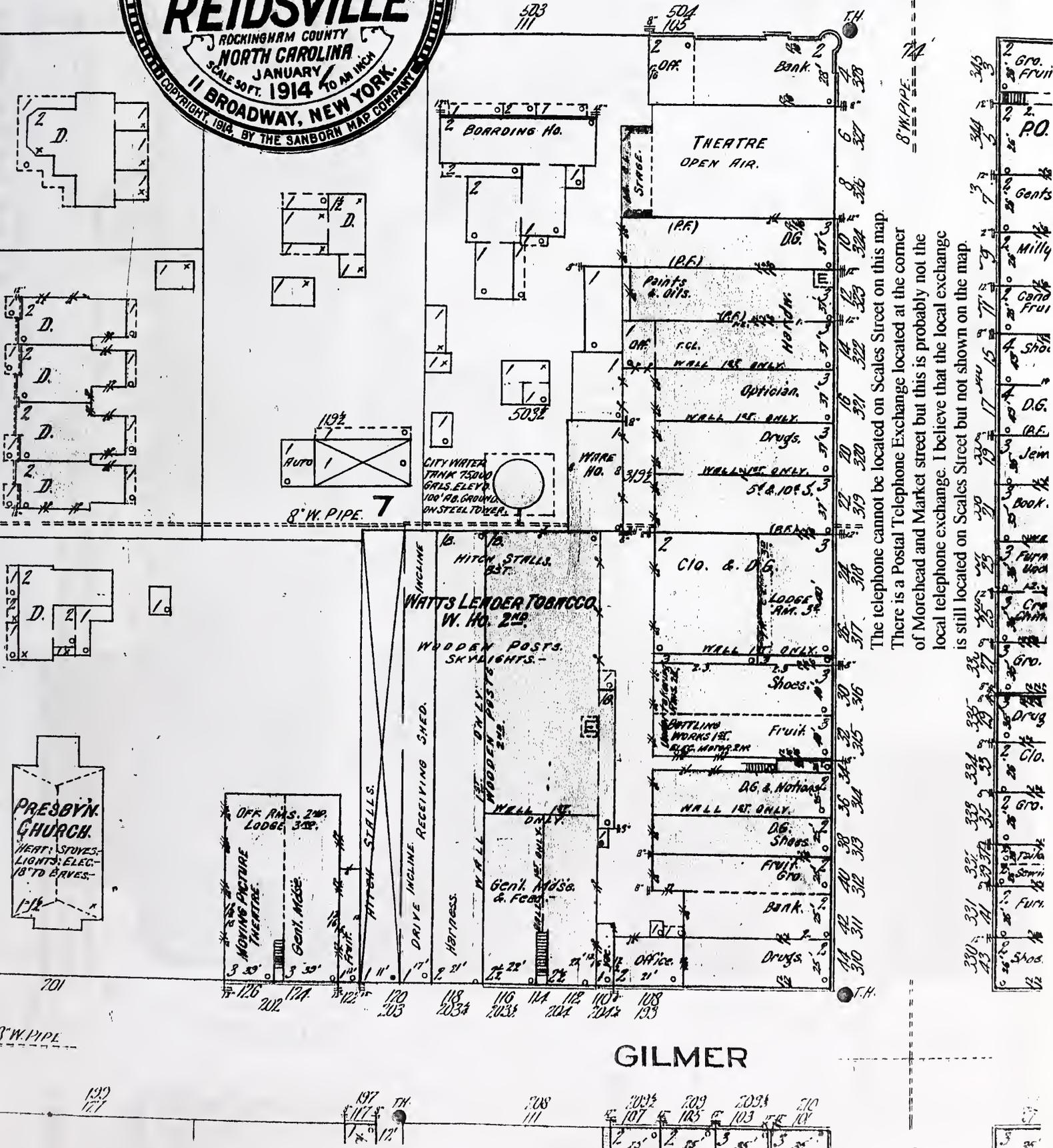
JAN. 1914.  
**REIDSVILLE**  
 N.C.

W. MOREHEAD

N. SCALES

6" W.P. 8" W.P.

3" W. PIPE.



The telephone cannot be located on Scales Street on this map. There is a Postal Telephone Exchange located at the corner of Morehead and Market street but this is probably not the local telephone exchange. I believe that the local exchange is still located on Scales Street but not shown on the map.

- 2 Gro. Fruit
- 2 PO.
- 2 Gents
- 2 Milly
- 2 Gro. Fruit
- 2 Sho.
- 2 D.G.
- 2 (B.F.)
- 2 Jew.
- 2 Book.
- 2 Fern
- 2 Gro.
- 2 Drug
- 2 Gro.
- 2 Gro.
- 2 Tailor
- 2 Fur.
- 2 Sho.

GILMER

Rockingham Co.

# North Carolina Sanborn Map Company

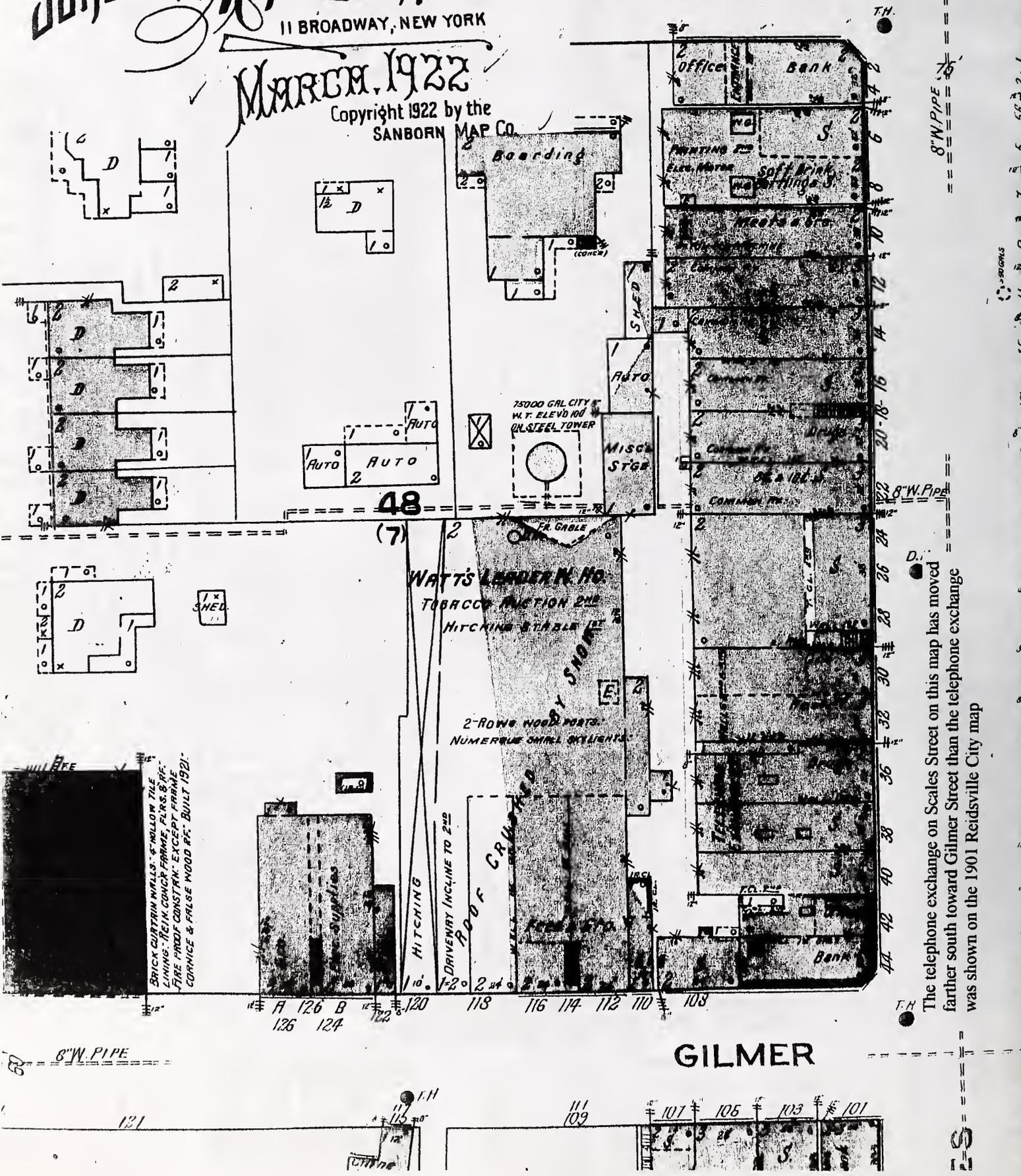
11 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

## MARCH, 1922

Copyright 1922 by the  
SANBORN MAP CO.

MAR. 1922  
**REIDSVILLE**  
N.C.

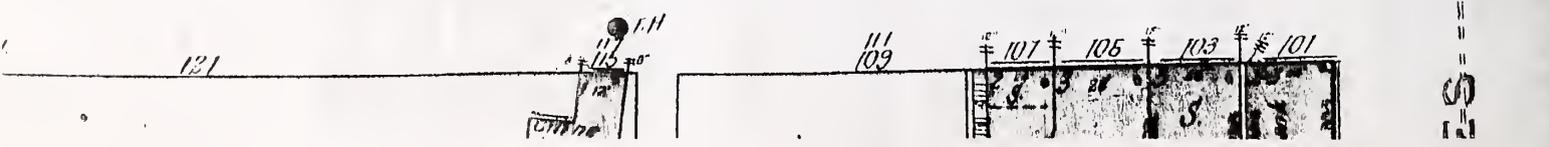
W. MOREHEAD



The telephone exchange on Scales Street on this map has moved farther south toward Gilmer Street than the telephone exchange was shown on the 1901 Reidsville City map

GILMER

8" W. PIPE

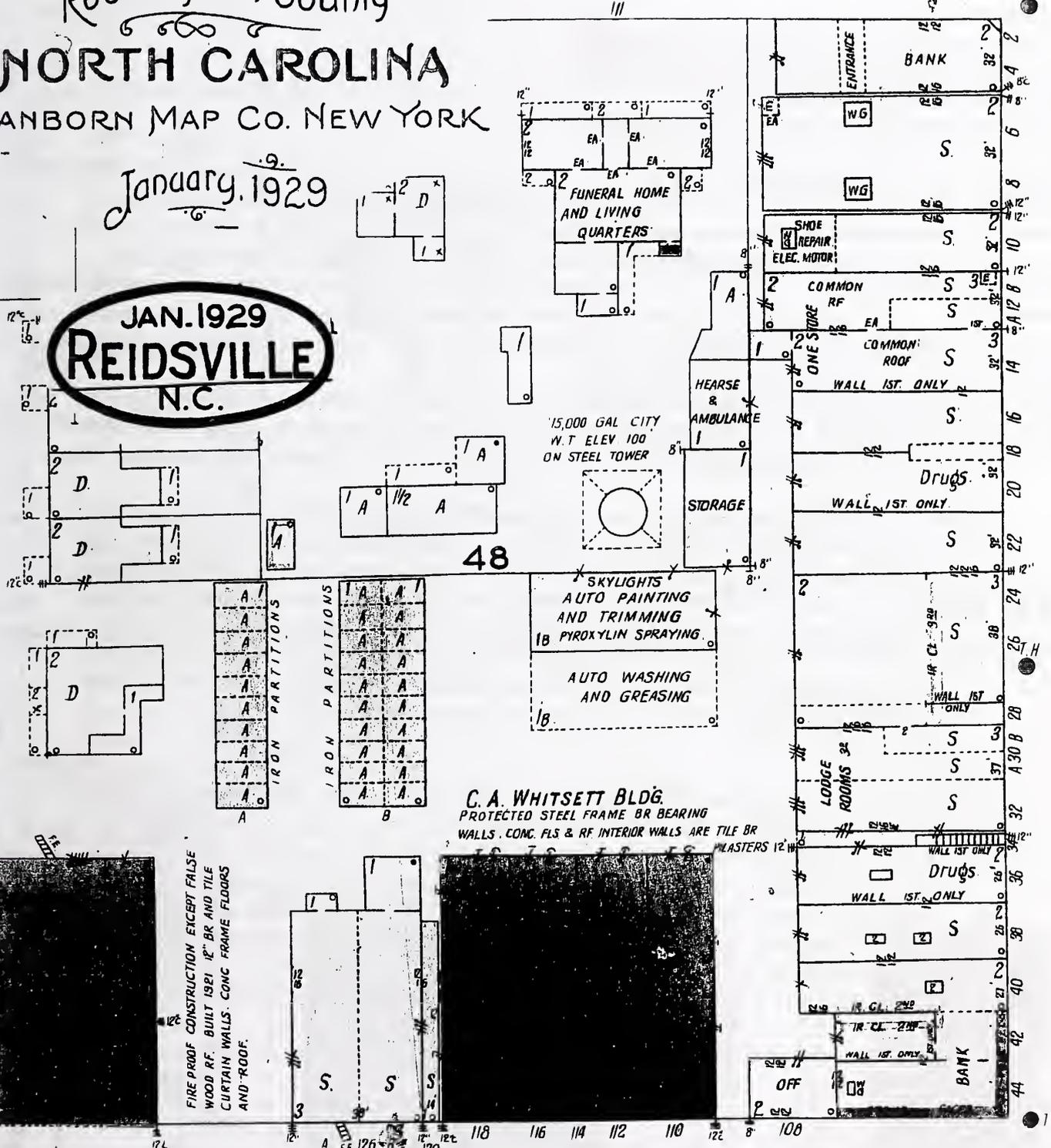


W. MOREHEAD

Rockingham County  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SANBORN MAP CO. NEW YORK

January 1929

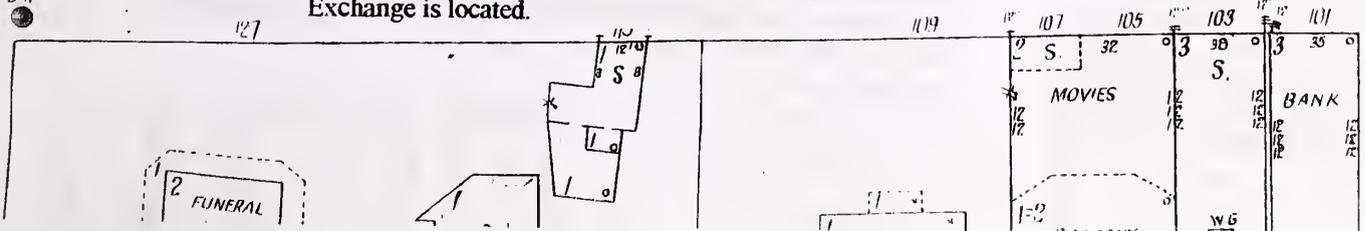
JAN. 1929  
REIDSVILLE  
N.C.



The 1922 maps had the telephone exchange located on Scales Street near the intersection of Scales and Gilmer Street. This, the 1929 does not indicate where the telephone Exchange is located.

GILMER

SCALES



NEW REPORT, January, 1947

POPULATION: 11,000.
PREVAILING WINDS: Southeast.
GRADES: Rolling.
PAVING: As shown.

WATER FACILITIES

Municipal ownership. Source from Troublesome Creek (5 miles). Direct and gravity pressure system. One reservoir capacity 800,000 gallons. One standpipe capacity 800,000 gallons, base level with business section. One 75,000 gallon water tank elevated 100' on steel tower, one 500,000 gallon water tank elevated 108' on steel tower.

One Worthington electric pump, capacity 1000 G.P.M. One Morris electric pump capacity 800 G.P.M. One Morris gasoline driven pump capacity 800 G.P.M. All above pump water from source to filter.

Two DeLaval electric pumps capacities 800 G.P.M. each. One Worthington electric pump capacity 950 G.P.M. These pump from filter and reservoir to water tanks and standpipe.

Filter plant located approximately 3 miles from Town Office.

39 miles of 4" to 12" mains. 301 double and triple hydrants. Average daily consumption 800,000 gallons. Domestic and fire pressure in business district 55 pounds.

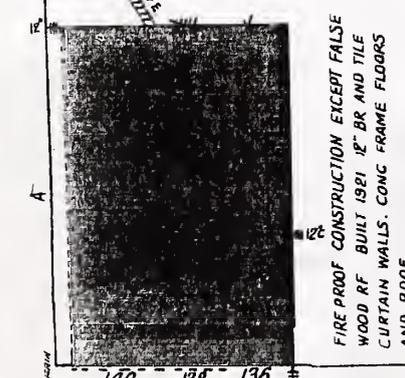
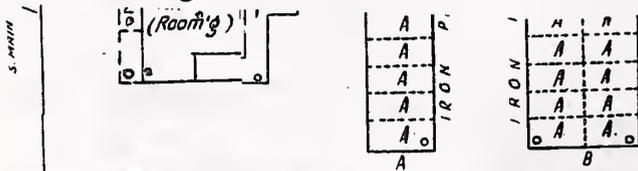
FIRE DEPARTMENT

One station. Volunteer, paid per run. One chief, 1 assistant chief, 4 paid drivers, 23 men. One American-LaFrance triple combination pumper 750 G.P.M. carries 1400' 2 1/2" hose, 250 gallon booster pump with 250' 1 1/2" and 300' 3/4" hose. One foamite, one American-LaFrance pumper 750 G.P.M. carries 100' of ladders, 225 gallon booster pump 200' 1 1/2" and 300' 3/4" hose and 1200' 2 1/2" hose. One Ford-Owens pumper 500 G.P.M. carries 1000' 2 1/2" hose, 225 gallon booster pump 500' 1 1/2" and 300' 3/4" hose. One foamite. 1100' 2 1/2" hose in reserve.

NO FIRE-RESISTIVE ROOFING ORDINANCE.

Rockingham County
NORTH CAROLINA
SANBORN MAP CO. NEW YORK

January 1929



C. A. WHITSETT BLDG.
PROTECTED STEEL FRAME BR BEARING
WALLS CONC FLS & RF. INTERIOR WALLS ARE TILE BR. PLASTER'S

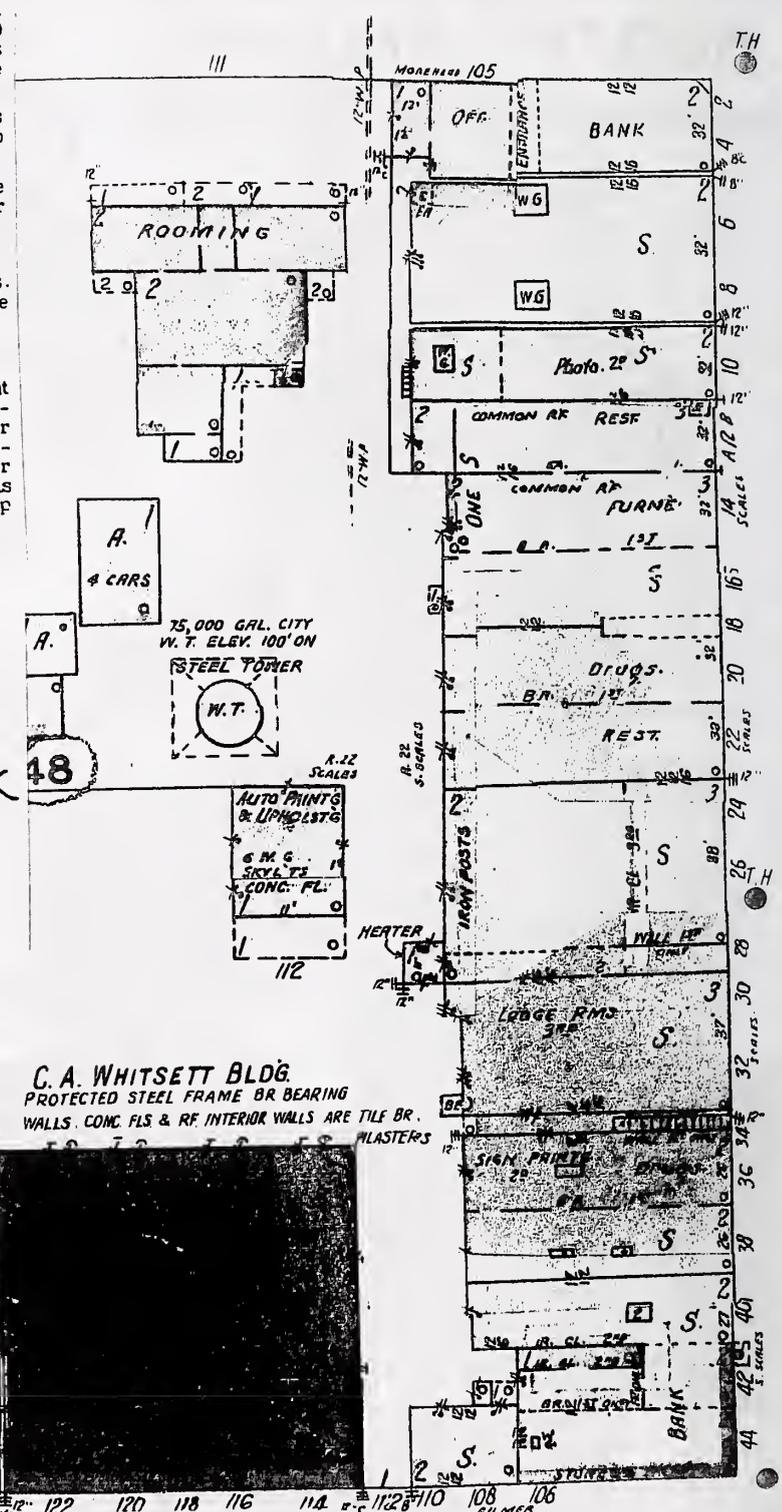
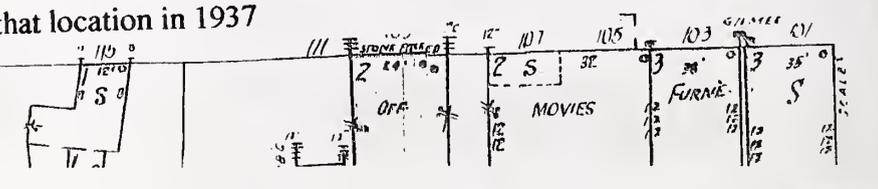


Table with 4 columns: REV. NO., DATE OF CORRECTION, ATTACHED BY, DATE ATTACHED. Contains two entries for corrections made in 1942 and 1948.

This the 1929 map updated to 1948 shows the telephone company on Gilmer Street. It had been at this location as least since 1937 as Mrs. Robie J Barnes went to work at that location in 1937

GILMER



Cynthia Marshall  
at&t Room 1522  
300 S. Brevard Street  
Charlotte, N.C. 28202

4 September 2008

Ms. Marshall,

I am a retired Facility engineer from Southern Bell/Bellsouth/ AT&T since 1996. I was the engineer for the Rockingham/Caswell County area. I lived in Reidsville and worked from the Reidsville Construction Office. For many years I have been interested in anything that has to do with the history of Rockingham County and have researched many subjects, made booklets or books on my research and donated copies of my research to the Community College here and several of the Libraries in the county.

My project for the past year has been how the Telephone Company was established in Reidsville, Ruffin, Gatewood, Milton and Simpsonville Central Offices. I am interested in the people that helped establish telephone service here starting in 1894.

Our local newspaper, The Reidsville Review was owned by the Oliver family and they established the first phone service with a switchboard in the newspaper office. (have not established exactly what street it was on at that time). The Review had the telephone #1 and keep it until the new Dial Office was built at 211 Main Street in October 1950. From About 1925 until the late 40's it appears that we had only two men working in the outside plant here in Reidsville. They were Carl G. McClintock and Herman Frye. They were true pioneers in the telephone business in our county. Southern Bell bought the Oliver family out around 1902 and this has made Rockingham (a good portion) a Bell Telephone county for 106 years

What I am looking for, is there some type of archives for Bellsouth/Southern Bell maintained at some location? Maybe Charlotte. In the 60's and 70's there was a magazine called the "The Reporter" published in Charlotte and mailed to every employee. I have a 1968 issue with the Greensboro skyline in color on the front and it contains an article on the Greensboro district which has Reidsville in it. Also have a 1974 issue. Could these magazines be archived at some location? I was hoping that there might some type of files that could give me names of some of the early operators. C.J. Hines was the manager in a 1910 newspaper articles which states he was being transferred to South Carolina.

Any source that you could refer me to would be appreciated. Thanks for taking the time to read my letter.

John T. Dallas  
3929 Ribbon Grass Terrace  
Greensboro, N.C. 27405  
336-621-3943    [Email=jdallas@bellsouth.net](mailto:jdallas@bellsouth.net)

The Greensboro Patriot  
24 September 1879

### A New Telephone

Mr. Edison occupied the evening session of the Science Association tonight with a description of the new electro chemical telephone, giving illustration of its power and mode of operation. An immense audience was present, filling the town hall to its utmost capacity and the experiments were received with great interest and enthusiasm. The telephone was operated from an apartment in a building at some distance from the hall. The difference between the new instrument and the ordinary telephone consists of its capacity to convey the voice to a room full of persons without any ear piece. The sounds of the voice were very distinct and one of the most curious features of the experiments was the conveyance of two voices distinctly at one time, the one singing and the other repeating the alphabet. Mr. Edison stated that he could not attempt to explain the reasons for the remarkable results obtained as he did not fully comprehend them himself. The features of the instrument are the use of carbon points and in obtaining the wave; he explained that the current was broken by the friction occasioned by the revolution of a piece of chalk against the metallic bar attached to diaphragm. Several thousand vibrations were produce in a second of time. The revolutions were produced by turning of a crank worked by a person in the room to which the sounds are transmitted, thus placing the transmission of sounds in the hands of that person, The chalk used is saturated with a solution of phosphate of potash, which rather than any other salt produces the required result. Mr. Edison could not explain why. He only knew that he could not obtain results in any other way. Mr. Edison asserted his belief that before long a person making a speech in New York may be heard through the electro-chemical telephone by a hall full of people in Saratoga, or that a concert may be given at any place by artists in another city. During the experiment the cornet was played and "John Brown's Body" was sung and transmitted with perfect distinctness and hear as plainly by all as if the instrument and voices were in the room.

The Danbury Reporter  
11 December 1927

### May Install New Telephone System

B.L Fisher Of Rocking Mount Va., Here This Week Looking Over Situation- Lions Clubs Will Aid Project

B.L. Fisher of Rocky Mount, Va. was here Monday over the situation with view to installing telephone system in Danbury and Walnut Cove and between the two towns. Mr. Fisher was the promoter of the telephone system in Madison, Stoneville, Rocky Mount and other towns along the N & W railway and is giving these places excellent service, it is said. It is learned that if a sufficient number of patrons for the system can be secured Mr. Fisher will begin work at once. A canvass of the citizens here and at Walnut Cove will probably be made at once. The telephone service between Danbury and Walnut Cove has been poor for several years and is now almost cut off entirely. A system like Mr. Fisher's proposes to install will prove a great convenience to say the least.

expiration of prior patents on the same devices obtained in England. The Humming patent, by the same ruling, expired September 16, 1892. The Berliner patent, applied for in 1877, was not obtained till November 17, 1891. The Attorney General seeks by a suit to annul on the plea that it was improperly obtained and Mr. Rosenbaum thinks it highly improbable that that it will be held valid. It is an important patent, covering the common used means (a pair of electrodes in contact) for carrying out the fundamental method disclosed in the original Bell patent in 1876. The more or less important Edison transmitter patents, three in number, are void, under the decision already mentioned, have been issued after the death of a foreign patent for the same intervention. The outlook, upon the whole, seems favorable for the early relief from the high tariff the Bell patents have enabled the company to impose upon the public. The lesson of the whole telephone matter is that a modification of our patent laws in the public interest should receive the attention of Congress.

14 February 1894

The bottom has dropped out of the Bell telephone monopoly, so far as concern private lines. The patent on the Bell telephone expired Tuesday, and the Metropolitan (New York) Telephone Company, which is the local name of the Bell monopoly, created a sensation that day by advertising to sell telephones at \$2.50 each.

At the offices of the company on Cortland Street, carpenters were at work fitting up the "retail department," where telephones are to be sold like loaves or boxes of matches. The company has thousand of telephones already manufactured and expects to be able to do much of the new business permitted by the expiration of the patent. The cost of fitting up a private line will be \$6.50 for each end, aside from the cost of making the connection.

It is the occupation of the underground conduits that the Metropolitan Telephone monopoly is relying upon, now that its patent has expired, to continue its monopoly of the exchange work in this city. It proposes to go on charging customers \$240 a year for the use of a telephone connected with the general exchange.

It looks as if there would be a rapid fall in the price of telephones, Manufactures, are overstocked with instruments and a dozen or more stores are selling them. In a month, it is said, they will be down to \$1.

The Reidsville Review

24 August 1911

In the office of the Register of Deeds at Wentworth a mortgage representing a bond issue of \$50,000,000 has been recorded, probably the highest that has ever been made in this section of the country, the filing which required 25,000 words. It was a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company bond issue. The company is required to make a record of the mortgage in each county of the seven states within which its operates.

It annihilates distance and brings your five mile neighbor right to your door for many a friendly chat. Frequently three or four will be on the line at the same time and carry on a friendly conversation as though we were all in the same room. Often we hear the call for music. Probably two lines will be connected someone will give us a good piece at the close which another phonograph will take it up and render something else and so on.

I am aware that Stokes, Rockingham and other surrounding counties have a few lines. They are quite a convenience the ones owned by companies or individuals and are operated for profit with stations at given intervals you cannot call up; you nearest neighbor and ask him for a loan of his plow or wagon to take the place of your broken one till you can get another We have most dealings with our nearest neighbors and these cannot be reached by your system of toll lines. What is the remedy? Why let some farmer select a route for a farmers line, say from Germanton to Danbury, count up the cost of such line, canvass the farmers and see how many will take phones. Suppose you get ten subscribers; then divide the cost of the line between the ten and let the amount constitute in the company. The farmers would furnish their own poles and put up the line so the only cost would be the price of the wire and the phones. Let them all use the same kinds of phones and my advice would to put in nothing less than a phone of 2500 ohms resistance. Later on others will want to come on your line; let them pay in the price of a share to be divided out among the members of the company or kept in the treasury to defray any expenses that may arise. Finally and soon other lines will be built and you will have central in all the little towns and you can call up anybody in the county or the adjoining counties with not cost except keeping up lines.

Farmers, would you not like that? But the cost! Well, here is the way it cost us. For a single line, its takes one hundred and sixty five pounds of No.12 wire and 25 to 30 poles to the mile. Wire cost is 3 to 5 cents and poles come at various prices besides hauling them 10 to 15 miles.

Doubtless you can get telephone wire at 2 to 2½ cents and could furnish and set your own poles. Your phones would cost you twelve to fifteen dollars each. Every man buys and owns his own phones and furnishes the connecting line from the main line to the house. If on the supposed line from Germanton to Danbury you get twelve subscribers then those twelve men would purchase 2,000 pounds of wire for fifty dollars and each put in twenty eight poles and but a good phone and each man is out not exceeding twenty dollars and has the telephone service with his near neighbors. When a man wants to come on let him pay in something like ten or fifteen dollars, buy his own phone and connect himself with your line.

The phone business is like the hoping cough---it is catching. The more that you get on a line the more that want to get on.

The line I am on charges five dollars a share but for a line one half mile away, the charge is fifteen and another ten. A nominal fee charged on for the use of the line will cover expenses.

I am not an expert, but if your readers should want to build a line I would be glad to give them advice and some of our best phones that your people might be able to get the best phones and avoid costly blunders that are so often made experience in the telephone area.

The Reidsville Review  
27 Apr 1894

The Review is glad to state that the telephone system will be in operation here in three weeks. All of innumerable obstacles and difficulties in the way of getting the enterprise have been finally overcome and the system is now arrived. The order has been placed for the telephone switchboard, wire, poles, etc. and work will begin soon. About 45 phones will be put in to start with. The central office will be in the Review building. A line will also be erected to Wentworth.

The Reidsville Review  
August 1894

The Telephone System

Reidsville now new telephone system is now in full operation and working very nicely. There are forty-five connections as follows:

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1—Review                     | 24-Boyd Mfg. Co.                 |
| 2—A.H. Motley Co.            | 25-H.R. Ford                     |
| 3—Watt's Warehouse           | 26-G.D. Williams                 |
| 4—Star Warehouse             | 27-J.H. Walker & Co.             |
| 5—R & D Depot                | 28-Fetzer & Overman              |
| 6—Wm. Young                  | 29-Dr. Wm. C. Staples            |
| 7—Irvin & Purcell            | 30-Wall, Penn & Co.              |
| 8—Robert Harris & Bros.      | 31-W.B. Wray                     |
| 9—Citizens' Bank             | 32-Dr. G.W. Lewis                |
| 10-J.O. Gardner & Son        | 33-Mrs. M.E. Walters (residence) |
| 11-R.G. Gladstone            | 34-J.O. Sharpe                   |
| 12-Leader Warehouse          | 36-Drs. W.J. & D.W. Courts       |
| 13-Giles & Co.               | 37-Cosmo Benson                  |
| 14-W.J. Irvin                | 38-P.D. Watt (stamp office)      |
| 15-R.I. Mayo                 | 39-Wm. Lindsey & Co.             |
| 15-W.U. Telegraph            | 40-R.J. Oliver (residence)       |
| 16-Slaughter's Restaurant    | 41-J.C. Womack & Bros.           |
| 17-Roberson & Apple          | 42-Dr. T.E. Balsley              |
| 18-Bank of Reidsville        | 43-E.M. Redd (residence)         |
| 19-P.H. Williamson & Co.     | 44-Denny Bros.                   |
| 20-W.B. Beach M.D.           | 45-W.R. Vickers                  |
| 21-R.P. Richardson Jr. & Co. |                                  |
| 22-F.R. Penn & Co.           |                                  |
| 23-Hermitage Cotton Mills    |                                  |

The Reidsville Review  
19 March 1897

Will Pay Telephone Charges

The following progressive Greensboro firms will pay telephone charges on all messages of a business nature from Reidsville, Leaksville, Spray and Wentworth and will give prompt attention to all orders by telephone.

Merchants Grocery Co. Wholesale grocers (Merchants only)  
Fishplate-Katz Co., clothiers and furnishers  
F.G. Newcombe, whiskey, brandies, etc.  
Guilford Lumber Company, dealers in lumber and building materials  
John J. Phoenix, Produce dealer and commission merchant  
John B. Wright, dealer in medical instruments  
Greensboro Seed & Plant Co.  
W.G. Mebane & Co. Wholesale Grocers (Merchants only)  
Cox, Ferree Dry Goods Company

The Reidsville Review  
1948

There are 3,500 telephones listed in Reidsville latest telephone directory, a figure 25 times greater than 120 telephones in Reidsville shortly after the Reidsville Telephone and Telegraph Company was incorporated in 1902.

Almost as startling as the difference in the size of two telephone directories, that of 46 years ago and the one of today is the fact that in 1902 not a minister in Reidsville had a telephone whereas three saloons and one bar was listed, namely Davis saloon, Gillie and Company saloon and City Bar.

Physicians listed were Doctors Balsley, Brooks, Mills, G.W. Sapp and Williams. Warehouseman having telephones in 1902 were Leader, Star and Watt's. Two hotels, the Central and Piedmont were listed. Industries in Reidsville 46 years ago having telephones were Amos Paper Box Company, Edna Cotton Mill, F.R. Penn Tobacco Company, R.P. Richardson Jr. and Company and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

The telephone number of the Reidsville Review was 1, just as today's residences and business's have the same have the same number they did 46 years ago. Among those which do is the Reidsville Grocery Company.

Some of the telephones of 46 years ago were Allen's Drug Store, Amos Stable, Burton's Store, Miss Bess Boyd, H.P. Brown, Citizens Bank, C.H. Denny, D.R. Ellington's Store, Fetzer and Mims, H.R. Ford, Robert Harris and Bros., B. Hurdle, B.M. Hitchcock's store, Harris and Hubbard, Bob Hutcherson, H.W. Hines, E.F. Hall, Miss Lucy Harrison, Mrs. Hancock, P.H. Harrelson, Miss Willie Jones, Neal Hardware Company, Price and Clark, Rascoe and Whitsett, Reidsville Steam Laundry, J.G. Staples, Snipe's Residence, Scott and Reid, P.H. Williamson and Co., Ware's Store, Francis Womack Office, E.D. Watt, Mrs. S.S. Watt, J.H. Walker, C.A. Wootton.

The Reidsville Telephone Company incorporated in 1902 and had the following officer: C.N. Evans, president; Francis Womack, Secretary-treasurer; R.J. Oliver, manager.

December 1983 Journal Page 69 shows the Reidsville Review building at the corner of Northwest Market and Morehead Streets with no telephone wires shown

The Greensborough Patriot  
22 May 1895

**BELL TELEPHONE VICTORY**  
The Berliner Transmitter Patent Declared Valid --- Bate Case

Boston Mass. – The American Bell Telephone Company's Berliner patent was yesterday decided by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals to be valid. This, as counsel for the United States frankly admit, is a great surprise and virtually gives the Bell Company a monopoly of the invention until the year 1908. The Berliner patent thus sustained is No. 463,569 and it was issued on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1891. The inventor is Emile Berliner. The instrument covered by it is a device commonly known as a telephone transmitter.

Judge Carpenter in the United States Circuit Court on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1894, decided that the Berliner patent was invalid and ordered it to be delivered up for Cancellation. The company appealed and now the result is favorable to it. The United States relied upon two grounds to show that the patent was void. The first was that there were illegal delays of more than fourteen years in its issue. The second was that a prior patent was granted upon the same applicant for the same invention. The prior patent referred to was one granted to Berliner in 1880.

The Berliner patent is the most valuable at this time held by the Bell Company. The two basic patents on the telephone involving the magneto transmitter and magneto receiver, have already expired, and consequently, any one is at liberty to use a telephone of that description. It was by the ownership of the Berliner patent, however, that the Bell Company held a monopoly of the long distant service. The magneto telephone was good for short transmission of messages, say, for instance, between New York and Philadelphia.

## Telephones in Stokes Stokes County's Old, Odd and Other Stuff

February 2, 1903, a group of citizens from the Quaker Gap-Mountain View area of Stokes County appealed to the North Carolina Utility commission for permission to build and operate telephone lines in the county. The men, namely, W.J. Johnson, Dr. J.W. Slate, J. Walter Tuttle and Dr. Andrew F. Tuttle were granted "the privilege of erecting, maintain and operating telephone lines." They could erect these lines along the public roads but in no way to interfere with or repair them in anyway. Nothing was mentioned in the application about subscribing stock or any area designated. The project evidently never got off the ground as no record of the start or completion could be found.

The telephone was invented in 1875 and in 1879 /Winston had one short line connecting one of the main stores with the depot. These phones were first considered exclusively for towns and it was in the present century before rural area adopted them.

The first telephone system in Stokes was the Farmer's Quick Step, with an office location in King, December 4, 1907 permission was granted to form, erect and operate a telephone company. The authorized capital stock was \$25,000, 5000 shares at \$5.00 a share. The first subscribers were Dr. S.F. Tillotson, eleven shares; J.E. Wilson, five; J.E. Smith, five, C.H. Lunsford, five and W.R. Kiger, three. This company remained in business, providing a large area in southwest Stokes with telephone service for about 20 years. Wade H. Boyles was a major stock holder in the company and was the President of the farmer's Quick Step Telephone Company for most of its existence.

January 18, 1909, permission was granted to the Quaker Gap Telephone Company to form, construct, erect, operate and maintain a system. Its office was located in the residence of Dr. J.W. Slate near Capella, P.O. address Mizpah. Authorized stock was \$3,000, 300 shares at \$10.00. First subscribers were W.G. Slate, 80; J.W. Slate, 40; and W.C. Slate, 40. This was about the same group and the same area that applied in 1903.

April 28, 1911, permission was granted to the Big Creek Telephone Company, location Westfield, Route one, to construct, erect, operate and maintain a general telephone system. Authorized capital stock \$10,000, 500 shares at \$20.00 per share. First subscribers were J.C. Frans, R.L. Nunn, J.H. Wright, W.D. George, Millard Collins, Henry Wright, J.E. Palmer, Milton Smith, T.C. Frans and W.C. George, all purchasing one share each

March 25, 1912, the Town Fork Telephone Company, office location, Fulp, N.C. was granted permission to construct, maintain and operate electrical telegraphs and telephones in the county. This was the only instance where electric and telegraphs were mentioned in the charter. The authorized capital stock was \$5,000, 500 shares at \$10. per share. First subscribers were Chap Bodenhamer, Elias Fulp, Barker Brothers and J.W. Marshall, all purchasing two shares each.

There could have been other lines in the county but my source of information only listed these four.

Webster's Weekly  
5 May 1904

The old partnership phone at the city market has been disconnected. This is to notify my patrons that I have installed a private phone in my stall and they can place their orders with me by asking Central for No. 115.

Reidsville in 1903-04

Its common with all the tobacco towns, Reidsville has felt depressing effects of the manipulation of the Tobacco Trust. By which arbitrary prices have been set upon the staple product of this section, but aside from and in spite of this our town made progress during the year 1903. Our tobacco manufacturers had a good year, pushing their sales into new territory and taxing their plans to their utmost capacity to keep up with orders. Our cotton mill, one of the largest in the State, furnished steady employment to hundreds of operatives. The development of the smoking tobacco business has increased the demand for labor and our factories have not been able to secure as many boys and girls as they need. The Lindsey Mfg. Co. which began the manufacture of underwear last summer has also opened up a new avenue of employment for working girls. The business has passed the experimental stage and promises to grow into one of the leading industries of this section.

The Old North State Smoking Tobacco plant was enlarged and it was necessary to work "eight day weeks" (except Sunday) from September till Christmas to keep up with orders.

Our two banks, the Bank of Reidsville and Citizens Bank, had a good year of it and will declare handsome dividends this week. The capital stock of the latter was increased from \$50,900 to \$75,000 to meet its growing business.

Considerably building was done principally residence and tenement houses.

The Reidsville female Seminary was purchased by a number of public spirited citizens who have improved the property and put the school on a solid basis, with Prof. Wooton, formerly of South Carolina as principal assisted by a corps of trained teachers.

Our local telephone system passed into the hands of the Bell combination who will make it a first class plant.

The electric light plant was greatly improved and patronage of the town's water and light department considerable increased.

The Episcopalians completed a comfortable and handsome church and the Baptists remodeled their temple of worship, making it practically a new building.

The public health was excellent, there being very little sickness. The town was also spared any serious business disturbances and destructive fires.

And so Reidsville steps into the new year in good shape with her manufactures prospering, her merchants helpful, with paved streets, electric lights, water works, splendid fire protection, her Graded Schools and Seminary prosperous and well equipped. Her banks ready to supply the \_\_\_\_\_ of war and citizenship that cannot be surpassed in those solid quantities that count in the lone run. She expects no boom---nor does she expect it—but purposes to lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes during 1904. A furniture factory and another cotton mill are among the possibilities.

The Reidsville Review  
5 April 1904

TELEPHONE SYSTEM IS COMPLETED  
Full Common-Battery Exchange  
The Reidsville System Is Superior To The Best In North Carolina  
The Long Distance Lines Also Improved

The work of overhauling the Reidsville Telephone Exchange has been completed and is now in working order and will give our people become service when they become accustomed to the new service, be a great improvement over that furnished before.

There are about 150 phones connected with the switchboard at present, and we understand that applications are in for eight or ten more phones which will be supplied as soon as possible.

The new board will require an additional operator and quick service is assured. It is very important in calling up central that the patrons use numbers in telling the connection they desire. This facilitates matters and makes much quicker service. When people become accustomed to this it will not incontinence them at all.

Metallic lines are being built to Wentworth, Leaksville and Stoneville which greatly improve the service. New lines are being connected from Greensboro to Danville and from Greensboro to Lynchburg which will give three wires North and South of Reidsville. This will greatly improve the facilities for long distance service, as heretofore it was sometimes necessary to wait for the one line. Both of the new lines will cut in here and any phone in the city can be connected with any long distance line and talking will be entirely satisfactory.

The Reidsville system is said to be the equal of the Bell's exchange at Raleigh, which is equipped better than any other exchange in this State. It is a full common-battery system and only the best material has been used in the construction work.

The patrons will invariably find themselves talking too loud for the present and will do well to hear this fact in mind. As soon as they become accustomed to the new service they will be delighted with it.

In March 1894, Mr. R.J. Oliver of the Reidsville Review finally saw the opportunity to provide telephone communications to the Town of Reidsville. The telephone was 17 years old at this time and had been installed in larger cities. Rural and small cities had been unable to have communications due the restrictive patents held by the Bell System which created a monopoly on the Telephone. With the expiration of patents in 1893-1894 held by the Bell System, the door was opened for Mr. Oliver to set up a Telephone company in The Reidsville review office. With the expiration of the patents, there were many Bell sets available at low prices. Telephone poles were set and wires strung to provide service in town, telephone sets installed and forty five customers provided service. The Reidsville Review had Telephone #1

Thomas H. McAdoo had established a Telephone exchange of 14 lines in Greensboro in 1882 for the railroad at the corner of East Market Street and Davie Street. In 1903, the Reidsville and Greensboro Telephone systems were sold to the Bell System.

Once the patents expired for the Bell System, they decided to let customers build lines on the end of the Bell facilities. The customers would provide the poles, wire and equipment to attach to the end of the Bell System facilities. They would install and maintain the telephone lines. They would sign a contract with the Bell System and these lines were known as "Farmer Exchange Lines."

Webster's Weekly  
24 May 1903

In a recent number of the Electrical World, William A. Rosenbaum carefully defines the status as against the Bell Company. The patents generally recognized as controlling the telephone situation are these: The original Bell patent, dated January 30th, 1877; the Blake transmitter, dated November 20th, 1891; the Humming transmitter, dated August 30, 1881; the Berliner transmitter, dated November 17th, 1891 and the Edison transmitter, dated May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1892. The expiration of the fundamental patent in March last after the usual time of seventeen years, did not much to alter the situation in the public interest, since an indispensable part of the telephone equipment was still covered by a patent. The expiration, however, on Tuesday last of the patent on the Bell receiver did materially alter the situation.

Mr. Rosenbaum is of the opinion that commercial telephony is now open to the public, so far, at least as the instruments are concerned. The case is different as respects certain "details of the central office apparatus," patents on which have several years to run. It is conceded, however, that the "fundamental principal of the switchboard is open," and that inventors will doubtless be able to soon to "produce a commercial switching system which will not infringe on existing patents." In short, telephone instruments---though not with the latest improvements---are now open to the public use and telephone exchanges can be operated by rivals of the Bell Company. The Bell Company is recognizing this fact, it is stated, and is offering, through its local organizations, to sell receivers at a low price. It is even credited with a purpose to construct independent lines upon which the receiver it sells may be used. Competing companies are, in fact, in several cities taking steps to get a share of the telephone business.

The other patents behind which the Bell monopoly has sought to fortify itself are thus circumstanced; The four Blake transmitter patents of November 20, 1881, it is stated, expired January 20, 1893, thanks to a recent ruling of the Supreme Court, owing to the

Webster's Weekly  
30 March 1905

NEW TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS

Subscribers to the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company respectfully advised of the following additional connections since the issue of our last directory:

No 87 – Barber & Ellington, business, Scales Street

No 144-2 – Barber, D.S., residence, North Reidsville

No 30-I - Denny, C.H., residence, Lindsey Street

No 146-3 – Dixon, L.R., business, Gilmer Street.

No 29 - Gant, R.F., residence, Lawsonville Avenue

No 126-I – Hutcherson, J.C., residence, Lindsey Street

No 124-I – Mathews, C.J., Business, Scales Street.

No 131 - Mobley, R.R., residence, Lindsey

No 93-I - Maxwell, C.G., residence, Lawsonville Avenue

No 99 - Price & Clark, business, Scales Street

No 139-I – Rascoe, J.H., residence, Main Street

No 114.2 – Slaughter, Tom, business, Gilmer Street

No 130 - Smith, M.H., business, Cemetery Street

No 106.2 - Satterfield, J.W., residence, Lawsonville Avenue

No 90 - Reidsville Steam Laundry, business, West Market Street

No 76 - Thacker, Dr. J.H., residence, Lawsonville Avenue

R.S. Williams (Mgr in Reidsville 1905-1911 and maybe  
Longer)

Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company  
Reidsville, N.C

The Danbury Reporter  
19 July 1906

### The Phone And The Farmer

They Are Compatible Says Prof. Harris Of Garfield, Washington, In Whose County The Farmers Own More Than 3,000 Phones---A Pleasure, A Profit, A Necessity

A few years ago none but the rich people of our cities thought of owning a telephone. It was at first a luxury possessed by the few. But today the phone is not only a convenience but a necessity. It is a good thing in cities where the people are crowded close together and as a rule have more leisure time than a country man. How much more necessary is it to the farmer living in sparsely settled communities. Yes, farmer, you need the phone. With a good system of telephones, rural free delivery and a good parcel post measure, life in the country would be more pleasant.

Seven years ago two farmers in this (Whelman County) connected their ranches by wire fence telephones. From this beginning the system has grown until today the wire fence phones are in the main abandoned and a network of lines along nearly every road binds this whole section together into one common whole like the nervous system of the human body. When any part of the body is affected the nerves leading to that particular part of the body conveys the news to the nerve center from whence it is disseminated through the whole body.

So with our phone system, if any part of our country suffer the news is instantly flashed over the wires and the whole body politic sympathizes.

The Bell Phone Company is now trying their utmost to get possession of the farmer's lines. They are making us tempting offers and I fear they will finally get us, but they will not get us now. This agitation reveals the fact that the farmer's lines have in this county over three thousand phones. We have Centrals in all the towns. So you see I can call up nearly every farmer or business man in town within 25 or thirty miles of me. It is a business proposition, a great time saver and a necessity to the farmer.

Now for a few instances of the convenience of the phone to me: I had a sick horse and did not know what ailed him. If I had gone to the neighbor, supposed to know, I would have found it was something new to him. The next three were away from home; the fifth gave me the desired information and probably saved the life of my horse. I got his information in five minutes. Without the phone, I would have been a day and probably given up in despair, because the man who told me lives five miles away. Last Sunday I hear Garfield Central ring; knowing that central is not called on Sunday, in case of sickness, I rubberier and learned that child down on the river had broken its arm and was suffering intensely. The first doctor was away but the second was on his way post haste in five minutes after the accident. A tramp attempted assault on one of my neighbors wives, but there were two women there and they beat him off and although the men of the neighborhood were away attending a sale, yet by the means of a phone he was captured within an hour. Right then I'll remark that the tramp got a life sentence and nothing was ever said except in approval. If it had been a Negro in the South all New England would have cried out "Another outrage by Southern Courts on the colored man." I could give a thousand instances not to say anything about the social side.

Webster's Weekly  
14 September 1907

This article appeared in the Webster Weekly published in Reidsville in 1907. The telephone had come to Reidsville in 1894 as the Reidsville Review had the first telephone system in town. By 1907 the Bell System had taken over the telephone system. Local people could be substituted for the names in this article to show how much the telephone meant to the Reidsville Community

"Yes," he said to a friend who was enjoying a cigar with him in the library, "I've had a telephone put in."

"It's a great convenience, isn't it?"

"Oh, a very great convenience."

Just then the telephone bell rang and he went to see what was wanted. Presently his head appeared in the library door.

"Excuse me a moment," he said, "I've to run next door and tell Mrs. Brown that someone wants to speak to her. In her pride over the possession of a telephone my wife foolishly told the Browns to use it when they wish and they've told all their friends."

He came back with Mrs. Brown who devoted several minutes to telling someone at the other end of the line she was sorry baby had a cough.

"Nevertheless," he said when Mrs. Brown had departed, "It is a great convenience. Pardon me? There it goes again."

A minute or two later he glanced into the room again to say: "Got to run over and tell Mrs. Jones that her husband can't get home to dinner. Be right back."

He came back accompanied by a man who wanted to callup somebody at the club to tell he couldn't be over that evening.

"Say," said the man when he was through, "friend isn't there yet, but I left a message for him, if he callsup later, will you be good enough to run over and let me know what he says," "Sure."

Just then a child appeared at the door with a piece of paper in her hand.

"Mama's dressing to go out and can't come herself," she exclaimed, so she wanted to know if you wouldn't please call up Jenson's grocery and tell them to send up the things in the morning." When this was done the man made himself comfortable in the library again.

"As I was saying," he remarked, the telephone is a great convenience for the neighbors.

Webster's Weekly  
11 March 1909

AMERICAN TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CO  
Bell Stations Out Number Independents Nearly Two To One

To the national government, working through department of commerce and labor, belongs the credit for having, finally determined the official facts in the long disputed questions as to the relative size of the Bell and independent telephone – interests of the United States.

The government figures for 1907 show 3,132,063 Bell stations and 2,986,513 independent stations or telephones. The independents have all along claimed over 4,000,000 stations or fully 33 per cent more than they actually have.

The government does not make any attempt to classify the independents as between “independents” and “opposition” companies. As a matter of fact, of the so-called “independents” fully 900,000 or 30 per cent of the entire number formed through sublicense or service arrangements part of the comprehensive Bell System, but in all other respects are independent., self-controlling organizations. At present over 1,100,000 independents or about 40 per cent of the total are thus affiliated with Bell lines.

With this very important adjustment made, an adjustment which the government statisticians obviously could not make, it will be found that instead of the Bell companies having but 140,500 more stations than the independents, the real figures are something like 4,000,000 for the Bell against 2,130,000 for the independents, a ratio of nearly two to one. The preponderance of Bell over independent stations may be better illustrated by the following comparisons:

Bell System 1907—4,000,000—1902, 1,350,000; increase 2,050,000 per cent increase = 19%

Independents 1907---2,150,000----1902; 1,000,000, increase 1,100,000 ; per cent of increase = 11.5%

Bell excess 1907---1,850,000-----1902, 350,000; increase 1,500,000

In considering these figures, it should be borne in mind that the station statistics of the Bell and connecting systems are all a matter of record and the independents are not.

The Greensboro Patriot  
8 Apr 1908

Rural Telephone Lines

Mr. J.M. Erskine of the farmer's line department of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company is in the county with the view of installing a number of farmer's lines in Guilford. He makes Greensboro his headquarters and goes out from here to see the farmers.

This is a very busy season with Guilford farmers and Mr. Erskine has not been able to accomplish very much as yet, but he expects to place, before he finishes his work in the county, fully one hundred phones in Guilford.

Today he goes to Brown Summit in connection with the arrangements for the exchange of 25 phones there. Greensboro subscribers can talk to Brown Summit subscribers without any extra cost.

The Bell Company has over three hundred phones scattered through Rowan County and contacts have been entered into for 125 in Rockingham and 250 in Alamance.

There are already 11 subscribers on this line and there are indications that number of others will be added shortly. The farmers of Rockingham County are making excellent progress in the matter of securing telephone service and there is every indication that this county will soon covered by a network of telephone lines.

The Review  
18 November 1909

**BELL COMPANY GROWS**  
**Absorbs Western Union Telegraph Company**  
**Two Mammoth Corporations Are Merged – Now a Billion Dollar Company**

A long stride to win the complete control by one corporation of all wire communications in the United States was mad today in the acquisition by the American Telephone and Telegraph of the control of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

In order to make the absorption complete, the incorporation of the million dollar company, it is said will be necessary to include the \$592,475,400 of bonds and stock of the American Telephone Company, known as the Bell Company, and the outstanding \$165,000,000 of bonds and stock of the Western Union.

The acquisition of the necessary stock and voting rights of the Western Union by the Bell Company has been in progress for about six months but the work has been conducted in a quiet manner and in only a sufficient amount to secure control, said to be 51 per cent was taken over.

The officers of the Bell Company regard the step as one of economy only. They point out that ever since the telephone has been a factor in human life, it has had to compete with the telegraph. Lines have been paralleled and there has been an immense amount of duplication. The officers of the telephone company believe that the merger will save the Bell Company \$75,000,000 in new construction. It will also enable the utilization at the same time of wires of telegraphing and telephoning.

The history of Western Union dates back before the Civil War but the Bell Company is of comparatively recent origin. Both companies pursue the usual method absorbing smaller companies. The small companies acquired by the Western Union have been lost in oblivion. Some of the associated corporations engaged in the telephone business, the majority whose stock rest in the treasury of the parent company.

New York Telephone Co. \$50,000,000; New England Telephone & Telegraph Co. \$31, 700,000; Bell Telephone of Pennsylvania 31,150,000; New York & New Jersey Telephone Co. \$18,000,000; Southern Bell Telephone of Pennsylvania 31,150,00; Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Co. \$18,000,000; Chicago Telephone Co. \$175,000,000, Western Telephone & Telegraph Co. \$16,000,000; Bell Telephone Co. of Canada \$12,500,000.

The telephone system has 8,098,670 miles of wire and the Western Union 1,382,599. The total value of the telephone company is \$545,045,000 and that of the Western Union \$124,086,920.

## Bell News – Webster Weekly's

3 March 1910

“An important farmer's telephone line will soon be connected with the local Telephone exchange. The line will extend from about four miles in the direction of Thacker's Dairy. Service will be furnished the Dairy and several other well known rural residents. Manager Hanes states there is considerable activity among the farmers in the matter of securing telephone service to their homes. He has a number of inquires and states that indications are that several new connections for service will be soon signed. This means more business for the merchants of Reidsville and as well as more telephone development and this is one of the best ways to develop our county.

16 May 1910

“Manager Hanes, of Southern Bell Telegraph and Telephone Company announced the new directory corrected to May 15<sup>th</sup> will go to press on Monday and all changes or corrections should be telephoned to him at once. Manager Hanes states that there will be a number of new names added to the list and that the growth of the exchange here is a strong indication of the progress of Reidsville.”

16 May 1910

“Manager Chas. J. Hanes of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company has been in Greensboro attending the convention of managers and district managers of the company. We understand the telephone people are making special arrangements to add quite a number of new subscribers to the local exchange, both in the city and rural development. This of course means no little advantage to the merchants and business men of Reidsville”.

17 Oct 1910

“It just as the Weekly foretold, Mr. C.H. Hanes, local manager of the Southern Bell Telephone exchange, has gone to Winston-Salem on the happiest mission of his life. His marriage takes place today. We congratulate him on having won the heart of a charming lady. The bride will find a warm welcome in her new home.”

28 Oct 1910

“As soon as it became known here that C.J. Hanes, manager of the local telephone company had been ordered to Spartanburg, S.C., the Business Men's Association of the city got busy and a petition was drawn up and endorsed by the Association and practically all the patrons of the local telephone exchange requesting that Mr. Hanes be retained here in Reidsville. Before the petition was forwarded, Mr. Hanes received further instructions from the company assuring him that it was in his own best interest to accept the Spartanburg position and it would throw him further in line of promotion and promised that a good man to take his place in Reidsville. Therefore Mr. Hane's requested the Business Men's Association to cancel the petition, which they reluctantly did. There is much regret that Mr. Hane's will leave here, but he and his newly won better half will carry with them the best wishes of our people.

In 1911 there was a Farmers Exchange Circuit that provided service to the Wentworth area. The subscribers on this circuit were;

Convict Camp	#2020	Operated by Rockingham County
Jones Gunn	#2020	
W.M. Gunn	#2020	
J.A. Gunn	#2020	Residence-Store at Gunn Town
Prof. L.N. Hickerson	#2020	Residence-Superintendent of County Schools
R.G. Mitchell	#2020	Store in Wentworth
T.R. McCollum	#2020	Mail Carrier
C.O. McMichael	#2020	Attorney at Wentworth
Mrs. R.D. Reid	#2020	Wife Gov. Reid's Grandson
James T. Smith	#2020	Clerk of Court
A.J. Whittmore	#2020	Large Landowner-Inherited from Uncle
Dr. Sam Ellington	#2020	Physician

Where the Bell system circuit ended and the Farmers Exchange line started has not been determined.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1908, L.L. Trent, a farmer, signed a supplemental contract with Southern Bell to add two subscribers to his Farmers Exchange line. One of the additions was T "Tom".O. Carter(#2603) And on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 1914, L. L. Trent signed a new five year contract with the Telephone Company for Farmers Line Telephone service. No circuit was to be furnished by the Telephone beyond the one mile distance from their central office which was at the city limit. There were six lines on this subscriber line at \$6.00 each. per year. The remark on this contract read "Exchange Radius which is at the City limits located on old Wentworth road near Carter Neal's Store all of which is one mile from Central Office." L.L. Trent was to use 14 Gauge iron wire and the pole was to be constructed and maintained by the customer.

Subscribers on this line would have been:

L.L. Trent	#2611	Farmer
T.O. Carter	#2602	Near Intersection Hwy 158 & Ironworks Rd
G.W. Carter	#2603	near present day Bowling Alley

Plus three other lines unknown

The Reidsville Review

15 February 1910

Wentworth Has Telephone

Bell People Will Put In System At County Seat

A telephone exchange has been organized by the people of Wentworth and surrounding communities and will be known as the Wentworth Telephone Company.

The organizers of the company will connect their exchange with the Reidsville exchange of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company and will receive their the local service of that exchange.

The Reidsville exchange will also have a local connection with the Wentworth exchange without additional cost.

Nearly ever business place and residence will have a telephone. The building of several lines by farmers is contemplated. Those of course will connect with the Wentworth Switchboard and receive the same service.

Mr. J.H. Webster, representing the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, from Atlanta, and Mr. C.J. Hanes, manager of the Reidsville Exchange, have been assisting the organization of the Wentworth Exchange. The gentlemen have also been at work trying to interest the rural residents in getting a telephone connection with their friends, market and physicians in the city.

Every town realizes the advantage of having surrounding country connections with it by telephone and the Reidsville people will doubtless be interested in the great work that the Bell Company has undertaken.

The Reidsville exchange at this time has fourteen rural lines connected with it and furnishes service to approximately eighty subscribers on those lines. This is a nice showing, but not quite so good as Union County, of which Monroe is the county seat. . The county boasts of having 1,500 subscribers. The business men of Monroe have been instrumental of getting the great development in Union County and have centered it at Monroe in order to hold the trade of the county. This is a wise step and is believed that many other towns and cities will adopt through their boards of trade such measures that will interest the rural inhabitants to connect themselves with the town by telephone.

Webster's Weekly

6 February 1914

Manager Williams states that there is considerable activity among the farmers in the matter of securing telephone service in their homes. He has a number inquires and states that indications are that several new contracts for connection with the Reidsville exchange will be soon signed.

An important farmer's telephone will soon be completed with exchange of the Southern Bell Telephone Company in Reidsville. This line will be constructed by the subscribers and will extend five miles out to Miss M.M. Clack's residence, and when completed will furnish service to J.H. Bennett, Jno. Robinson and Miss M.M. Clack

The extension of the telephone service to the farm is valuable to the merchants and business men in town, placing them in constant communications with an important element of their trade. There are a number of farmer's telephones in Rockingham County

and the progressive farmers are realizing the value and advantage of being in such close touch with their friends and neighbors and the business centers.

A new telephone station has been added to the farmer's line which extends from Reidsville to Mayfield. The new subscriber is Mr. J.W. Wilson, who conducts a farm. There are already 11 subscribers on this line and there are indications that number of others will be added shortly. The farmers of Rockingham County are making excellent progress in the matter of securing telephone service and there is every indication that this county will soon covered by a network of telephone lines.

The Review  
18 November 1909

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**Absorbs Western Union Telegraph Company**  
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Webster's Weekly  
1915

We understand the District Commercial Manager, Mr. G.C. Ashmore of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company recently visited Leaksville-Spray negotiating a traffic agreement whereby the International Telephone Company will have connected to their switchboard the long-distance lines of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company . It is expected that the arrangement will be completed on or about April 1, and when the connection is made, subscribers everywhere will be able to communicate from their business houses and residences direct and without the inconvenience of visiting a pay station in Leaksville or Spray. This inter-exchange business will prove a great benefit to all subscribers, especially to the Leaksville-Spray people that have been isolated so long by not having access to long distance lines of the Southern Bell, this arrangement will be more appreciated by Reidsville and Leaksville-Spray because by the usage of the toll lines business can be quickly and economical handled the social features of these places will also be more developed by such a convenience. In making this agreement it shows the broad and progressive spirit of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company to always promote the most good to the most people.

Webster's Weekly  
10 March 1914

From The Madison Herald

The telephone line out through Huntsville and New Bethel township is being lengthened and improved very much, we are glad to note

The Reidsville Review  
19 May 1926

The Southern Bell Telephone Company has a new supply of phone directories for Reidsville and Greensboro, the issue reaching here this week. Several local firms have advertising space in the Reidsville section of the directory.

Webster's Weekly  
20 February 1914

President Wilson's program of cooperation with the business interest of the nation, resulting in the elimination of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, popularly known as the telephone trust, from the control of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Webster's Weekly  
26 May 1911

### Growth of The Telephone

The telephone is 30 years old, the telegraph is 60, yet the mileage of the telephone system is more than eight times that of the telegraph in the United States today. In the number of telephones as compared with the population, Iowa, Nebraska, Washington, Nevada and California lead the rest of the states. As to messages per capita, it appears that New Jersey talks less than Texas and Utah more than Pennsylvania. Cleveland, Ohio, heads the list of great cities with 113 telephones per 1,000 inhabitants. In the actual number of instruments New York leads Chicago. In this latter city about one million and a third of calls are handled in an ordinary business day, chiefly between 7 and 8 o'clock in the morning. It is estimated in Connecticut and Iowa about one half of the farm houses are supplied with telephones. The device appears of even greater service in rural districts than in towns and cities. By it the farmer learns the price at which to sell his produce, summons the veterinarian for his sick horse and the doctor for his family. He saves valuable time in harvest by having tools and machines sent out to him, when things break down. The farmer's wife may gossip the year round with her neighbors, thus overcoming distances, the chief obstacles to social intercourse in the country. Rural free delivery of mail, rural telephones and rural trolley cars continue to bring the city to the country, if not the country to the city.

Webster's Weekly  
27 October 1912

### The Rural Telephone

The farmer who enjoys a telephone at his home does not see how in the world he got along without one – and so it is with his rural delivery in the matter of mail. The other day a farmer told us that he wanted to see about tobacco—he was going to go to market a day's distance from his home and happened to think about the telephone—which he didn't have. . So he went to neighbor a mile's distance, used his phone and ascertained a fact that surprised him to the effect that the Greensboro market was paying prices much higher than he expected to secure – so he came to Greensboro and was getting busy to see if he couldn't have the wire ran into his home and said that the one trip would pay for what it would cost. And all the farmer needs to do is wake up -- Look around and he can get as many conveniences as the city chap – and yet escape the exactions of city life. The telephone has made all other things possible for him – he is in touch with the town and with its people and he can sell on a rising market or escape a falling market by talking three minutes with his merchant. Wonderful what electricity has done for the human race -- to say nothing about electronics. Fair Brother's Everything, Greensboro, N.C.

DUPLICATE

CONTRACT FOR FARMERS' LINE  
TELEPHONE SERVICE

---

THIS COPY TO BE RETURNED TO  
THE SUBSCRIBER AFTER THE  
CONTRACT HAS BEEN  
ACCEPTED.

CONDITIONS.

---

I. Subscriber's stations are not to be used for performing any service in competition with service which the Company may undertake to perform.

II. In view of the liability to errors in transmitting oral messages by telephone and the impossibility of fairly fixing the cause thereof, the Subscriber assumes all the risk of errors from misconnections or mistakes upon and by any telephone line, and the officers and servants thereof in transmitting, receiving or delivering messages; and in respect of any messages which may be sent or received by or for him over any other telephone or telegraph line, no line shall be responsible for defaults occurring on any other line, nor on its own lines, except as specified in its usual contracts, nor for any damages unless the claim therefor be presented in writing within thirty days after sending the message, and the Subscriber makes the Company, and every other line over which said message may pass, his agent to receive the same, to forward it towards its destination at the rate for unrepeatd messages, and for that purpose to bind him by the contracts on the usual blanks and make the message subject to the usual limitations, rules and regulations, to which he hereby agrees. He will reimburse the Company for all tolls it may pay on such messages.

CHECKS BY MAIL PREFERRED.

Printed and Published by the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1100 Broadway, New York, N. Y. Telephone 1000. Copyright, 1908, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company.



SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO. DEBITS

ACCT. 338  
TEL. 517

*L. L. Prout*

For Telephone Service, as per contract, for 1 month from above date,	9 50
Local messages in excess of contract limit @ _____ cents each,	
For Toll Service last month, as per itemized statement herewith,	
ARREARS	20
TOTAL,	9 70
ORIGINAL. P.F.C. Received payment for the Company,	9 20
Date. <i>Jan 11/09</i>	<i>Sullivan</i>

Please make check payable to the order of the SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY. This bill that it is to be paid.



No. *517*  
*L. L. Prout*  
Apr 1 1908

To Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, Dr.

For Telephone Exchange Service, as per contract, from <i>April 1 08</i> to <i>July 1 1908</i>	9 00
Received payment for the Company,	

*W. M. ...*

THIS BILL IS NOW DUE AND PAYABLE AT COMPANY'S OFFICE. PLEASE CALL OR SEND CHECK BY O.K. BEFORE THE 15th INST. OTHERWISE SERVICE MAY BE SUSPENDED WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

Please make check payable to the order of the SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY. This bill that it is to be paid.



No. *517-2-1*  
*L. L. Prout*  
Mar 1

To Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, Dr.

For Telephone Exchange Service, as per contract, from <i>Mar 1, 08</i> to <i>April 1 1908</i>	
Received payment for the Company,	

THIS BILL IS NOW DUE AND PAYABLE AT COMPANY'S OFFICE. PLEASE CALL OR SEND CHECK BY O.K. BEFORE THE 15th INST. OTHERWISE SERVICE MAY BE SUSPENDED WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH COMPANY  
CUMBERLAND TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Reidsville, N.C.

(Incorporated)

L. L. Trent.

(Bell exchange or toll station.)

FARMERS' SYSTEM OF  
Conventions

RED - BELL SYSTEM

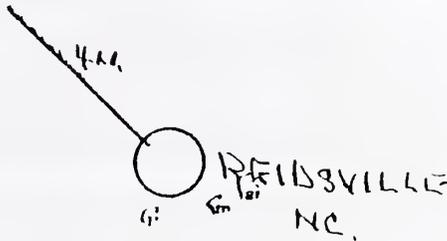
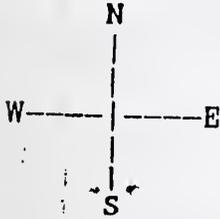
VIOLET - FARMERS' SYSTEM

Grounded Farmers' Line -----

Large Circle - Exchanges

Metallic Farmers' Line -----

Small Circle - Stations



14.

Wire-Size No. .... B.W.G. Iron

State of N.C.

Total No. Stations 6.

County of Rockingham.

Pole line owned by Sub.

Prepared by L.H.S.

Date 2/17/14.

### CHARGES FOR TOLL LINE MESSAGES

TOLLS FOR ALL LONG-LINE CONVERSATIONS, BY WHOMSOEVER MADE, WILL BE CHARGED TO THE SUBSCRIBER AT WHOSE STATION THEY ORIGINATE. SUBSCRIBERS, TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM LOSS, MUST SEE THAT NO USE UNAUTHORIZED BY THEM IS MADE OF THEIR TELEPHONE.

Exchange at Reidsville, N. C. MO. OF 191

*L. L. Smith*

To **Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, Dr.**

DAY OF MONTH	PARTY WHO TALKED	TO	PLACE	MINUTES		AMOUNT
				DAY	NIGHT	
9/24	<i>Jett</i>	<i>Reidsville</i>	<i>Greensboro</i>	3		20
10/26	"	"	"	5		20
10/9	<i>Reidsville</i>	<i>Long</i>	"	3		20
						60
		<i>Jail</i>				
		<i>W. H. Smith</i>				
		<i>17/13</i>				

### CHARGES FOR TOLL LINE MESSAGES.

TOLLS FOR ALL LONG-LINE CONVERSATIONS, BY WHOMSOEVER MADE, WILL BE CHARGED TO THE SUBSCRIBER AT WHOSE STATION THEY ORIGINATE. SUBSCRIBERS, TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM LOSS, MUST SEE THAT NO USE UNAUTHORIZED BY THEM IS MADE OF THEIR TELEPHONE.

EXCHANGE AT Reidsville, N. C. MO. OF 190

To **Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, Dr.**

DAY OF MONTH	PARTY WHO TALKED	TO	PLACE	MINUTES		AMOUNT
				DAY	NIGHT	
12	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>W. H. Smith</i>	3		20
14	"	<i>W. H. Smith</i>	"	1		30
						50

THIS IS THE DUPLICATE TO BE RETAINED BY THE SUBSCRIBER AFTER ACCEPTANCE.

# SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT.

(FARMERS' LINES.)

THE SUBSCRIBER requests the SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO. subject to his contract with said Company No. \_\_\_\_\_ dated 1910 to furnish one hand telephone and one transmitter each for \_\_\_\_\_ additional stations to be installed at the expense of the Subscriber at the residence of \_\_\_\_\_

for which he agrees to pay, in addition to the amount named in said contract, Twelve Dollars per annum, payable quarterly in advance.

Attest: J. M. Currier (Subscriber) L. L. Trent  
 (Address) Reidsville, N.C.  
 (Business) Farmer

Accepted MAR 16 1908 by the SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO.

Approved Macon Martens Special Agent. By [Signature] Special Agent in Charge of Farmers' Line Dept.

Form 181 X.

## CHARGES FOR TOLL LINE MESSAGES

TOLLS FOR ALL LONG-LINE CONVERSATIONS, BY WHOMSOEVER MADE, WILL BE CHARGED TO THE SUBSCRIBER AT WHOSE STATION THEY ORIGINATE. SUBSCRIBERS, TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM LOSS, MUST SEE THAT NO USE UNAUTHORIZED BY THEM IS MADE OF THEIR TELEPHONE.

Exchange at Reidsville, N.C. MO. OF Nov 1912  
L. L. Trent

To Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, Dr.

DAY OF MONTH	PARTY WHO TALKED	TO	PLACE	MINUTES		AMOUNT	
				DAY	NIGHT		
15	Nance - 12	Nance	St Paul	3		30	
16	Jones - 11	Jones	Quincy	3		20	
	Exchange sent to April 1913					9.00	
		Paid - Allison					9.50
		1/6/13					
			misc				

# Contract for Farmers' Line Telephone Service.

DUPLICATE

The subscriber requests the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (hereinafter styled the Company) subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter stated and which are fully understood and agreed to by him, to furnish and maintain metallic circuit from the Company's central office at Reidsville, N. C.

to Exchange radius which is at City Limits located on old Wentworth road at or near Carter Neals Store all of which is one mile from Central Office,

to be connected at that point with a circuit owned, maintained and operated by the subscriber, and to connect six telephone stations installed, equipped and maintained by, or at the expense of the subscriber at such locations as the subscriber desires, provided such stations at such locations do not conflict with the lines of the Company or any of its Sub-Licensed Companies, and requests the Company to furnish local exchange service in connection with its exchange at Reidsville, N. C.

to the subscriber and his associates, their agents and representatives only, for Five years from the first day of the month succeeding the connection with the subscriber's circuit and thereafter until this contract is terminated as herein provided, subject to the terms of this contract.

It is understood and agreed between the parties hereto that the line or lines of the subscriber and his associates shall not extend to, or connect with, by switching or otherwise, any line or lines owned or operated by other parties, except as may be first agreed upon in writing by the parties hereto. The subscriber agrees that no telephones located within the city limits of any town in which the Company operates an exchange, will be installed on the line covered by this contract. And it is further agreed that the subscriber's line shall be completed and in operation under the terms provided for in this agreement within six months from the day of its acceptance on the part of the Company, otherwise this agreement is null and void.

The subscriber agrees to pay for the use of that portion of the circuit furnished by the Company inside the City limits and for local exchange service, to be furnished as above stated, Six and No/100 Dollars per annum per station payable quarterly in advance, on the first day of January, April, July and October, provided, however, that payments made by the subscriber shall not be less than Thirty Six and No/100 Dollars per annum for said circuit, and he also agrees to pay for all foreign messages from all stations connected with the said circuit such tolls as are now or may be established, payable monthly on the first day of the succeeding month.

The subscriber agrees to pay Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per annum per mile for such metallic circuit as may be furnished and maintained by the Company beyond the city limits of Not any circuit furnished

It is understood, however, that only Not any circuit furnished miles of circuit is to be furnished by the Company as above at this rate. If any expense is incurred by the Company in the maintenance of that portion of the line furnished by it as above, which expense is caused by the condition of that portion of the line or equipment owned by the subscriber and which is to be maintained by the subscriber, the subscriber agrees to reimburse the Company promptly for such expense.

A "Local Message" is a personal communication, five minutes, or less, in duration, from any of said stations to another station connected with an exchange of the Company in said city; a "Foreign Message" is a personal communication of such duration as is now, or which from time to time may be established, from any of said stations to a station connected with any exchange or toll line outside of said city. All words herein referring to the Subscriber shall be taken to be of such number and gender as the character of the Subscriber may require.

It is further agreed that additional telephone stations may be connected with said subscriber's circuit under the terms herein provided, upon the payment to the Company by the Subscriber of an additional sum, or charge of Six and No/100 Dollars per annum for each additional station and upon the execution by the subscriber of a supplemental contract covering said station, or stations.

The Subscriber agrees to maintain at his own expense all of that portion of the said circuit owned by him, and he also agrees to maintain the stations connected with his said circuit. And should he fail so to do, the Company reserves the right (but without any obligation on its part so to do) to make such repairs as may be necessary to furnish efficient telephone service to the stations connected on the said circuit. And the Subscriber agrees to pay to the Company, promptly and fully, all expenditures that from time to time are made by it on account of said repairs.

If the entire amount due under this contract shall not be paid by the 15th day of the first month of each calendar quarter, the Company reserves the right to discontinue service over said circuit, without rebate for interrupted service, until said amount shall be fully paid.

For any interruption of the service caused by, or on account of that part of the line or central office equipment owned by the Company, continued for a period of more than twenty-four hours, a rebate at the rate hereinbefore specified shall be made to the Subscriber for the time such interruption continues after reasonable notice in writing to the Company by the Subscriber, but no other liability shall in any case attach to the Company. It is distinctly agreed that no rebate shall be made for interruption of service caused by, or on account of the circuit of the Subscriber, or of any station connected therewith.

Either party may terminate this contract at or after the expiration of the 5th year by not less than thirty (30) days' previous notice in writing to the other party. Upon non-payment of any sum due the Company, or any violation hereof, the Company may, without notice, terminate the Subscriber's rights hereunder and sever the connection, in which event no liability whatever shall attach to the Company.

This request becomes a binding contract when accepted by the Company's General Contract Agent by his signature hereto. The conditions on the back hereof are made a part of this contract, and its terms cannot be varied or waived by any representation or promise of any canvasser, or other person, unless the same be in writing and signed by the said General Contract Agent.

Subscriber: [Signature] (Subscriber) [Signature]

Address: [Signature] (Address) Reidsville, N.C.

Accepted [Signature] 1917 by the SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY,

Approved [Signature] By [Signature] General Contract Agent.

14.

Wire-Size No. 6.. B.W.G. Iron State of N.C.

Total No. Stations 6.. County of Rockingham.

Pole line owned by Sub. Prepared by L.H.S.

Date 2/17/14.

Form 357  
(Mch. '11)

SUBJECT: REIDSVILLE, N.C. - CONTRACT: Farmer's Line. L.L. Trent.

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY  
COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT.

IN ANSWERING THIS LET-  
TER PLEASE REFER TO THE  
ABOVE SUBJECT.

Reidsville, N.C.

2-3-'14.

Mr. L.L. Trent,

Reidsville, N.C.

Dear Sir:

I am attaching here to for your information your duplicate Farmer's Line contract which has been accepted by the company.

If you and your subscribers have finished making changes from our instrument to yours and if convenient to you please return our instrument to our office at your earliest convenience.

Yours Truly,

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO.

*B. W. H.*  
Gr.

B.W.H.

Webster's Weekly  
1915

We understand the District Commercial Manager, Mr. G.C. Ashmore of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company recently visited Leaksville-Spray negotiating a traffic agreement whereby the International Telephone Company will have connected to their switchboard the long-distance lines of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company . It is expected that the arrangement will be completed on or about April 1, and when the connection is made, subscribers everywhere will be able to communicate from their business houses and residences direct and without the inconvenience of visiting a pay station in Leaksville or Spray. This inter-exchange business will prove a great benefit to all subscribers, especially to the Leaksville-Spray people that have been isolated so long by not having access to long distance lines of the Southern Bell, this arrangement will be more appreciated by Reidsville and Leaksville-Spray because by the usage of the toll lines business can be quickly and economical handled the social features of these places will also be more developed by such a convenience. In making this agreement it shows the broad and progressive spirit of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company to always promote the most good to the most people.

Webster's Weekly  
10 March 1914

From The Madison Herald

The telephone line out through Huntsville and New Bethel township is being lengthened and improved very much, we are glad to note

The Reidsville Review  
17 October 1916

The Southern Bell Telephone Company is installing an additional section to the switchboard here. This addition in the switchboard facilities was necessary to take care of the increasing business and growth of the exchange. The installation is being made by Mr. E.C. Miller of Charlotte. The Reidsville exchange now has about 435 subscribers with new ones being constantly added. Mr. L.C. Switzer, the new manager is a hustling young man and has worked up considerable business since he took charge of the exchange.

## TEN REASONS WHY

You Should Have a  
**TELEPHONE IN YOUR HOME**

### 3.---BURGLARY

International Telephone Company, Spray.  
LONG DISTANCE BELL CONNECTIONS

## Don't Make *Curiosity* Telephone Calls

"Because 2,000 idle curiosity seekers in Binghamton asked 'Central' where the fire was, an emergency call for an ambulance was held up for nearly 15 minutes and this delay resulted in the death of ———. Physicians say that had the ambulance been secured at once ———'s life might have been saved."  
—Elmira Advertiser.

**I**T is beyond the bounds of possibility to answer promptly the mass of *curiosity* telephone calls that threaten to swamp our exchanges every time there is a large fire.

Calls for physicians, the ambulance or the police, held up at such times might result in the loss of human life.



**SOUTHERN BELL  
TELEPHONE AND  
TELEGRAPH CO.**

For your protection, as well as for the protection of your neighbors, we ask you not to call the telephone operator merely out of curiosity. After all, she has no more information than you have.

BOX 220, GREENSBORO, N. C.

## TEN REASONS WHY

You Should Have a  
**TELEPHONE IN YOUR HOME**

### 5.---BAKERY ORDERS

International Telephone Company, Spray.  
LONG DISTANCE BELL CONNECTIONS

## TEN REASONS WHY

You Should Have a  
TELEPHONE IN YOUR HOME

### 6.--SHOE SAVING

International Telephone Company, Spray.  
LONG DISTANCE BELL CONNECTIONS

## A Card to Owners of Rural Telephone Lines

We are anxious to see that all lines owned by other parties and connected with us are kept in such condition as to furnish efficient service. Where the owners of rural lines are responsible for their upkeep, we want to co-operate with them.

All lines require a thorough overhauling occasionally if the best service is to be obtained. We recommend that every line connected with us be overhauled at least once a year, and that at least one experienced telephone man assist in this work. The cost of this work when divided among all the patrons of the line, makes the amount paid by each man small, and this cost will be more than offset by the improved service.

If the owners of rural telephone lines in this section are experiencing trouble with their service, we will appreciate their talking the matter over with our Manager or writing us fully. We will gladly do what we can toward helping you improve the condition of your line.

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE  
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY



BOX 220, GREENSBORO, N. C.

## TEN REASONS WHY

You Should Have a  
TELEPHONE IN YOUR HOME

### 7.--RAINY DAY CALLS

International Telephone Company, Spray.  
LONG DISTANCE BELL CONNECTIONS

**TEN REASONS WHY**

You Should Have a  
**TELEPHONE IN YOUR HOME**

**9.--Social Engagements**

International Telephone Company, Spray.  
LONG DISTANCE BELL CONNECTIONS

**Telephones  
on Farms**

50c per Month and Up

If there is no telephone on your farm write for our free booklet telling how you may get service at small cost.

Address

FARMERS' LINE DEPARTMENT

**SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE  
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**



BOX 220, GREENSBORO, N. C.

**TEN REASONS WHY**

You Should Have a  
**TELEPHONE IN YOUR HOME**

**10.--To Meet Any Emergency**

International Telephone Company, Spray.  
LONG DISTANCE BELL CONNECTIONS

# "Telephone as You'd Be Telephoned To"

**T**ELEPHONE courtesy is just a bit of ordinary politeness and everyday kindness that we put into our conversation when we talk by telephone.

It's the face to face brand of politeness and kindness used when we're voice to voice.

It's the same politeness and kindness that we like to receive from the other end of the wire.

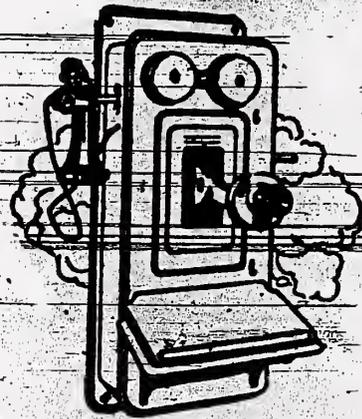


**SOUTHERN BELL  
TELEPHONE AND  
TELEGRAPH CO.**

Giving a little thought to telephone courtesy and practicing its simple rules will make the telephone an even more efficient aid for you. "Telephone as You'd be Telephoned To," always.

## Telephones on

# Farms at Low Rates



If there is no telephone on your farm write for our Free Booklet telling how you may get Service at 50 cents per month and up.

A postal will do!

Address:-

Farmers' Line Department.

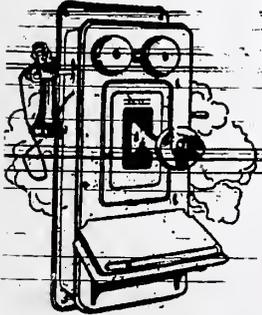
**SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE  
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**



BOX 220, GREENSBORO, N. C.

These advertisements appeared in the Reidsville Review throughout the year 1915. The Bell system had extended a Toll line to Spray and the International Telephone Company wanted subscribers to make Toll Calls. The Telephone Company in Reidsville had grown from 45 lines in 1894 to 825 lines in 1915. Their growth was mainly in the city of Reidsville but they wanted the farmers to build more farmers lines to add to the ones that they had. The telephone was catching on quickly in Rockingham County.

## Telephones on Farms at Low Rates



If there is no telephone on your farm write for our Free Booklet telling how you may get Service at 50 cents per month and up.

A postal will do!

Address:-

Farmers' Line Department.

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY



BOX 220, GREENSBORO, N. C.



**"Busy Again"**

*A Soliloquy in Two Paragraphs*

"That's the third time this morning. I can't wait a moment longer on that fellow. Let me see—what is Smith's number?"

"If Jones won't provide sufficient telephone facilities for his customers, he can't blame me for dealing elsewhere. Operator, give me 437."

How do you know this very occurrence doesn't happen with your single telephone. Have an auxiliary line; the cost is trifling. Call the business Office today.

## "Telephone as You'd Be Telephoned To"

TELEPHONE courtesy is just a bit of ordinary politeness and everyday kindness that we put into our conversation when we talk by telephone.

It's the face to face brand of politeness and kindness used when we're voice to voice.

It's the same politeness and kindness that we like to receive from the other end of the wire.



SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO.

Giving a little thought to telephone courtesy and practicing its simple rules will make the telephone an even more efficient aid for you. "Telephone as You'd be Telephoned To," always.



**Wake up business!**

The Bell Telephone is the Big Ben of Business. Ring up on the Bell.

You may talk about dull times 'till you lose your breath but it won't help matters, save your breath to talk into your Bell Telephone.

Ring up old customers, then start on a fresh list of prospects, there is no quicker way—none that saves more time or expense.

If you haven't a Bell Telephone, get one now. Call the Business office for rates.

The Reidsville Review  
25 May 1915

Miss Alice Gunther, night operator at the local telephone exchange, is not only a first class operator but she is right on the job in looking after the safety of our citizens. During the storm Sunday night she lost no time in putting the officers next to live wires before some pedestrian might come in contact with the. Miss Gunther is unusually accommodating and is especially a great help to the police department in getting in quick communications with them in time of trouble. She came to Reidsville from West Virginia and has greatly endeared herself to our people.

17 December 1915

Manager Kingsley of the local telephone exchange, extends a cordial invitation to all visitors to the Mid Winter Festival on Saturday to visit the Reidsville exchange while in the city. Those who have never been through a modern, up-to-date telephone exchange will find much to interest them in being shown over the local telephone plant.

21 December 1923



## 3700 New Bell Telephones In This State In 1923

**T**HE telephone construction programme in North Carolina and throughout the South this year has been the largest ever undertaken by the Bell System.

The investment in North Carolina alone this year will amount to more than \$890,000 for new equipment, new telephones, new wire, new switchboards, new central office equipment and new buildings.

Practically all this expenditure was new money secured from investors who have faith in the future growth and development of our State.

Such an investment enabled us to break all previous records and make a net gain of approximately 3,746 new telephone stations in North Carolina this year.

To do this it was necessary to install 8,782 telephones and discontinue 5,036.

There are now more than 48,340 Bell telephones in North Carolina and we must continue building to keep pace with the growing telephone needs of North Carolina and of the South.

**MORGAN B. SPEIR, Carolinas Manager**

"BELL SYSTEM"

**SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE  
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**

*One Policy, One System, Universal Service  
and all directed toward Better Service*



The Reidsville Review

1 October 1922

ORIGINAL HELLO GIRL IS STILL AT SWITCHBOARD

A special from Convent, N.J., says: The original "hello girl" hasn't said "good bye" yet. After 45 years at the switchboard, she's still on the job listening in on the world asking the same old questions, in much the same way.

But Mary Beatrice Kennedy, the first girl to put a smile in the voice no longer sits in the bustle-skirt at an old-fashioned switchboard in the New York "Naussua" Exchange. She's now plugging into a desk in the College of St. Elizabeth where she is telephone operator and chaperone.

"The times have changed," she says "and the telephone has improved, but not so the people's temper."

"Why I got my job because the telephone company was tired of firing the boy operators for swearing at subscribers who grew irate at poor service."

"If you think you are getting poor service today, you should have tried it in the eighties."

"Near riots were almost daily happenings in the outer office of our exchange. Subscribers came down to fight the operator who had sworn at them and had given directions as to where he wish they would go!"

"The boys made it impossible for them to hold the jobs as operators and girls took their places. I was the first girl to get the job and went work just 45 years ago this month. The boys were all jealous of me but I didn't mind. They were soon all fired."

Alexander G. Bell, inventor of the telephone often came down to the exchange where Miss Kennedy worked. Sometimes he was accompanied by Thomas Edison.

"But we didn't pay much attention to him," she says, "He wasn't famous then." The famous question of the old day? "What's the weather prediction," said Mrs. Kennedy, "used to be the most frequently used and how much are eggs selling for? Was another favorite."

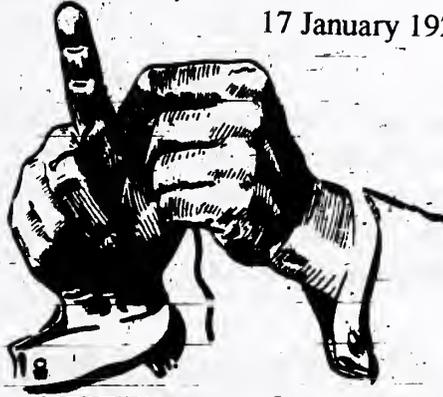
"What time is at Central!" and where is the fire please?" hadn't come into vogue yet." "And nobody asked for baseball scores or prize fights results."

"Calling a number was unheard of in the early days. Subscriber's simply called for Smith's drugstore or Jones's Grocery or this or that building on Broadway at such and such a cross street. When they didn't get the party at once, they blamed poor Central just as today."

Miss Kennedy got \$5 a week for her work when she first began. "When I think of the comforts in the offices today." She says, I realize that we girls in the "dark ages" had virtually nothing. I went to work at eight in the morning and remained on the job until six at night. To get to work I had to take a horse car from my home in Jersey City, then a ferry across to Manhattan and then another street car, drawn by horses. And when I got to my office, I had to walk up six flights of steps.

"My friends thought I was crazy to take the job. But after 45 years, I'm not sorry."

17 January 1923



# BIG SOAP SALE SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH

The N. K. Fairbank Co. will conduct a sale all day Saturday January 20th at our store. One cake Fairy Soap **FREE** with each deal.

### DEAL

2 Packages 5c Gold Dust for .....	9c
2 Cakes 5c Mascot Soap for .....	7c
1 Cake 7c Pummo Soap for .....	5c
2 Cakes 6c Glycerine Soap for .....	8c
1 Cake 8c Fairy Soap .....	<b>FREE</b>
	<b>29c</b>

This represents a saving of, at least 16c off retail price and a saving of 9c off our shelf prices. **DEALS NOT LIMITED.**

Soaps and Washing Powders are advancing. Now is the time to lay in a supply. This sale will be conducted by Mr. DeLapp of The N. K. Fairbanks Co.

# PIGGLY WIGGLY

*All Over the World*

41 E. Scales Street

Reidsville, N. C.

## The Reidsville Review

16 January 1923

The local telephone will be moved from the Peay building on Scales street to the second floor of Ware building on Gilmer street as soon as new equipment for the exchange arrives. A long lease has been secured by the telephone company. A new multiple switchboard will replace the present trunk-line switchboard which will greatly speed up connections. On a multiple switchboard each operator can make direct connections with every telephone in the exchange, whereas with the old switchboard, a majority of the connections required the work of two operators. Several new cables and poles lines on new streets will also be added to the system. The Gilmer street location would be the third location of the telephone exchange in Reidsville where it would remain until 1950 when the exchange was move to the Dial building at 211 S Main street. (The Piggly Wiggly Grocery store would move into the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Ware building several years later.)

26 April 9123

The local telephone company's new switchboard which has been installed in the Ware and Somers building on Gilmer Street will be connected tonight and the exchange moved to the new quarters. This is one of the latest improved switchboards and will greatly improve the service here. The plant has almost been entirely rebuilt and with new poles and cable lines within the last two months.

The Reidsville review  
7 March 1923

### PHONE FOLKS EARN \$9 A SHARE

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company earned \$81,668,440 after allowing for depreciation and taxes, in 1922, the annual report just disclosed. This was an increase of more than \$8,000,000 over 1921 net income. Gross earnings, of which nearly \$45,000,000 represented dividends from 25 associated companies including the Bell System, totaled \$122,807,719.

The corporation paid a dividend of \$9 a share, the amount expended totaling \$52,971,251, an increase of \$10,296,808 over the previous year and representing a capital stock increase during the year of \$151,162,100. The present authorized capital is \$750,000,000.

While a new stock offering is contemplated for the year, President H.B. Thayer pointed out that directors recommend an increase in the authorized share stock to \$1,000,000,000 to take care of present commitments and future requirements. Stockholders are increased during 1922 to 248,925 a gain for the year of 62,583.

After allowing for dividends, interest charges of \$15,493,012 and a contingent appropriation of \$5,000,000, the company reported a balance for surplus of \$8,199,117 compared with surplus of \$8,328,301 in 1921.

The 25 associated companies earned 5.6 per cent on the book cost of their plants while the American Telephone and Telegraph Company including undivided profits on the associated corporations earned 11.14 per cent on its average outstanding capital stock compared with 11.19 per cent in 1921.

TO SOU. BELL TEL AND TELG CO. FROM SALLIE A. DALLAS  
GENERAL PERMIT CORRECT W.O. HOLT

\$43.00 Received of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co. Forty Three dollars in consideration of; I hereby grant unto said company, its successors and assigns, the right, privilege and authority to construct, operate and maintain its lines of Telephone and Telegraph, including the necessary poles, wires and fixtures upon, over and across the property which I own, or in which I have an interest, in the Township of Wentworth, County of Rockingham and state of North Carolina and upon and along the roads, streets or highways adjoining the said property; said sum is received in full payment for said right, and also for the right to permit the attachment of wires of any other company or person to said poles and fixtures, and the right to trim and cut trees along said lines so as to clear and keep the wires cleared at least 15 feet and the right to cut all trees that in falling would reach the wires and further right to erect and set the necessary guy and brace poles and anchors, and to attach thereto and to trees the necessary guy wires: said sum being received in full payment therefore and with further rights and privileges to relocate poles, wires and fixtures including the necessary anchors and guys on account of grading, widening and reconstructing of roads and highways,

Witness my hand and seal the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1924

At Reidsville, N.C.

Witness: W.O. Holt  
T.M. Earle

Sallie A. Dallas  
(Land Owner) (L.S.)

NORTH CAROLINA, MECKLENBURG

The due execution of the foregoing instrument was this day duly proven before me by the oath and examination of T.M. Earle, one of the subscribing witness thereto. Witness my hand and notrial seal this April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1924

(Sallie A. Dallas owned land in the Mt. Hermon Community on the Leaksville-Reidsville highway which became Hwy 87 and today is known as Ashley Loop. Sallie A. Dallas was the Great-Aunt of John T. Dallas, a retired Southern Bell(BellSouth) employee.)

TO SOU. BELL TEL AND TELG CO. FROM EDGAR P. THOMAS  
GENERAL PERMIT CORRECT W.O. HOLT

\$5.00 Received of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co.  
Five and 00/100 dollars in consideration of; I hereby grant unto said company, its  
successors and assigns, the right, privilege and authority to construct, operate and  
maintain its lines of Telephone and Telegraph, including the necessary poles, wires and  
fixtures upon, over and across the property which I own, or in which I have an interest, in  
the Township of Wentworth, County of Rockingham and state of North Carolina and  
upon and along the roads, streets or highways adjoining the said property; said sum is  
received in full payment for said right, and also for the right to permit the attachment of  
wires of any other company or person to said poles and fixtures, and the right to trim and  
cut trees along said lines so as to clear and keep the wires cleared at least 15 feet and the  
right to cut all trees that in falling would reach the wires and further right to erect and set  
the necessary guy and brace poles and anchors, and to attach thereto and to trees the  
necessary guy wires: said sum being received in full payment therefore and with further  
rights and privileges to relocate poles, wires and fixtures including the necessary anchors  
and guys on account of grading, widening and reconstructing of roads and highways,

Witness my hand and seal the \_\_\_\_ day of April 1924  
At Reidsville, N.C.

Witness: W.O. Holt  
T.M. Earle

Edgar P. Thomas  
(Land Owner) (L.S.)

NORTH CAROLINA, MECKLENBURG

The due execution of the foregoing instrument was this day duly proven  
before me by the oath and examination of T.M. Earle, one of the subscribing witness  
thereto. Witness my hand and notrial seal this April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1924

(Edgar P. Thomas owned land in the Mt. Hermon Community on the Leaksville-  
Reidsville highway which became Hwy 87 and today is known as Ashley Loop. E.P.  
Thomas was the Uncle of John T. Dallas, a retired Southern Bell(BellSouth) employee.)

19 May 1926



## The Chief Telephone Expense Is Taxes and Wages

**T**HE wage and tax bill of this company for the year 1925 amounted to \$12,469,603.

These two items alone are more than 70 per cent of the entire cost of producing your service.

Since 1916 the tax bill has increased 354 per cent and the wage bill has increased 267 per cent. During the same period the average investment in service has increased 132 per cent.

In North Carolina the taxes for 1925 amounted to \$324,744, an increase of 486 per cent since 1916, while the wage bill for 1925 was \$1,619,392.

Although taxes form such a large part of the cost of producing telephone service, we have no objection to paying our just share of taxes. This is a duty of citizenship which we perform cheerfully.

While the cost of producing telephone service has increased, like the cost of all forms of government, the rates charged our customers for the service have not increased in anything like the same proportion as taxes, wages and other expenses.

Such facts as these are of interest to telephone users, and indicate the care and economy observed in the business of rendering telephone service.

MORGAN B. SPEER, Carolina Manager

"BELL SYSTEM"

**SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE  
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**

*One Policy, One System, Universal Service.*



The Greensboro Daily News  
21 December 1927

### Telephone Employees Gather In Annual Banquet In City

More Than 250 Employees of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company,  
Local District, Take Part In One of City's Most Colorful Affairs

Employees of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, Greensboro District, gathered 250 strong last night at the King Cotton Hotel for their annual banquet and dance. The affair was colorful one and pretty switchboard operators predominated, adding an air of beauty and grace not often seen in such profusion.

Col. W.B. Little, general manager of the Greensboro District, which includes Winston-Salem, Burlington, Reidsville and other near-by towns acted as toastmaster for the occasion and he served in that capacity well. There was little of flattery in the exemplimentary remarks he directed toward his audience. In point of beauty, handsomeness, efficiency in performance and character, his audience could not be duplicated and he made haste to say so.

Morgan B. Speir of Charlotte, General Manager for the Carolinas, was the principle speaker. He too was impressed with the appearance of his listeners. He paid fitting tribute to the excellent co-operation given by employees in all branches during the past year, which has witness great growth and expansion. Following the dinner, the guest danced until midnight.

There were some highlights in the program, especially in the way of entertainment. The Misses Mildred and Margaret Little, daughters of the district manager opened this part of the program with a duet "Bless As The Tie That Binds." Then a number of clever stunts were given, each of them directed toward some member of the audience. Then there was excellence switchboard demonstration by Miss Lillian McLeod and Mrs. C.L. Dsenkel.

Many people believe yet that the local exchange is composed one local operator and one long distance operator. Mrs. Dsenkel and Miss McLeod staged a humorous demonstration based on such a belief. It was a scream.

One of the outstanding events of the evening was the presentation of Miss Kasa Whitt of the city of a 20-year service badge. Miss Whit had just rounded out 20 years of service. In addition she was presented a lovely bouquet of roses, a tribute on the part of her local employers. The presentation was made by C.H. Burinny of Charlotte in a brief but well chosen speech.

In reviewing the accomplishments of the Greensboro District during the past year, Col. Little stated that every city and town in the district had exceeded it quota. There was a gain of 945 telephones here during the past year, while Burlington, Winston-Salem and Reidsville all made great gains, especially Burlington. Col. Little also pointed with satisfaction to the fact that the employees have given not a small amount of attention to thoughtfulness, thrift and efficiency during the past year.

Mr. Morgan in his address stated "that we have a fine crowd in the telephone business." The telephone company had reason to be proud of it forces, which has been built up steadily through the years to a high point of efficiency and performance. He then pointed out that there are more than 340,000 employed by telephone companies throughout the country, all under one head. This number exceeds the combined military forces of the United States.

The Reidsville Review  
9 February 1931

Robert J. Oliver Dies Suddenly  
Founder of Reidsville Telephone Company

"Keep right on to the end of the road," runs an old song of Sir Henry Landy's "keep right on to the end." That song sums up the spirit of one man's life and its passing when Robert J. Oliver, one of the editors and part owners of The Review and for 45 years connected with the Review newspaper, died Saturday morning about eleven o'clock, a few minutes after he had fallen on Scales Street, the main business section of the town in which he had for so long been a familiar figure. He was presumably on his way to the office where for the better part of many years he has given his unflinching loyalty to the paper. He was approaching his 70<sup>th</sup> year.

Mr. Oliver for several years had been in ill health and at one time it was thought he would have to retire for good from active work, but gameness, that sturdy quality of personal fiber, that he possessed to a marked degree and constitutional vitality and will-power to be envied by much younger men. After a period of enforced rest and recuperation, he returned to the field of action, apparently much improved.

He was fond of touring, of long automobile rides through the country. With this his main recreation and precaution he kept his place in the world of affairs almost up to the minute of his death. For three weeks previous this he had been more than usually disposed and was confined to his home, coming down to the office on Friday, the day before he died for the first time during this period. On the occasion he seemed to be feeling very well and was in good spirits, although he stayed only a short time.

The next morning he came back down town around 11 o'clock and was talking to a friend near the corner of Scales and Settle streets. He turned to go up Scales, but had moved only a few steps when he seemed to stumble, his legs suddenly collapsed and he fell to the street. An ambulance was called to rush him to the hospital but the last breath had left him before they reached there. His heart had apparently, finally succumbed to the strain of long siege to poor health.

Mr. Oliver was born in Halifax County, Virginia. He later lived in Milton, N.C. where he was engaged in the manufacturing of tobacco. He owned and operated the first telephone exchange in Reidsville afterwards selling it to the Bell Telephone Company.

His is survived by his wife to whom the death makes the fourth great loss within the last three months, the dark angel recently also taken a sister, a daughter and grandson; surviving also are R.S. Oliver of New York City, a step-son; Miss Marion Oliver of Reidsville, a step-daughter; two sons, Charles M and W.M. Oliver of Reidsville; a sister, Mrs. F.T. Preddy of Memphis, Tennessee; a brother, Manton, editor of the Review and a niece, Mrs. T.P. Kennedy of Philadelphia.

Funeral services will be held this afternoon from the First Presbyterian Church with the pastor M.S. Huske presiding, assisted by Rev. T.L. Sasser.

Pall bearers will be J.D. May Sr., Pat Ranking, W.R. Dalton, Les Cain, R.T. Burton, Dr. L.T. Smith, Buck Worsham, Dr. S.G. Jett, A.N. Turner.

Honorary Pall bearers will be W.H. Foy, Alec Sands, W.B. Little of Greensboro, H.R. Scott, E.F. Hall, Dr. J.B. Wells, Ira R. Humphrey, S.W. Cayton, Francis Wommak ,

W.B. Wray, H.W. Hines, George Lee Irvin, B.F. Sprinkle, R.L. Watt, S.M. Brown, Chas. Wootton, W.J. Irvin Sr.

Flower bearers will be Dr. B.F. Cozart, Scott Fillman, Louis Maus, Frank McIver, Robert Heffner, Ben Trotter, Russell Tucker, D.F. Mayberry, W.R. McCargo, Wm C. Burton, John Hester, L.M. Sharp, Wm. Hester, G.F. McBrayer, L.A. Taylor, H.A. Forney, James Womack, Joe Womack, Abe Womack, Watt Womack, Jim Womack, Herbert Dodson, Oscar Leath, Bob Rascoe, Glenn Clark, F.D. Watt, Edrington Penn, Maurice Holderby, Jack Walker, Ed Brewer, Francis Kemp, Aaron Weinstein, Jess Green, Winston-Salem, W.B. Kiker, Jeff Garrett, Sam Gibbs, J.B. Crafton, J. Fish Covington, Oscar Fitzgerald of Ruffin, Ira A. Calhoun, N.C. Thompson, Oscar Rothrock, M.W. Pleasants, Willie McCollum, H.K. Penn, Allen H. Gwyn, Jeff Penn, W.J. Wootton, Dr. M.H. McBryde, George Turner, Charles Whitsett, George Helmus, C.L. Tesh, W.S. Windsor, Joe Lindsey, Frank Simpson, Pete Willis, Chuck Smith, John Pinnix, Robert Hairston, Wallace Millner, H.R. Roller, Lytt Gardner, Bob Williams, W.B. Richardson, Jr., Bob Rankin, Rev. W.C. Jones.

He was devoted to his family, loyal to his friends in Reidsville to its newspaper. In any movement for city betterment, in any issue involving his community, country or state he lined himself on the side he believed to be right and was unswerving in his support of that side. He had the courage of his convictions and would use his journal and the full force of personal effort in advance whatsoever he thought to be wise and good.

Mr. Oliver had at all times, the interest of the farmer at heart and as an editor in the center of a great agricultural section fought constantly for their rights and the betterment of their living conditions.

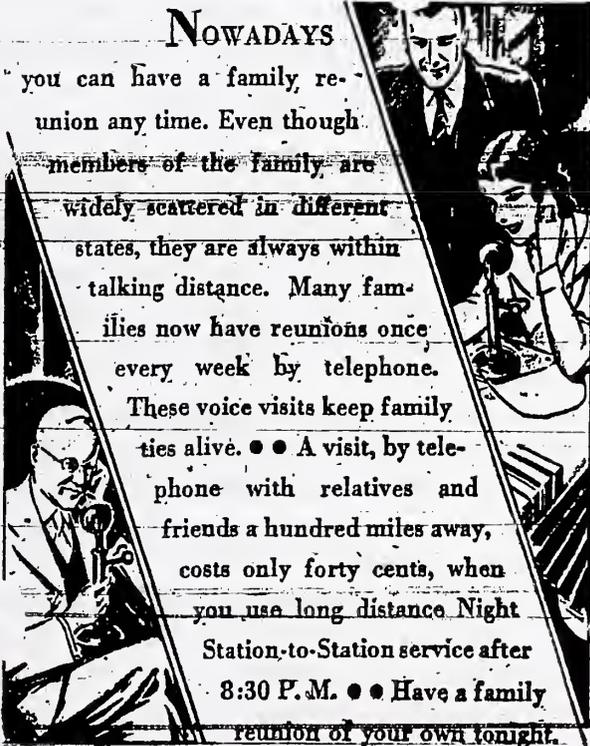
The Reidsville Review  
18 January 1930

Reidsville folks do a lot of talking by wire according to the hello-girls in the local telephone exchange. The exact figures for local calls are not known, but it is known that they run into the thousands and several operators are required at the switchboard at all times during the day. Miss Nina Ellington handles the night calls. There are an average of several hundred long distance calls each day. Officials are at a loss to explain just why the phone is such a constant in this city but it is believed that it is because Reidsville has reached the point in size that the telephone is a convenient method of conversing with friends, transacting business and

# Family reunions by telephone . . . . .

## NOWADAYS

you can have a family reunion any time. Even though members of the family are widely scattered in different states, they are always within talking distance. Many families now have reunions once every week by telephone. These voice visits keep family ties alive. ● ● A visit, by telephone with relatives and friends a hundred miles away, costs only forty cents, when you use long distance Night Station-to-Station service after 8:30 P. M. ● ● Have a family reunion of your own tonight.



**SOUTHERN BELL**  
**Telephone and Telegraph Company**  
(Incorporated)

The Leaksville News  
23 April 1931

*Telephone History Covers 30 years*

The history of telephones in Leaksville-Spray dates back to February 28, 1900, for on that date the first lines were run here from Wentworth. In the spring of that same year, the first switchboard was installed, the business then being owned and operated by Dr. Deshazo and Mr. Jones of Ridgeway. In 1903, the company was incorporated and Mr. J.W. Norman was named first manager, the company operating under the name of the International Telephone company.

In April 1905, S.M. Hampton succeeded Mr. Norman as manager and about that time, the exchange was moved to the Boulevard. Then after a period of ten years of uphill struggle, fire destroyed the whole telephone plant. Rebuilding immediately, the company set about the task of giving more modern telephone service and toward the end, the first magneto switchboard in this district was installed. But fire again visited the plant, this time in December 1928 and as a result the entire district was without telephone service for many days.

The following January, a switchboard was installed in a tin shack and there the operators worked under extreme difficulties, being forced many times to hold umbrellas over their heads to keep to keep snow and rain off their heads, whiled they plugged telephone calls with the other. Barrels of hot water were provided for the girls to put their feet on as to keep them warm.

The International telephone was purchased outright in 1926 by other interests who immediately started rebuilding the plant and installing a new common battery switchboard services, the very best equipment of its kind on the market. With this system, local operators do not hear the conversations and the automatic bell signal rings the desired telephone every five seconds.

In April 1928, the Southern States Utility Company purchased the plant and facilities of the International Telephone Company. During the summer a cable was run from the central office to Draper to provide service for that town. In March 1931, the Southern States Utility Company sold all their holdings in North Carolina and Virginia to the Central West Public Service Company of Omaha, Nebraska and is now being operated as the South East Public Service Company, a subsidiary of the Central West Company.

The Reidsville Review  
1930

T.J. McAdoo, a well known Greensboro citizen died at a Greensboro Hospital, Saturday. He built the first telephone exchange in Greensboro the same year the exchange in Reidsville was opened and was well known by many of our citizens.

The Reidsville Review  
29 April 1930

The new Piggly Wiggly grocery store formerly occupied by the A.M.A. store on East Gilmer Street opened on schedule time Friday morning, everything having been made ready the day before for the opening. Mr. Lowery, the proprietor, is well known to the people of the community who wish him success. The new place of business got off to a good start the first day and is still enjoying a good trade.

CUTTS HAS FINISHED 36 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Greensboro Daily News  
6 August 1933

To Retire From Southern Bell, E.P. Hoard, Asheville, to Succeed Him

IS EFFECTIVE SEPT. 1

J.C. Cutts who has been with the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company more than 36 years, his present position being plant chief in the Greensboro district is retiring September 1.

E.P. Hoard of Asheville has been to succeed Mr. Cutts as plant chief in the Greensboro district effective September 1. He comes from a similar position at Asheville. Mr. Hoard has been with the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company about 15 years.

With approximately 250 telephone people, together with members of their families in attendance, a basket picnic was given in honor of Mr. Cutts Friday at the Southern Utilities clubhouse. In the party were people from Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Reidsville, Burlington and Charlotte.

Brief talks were made by J.G. Bradsbury of Charlotte and W.E. Anderson and Randy Williams of Greensboro. Mr. Bradsbury presented to Mr. Cutts a lounging chair, a gift from the employees in the Greensboro district and a bill folder sent by Mr. Ben S. Reid of Atlanta, president of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company; Following supper, dancing and other amusements engaged the attention of the group.

Col. W.B. Little, Greensboro district manager, paid impressive tributes to Mr. Cutts alluding to the fine character and attainments on the retiring plant chief and commending his record as one worthy of emulation. (Mr. J.C. Cutts picture appears in this newspaper.)

# Mighty

15 May 1944

# Important Job These Days



**SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE  
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**  
INCORPORATED

## *The Telephone Lineman*

maintains the network of telephone wires and cables that links the nation together.

Day after day, in storm and fire and flood, up in the air and underground, he's on the job — knowing that every circuit is needed for war.

These days it is important for every one to make the best use of telephone equipment.

You can help keep lines clear for war calls by making only necessary long distance calls.

Installation of the four thousandth telephone was made for the firm of Orell Real Estate Company, which is located in the Morehead street arcade on West Morehead Street. The installation was made by E.A. Bennett Jr., of the plant department.

From the beginning in the year 1902 and with the installation of Telephone Number One for The Review, the Reidsville exchange has shown good growth. From the figures given below, it is noted that the exchange has approximately doubled in size in the past year period.

Company Stations:

Feb. 28, 1943	1985
Feb. 29, 1944	1977
Feb. 28., 1945	2002
Aug 14., 1945(VJ Day)	2043
Feb. 28, 1946	2253
Feb. 28, 1947	2865
Feb. 28, 1948	3386
Feb. 7, 1949	4000

An indication of the calling rate volume of the exchange is as follows:

Local Calls per day, 29,000; per month, 889,000

Long distances calls per day, 600, per month, 18, 600

Davis stated that even with the large outlay of new cable and other facilities installed in 1948 and providing service for approximately 800 people in that year, that a total of 539 applications are still on file and more come in every day. He further stated that outside engineering to provide much need facilities had either been approved or was being processed or planned.

**PROVIDING . . . .  
Rural Telephones  
Is A BIG JOB**

It's a big one . . . the job of providing telephone service to rural people scattered over hundreds of thousands of square miles in nine states!

But it's a job that we're pleased to be doing. Southern Bell trucks and men are becoming a more and more familiar sight along the rural roads of the South-east.

Of course a job of this size can't be completed overnight—particularly since more central office equipment must be installed at many telephone exchanges before additional phones can be connected.

You can be sure of this: *We're doing the job, using the best equipment and technique Bell System experience and research can develop, and we'll keep on extending telephone service into more and more rural areas.*

**SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE  
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**  
Incorporated



10 September 1946

## TELEPHONES NEEDED IN SOUTH

The demand for telephones in the South as related to the per cent now in service is about twice of that of any other region of the country, President Hal S. Dumas of Southern Bell Telephone Company, announced today.

In a statement reviewing Southern Bell operating during the first twelve months of peace, Mr. Dumas revealed that new company records had been set during 1946 both in volume of local and long distance calls handled and in telephones added.

Long distance calls made over Southern Bell telephones in a recent month totaled 9,486,000 or about 11 per cent greater than in 1945 and 139 per cent greater than in 1940.

Local calls made in Southern Bell territory are averaging about 16,592,000 daily, 39 per cent greater than the volume in 1940.

Since August 31, 1945, Southern Bell has added nearly 260,000 telephones and in July of this year broke all company records by increasing the telephones in service by more than 37,000. The average monthly gain in Southern Bell Telephones according to Mr. Dumas; now is more than four times the average for 1945 and for the previous period of 1936-1939.

In Reidsville, the volume of local and long distance calls has also increased substantially. Long distance originating here during July totaled 13,922 or 2.7 per cent over July, 1946 and 13 per cent over July, 1940.

In Reidsville local calls average about 16,306 calls at present a 28.5 per cent increase over the daily total of the comparable period of 1945 and 50.8 per cent above the total for the period in 1940.

At present Reidsville has 2503 telephones, an increase of 126.5 per cent over the number in service 10 years ago. Since Pearl Harbor approximately 399 telephones have been added to those in service here despite continuing material shortages. About 400 persons are waiting for service in Reidsville.

### 2,000,000 Southern Bell Telephones

"Today there are more than approximately 780,000 more than we had on September 1, 1940" Mr. Dumas said. We expect to gain more than 330,000 telephones this year, an all-time record.

"More than 45,000 Southern Bell men and women, 11,500 more than at the end of the war and nearly twice as many as there were in 1940 are working to achieve our main objectives to provide telephones to those waiting on the farm and in the city; and to expand our long distance facilities."

"More equipment, more people, more of everything is being added as fast as possible to furnish more and better telephone service. The Company will spend approximately \$84,000,000 to enlarge its facilities this year and the rate of expenditure will accelerate as materials become available in increasing quantities. This represents by far the biggest expansion program in the Company history.'

"Financing this program will require that large sums of new money be brought into the business. This is complicated by the fact that tremendous increases in the demand for service have been accompanied by great increases in the cost of all elements that go into

the provision of telephone service, with the results that the Company's earnings are the lowest in over 20 years.

"New money for telephone expansion must come as it has in the past, from savings of many thousands of thrifty people. Unless telephone earnings are sufficient to give them confidence in the safety of their investment and a feeling assurance of a reasonable return on that investment, new funds for further expansion will not be forth coming."

The Reidsville Review  
18 September 1946

#### SOUTHERN BELL ASKS COMMISSION FOR TELEPHONE RATE INCREASE

Because of greatly increased wages and rising cost of materials and building construction, the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company today asked authorities to raise rates in North Carolina so it can improve and expand services in pace with the state's economic development.

In a petition filled with the North Carolina Utilities Commission, the company said its expenses in this state had climbed 102 per cent in five years while revenue increased only 76 per cent. During this same period total salaries and wages increased 196 per cent. . The Company said it had over 4,300 employees in the State representing an increase of 111 per cent over five years ago.

The rate increase for local service would apply to business customers only and would be on a sliding scale, depending on locality Residence local service rates remains unchanged. The Company is asking authority to increase long distance rates 5 cents on most calls within the state. The Company stated that the requested rate increase would not produced all the needed revenue that current costs indicate is needed, but that it hoped that its operating experience under these rates might prove them to be sufficient. In view of this, no increases were being requested on residence rates. It was felt to be in the best interest of business in the state that residential rates be kept as low as possible. It was further stated that since no changes in residence rates were being requested, the total increase would be only 7 per cent of Southern Bell's total revenues in state.

For Reidsville, N.C. the following rates are sought:

##### Type of Service

Business Individual Line, new rate \$4.50, present rate, \$3.50, increase \$1.00

Business Two-party line, new rate \$3.75, present rate \$3.00, increase 75 cents

Business Four-party, new rate \$3.00, present rate \$2.50, increase 50 cents

The Reidsville Review  
7 May 1947

### Phone Strike Terminates

#### Vote To Return To Jobs Today

#### Service Will Be Back To Normal In A Few Days

The local union of the National Federation of Telephone Workers met today and voted to return to their jobs at 1:00'clock, according to Claude Davis, manager of the local Bell Telephone Company. Members of the union cooperated with the decision and are now at the switchboards.

Mr. Davis cautions the public that a couple of days will be required before the local office will be functioning on pre-strike level. He continued by stating that full service will be returned as soon as possible.

Then local strikers among the last to return to their jobs, filed back to their positions after approximately a month of idleness. The strike in Reidsville never proved to be 100 per cent effective as supervisory personnel placed emergency calls and kept the office operating.

In the last few weeks several of the union members returned to their jobs along with other non-striking workers. This made it possible for the local exchange to pass important calls, as well as those of the emergency class.

Mr. Davis stated this afternoon that he appreciated the cooperation of the people of Reidsville in the strike. I wish to express my gratitude to the people for their compliance with our appeals during this emergency. I hope that they will continue to cooperate with us for the next few days in placing only important calls until our office is again operating smoothly," he said

He elaborated somewhat on the time needed for normal operation of the exchange. Even though the workers are complying 100 per cent in returning to work, regular work schedules and other business matters must be taken of before normal service can be restored.

The Reidsville Review  
9 February 1949

### Southern Bell Installs 4000<sup>th</sup> Telephone In Reidsville

Reidsville reached a significant milestone in the telephone history on February 7 when its four thousandth telephone was installed according to Claude W. Davis, local manager.

The Greensboro Daily News  
11 May 1947

### Bell Workers Back on Job

#### Equipment Union gives Up Effort

Normalcy returned to the local telephone strike scene at 7:30 a.m. yesterday when the Association of Communication Equipment Workers withdrew pickets from the Southern Bell Telephone building entrance.

“We have withdrawn pickets and will return to work,” said James V. Hamilton, steward for local No. 22 of the A.C.E.W. after members of the Southern Federation of Telephone Workers, returning to work, refused to honor the A.C.E.W. picket line.

Hamilton stated that the pickets were placed in a line at the telephone building at 6 a.m. yesterday and were removed one half hour later. It was understood there had been no agreement between the local unit of the A.C.E.W. and Western Electric in calling an end to local picketing.

H.M. Inabinet, office manager of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, said 350 members of the striking members of the S.F.T.W. had returned yesterday to their jobs following settlement between the company and the union. Some of them were not at work since the date was an off-day to several.

Long distance service is now operating normally, Inabinet stated, but the public is asked to continue voluntary restriction on use of lines over the Mother's day week end and work schedules will return to regular operations

The Greensboro Daily News  
December 30<sup>th</sup> – January 1958

Southern Bell Telephone Company reported continued growth in its Greensboro District with 3,432 telephones added to its listing during a year which a new seven-digit calling plan was introduced.

The Reidsville Review  
2 February 1948

New 'Phone Rates Become Effective In Reidsville Area

In order to permit the Southern Bell Telephone Company to augment and extend its facilities in North Carolina, increased rates for services were authorized last week by the state Utilities Commission at Raleigh. Reidsville is one of the offices affected by the commission action.

The commission is authorizing the increase charges, noted that the Southern Bell Telephone has initiated a expansion program calling the expenditure of \$15,081,000 for new buildings and land, additions to present facilities, central office equipment and related improvements.

The decision by the commission also considered the \$150,000 in wage cost for the Bell company as a result of the nationwide telephone strike last year from 7 April to May 10, the sharp increase in prices of material, equipment and supplies and the difficulty in securing adequate public financing of the time.

C.W. Davis, manager of the Reidsville office of the telephone company said today that the new charges for the telephone and equipment went into effect as of February 1. Davis reported that the approved increase for Reidsville telephone subscribers is 25 cents a month. The new rates here will be \$2.50 for the one-party residence line, \$2.25 for the two-party residence line, \$2.00 for a four-party line, \$2.50 for business rural and \$2.00 for residence rural.

Service connection charges for business instruments and already in place will be \$3.00 for residence instruments not already in place, \$2.75. Rates for business extensions will be \$1.75 and for residence extensions, \$1.50. For instruments already all ready in place or for reconnection of private branch or PBX stations, the rate will \$1.50 for each station. Changes in style or type of telephones will be made at the cost of \$1.50 each.

The Reidsville Review  
8 February 1948

The Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company purchased from Kemp L. Smith, property located at 211 S. Main Street, it was announced today by Claude W. Davis, local manager of the company. The newly acquired property has frontage of 85 feet and extends approximately 210 feet in depth, an area of 21,000 square feet. It was stated that the purchase of the land was of the development plan of this company to provide enlarged and improved telephone services to the people of Reidsville and Rockingham County. The new site will eventually house all the departments of Southern Bell within the city. No immediate plans for construction are available at this time.

The Reidsville Telephone Exchange, like other throughout the country, has experienced phenomenal growth throughout the war years. Since August 1945, an increase of more than 33 per cent telephone installations has been accomplished under the very difficult situation of restricted and curtailed supplies. Percentages for the last two years are based on the company total of 2514 company owned stations the latter part of 1945, against a total of approximately 3,400 stations to date.

Mr. Davis pointed out that even under the most difficult of supply and facility conditions, his company had been able to accomplish or initiate the following improvements in Reidsville, during the past year install approximately 700 new telephones, virtually complete one of the largest rural telephone projects within Southern Bell territory, this project consisting of 41 miles of pole line and carrying 183 circuit miles of wire and serving approximately 250 new rural subscribers in Western and Southwestern Rockingham County. The company has increased the local toll operating positions from 12 positions to a total 20 positions the past year. Two additional sections of switchboard are now being installed.

The first of five estimates providing facilities for the Southern section of the city has been partially completed. The initial estimate provided for laying a 909 pair lead covered cable underground from Gilmer Street to the Harrison and Piedmont street area.

More than 700 applications for service are on file and new application taken last year equaling the rate of installation.

The supply of telephone instruments from the manufacturer is sufficient to serve these people desiring extensions.

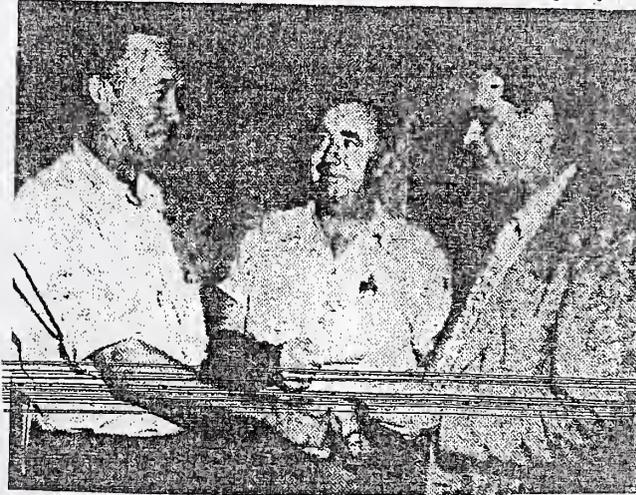
The Reidsville Review  
11 February 1948

Telephone Employees Mass Meeting To Be Held In Greensboro

A mass meeting of the Communication Workers of America for telephone employees from Reidsville, Burlington, Greensboro and Winston-Salem will be held on Thursday night, February 12<sup>th</sup> in the Guilford County Court House in Greensboro.

J.A. Beirne of Washington, DC, national president of the union and W.A. Smallwood of Atlanta, Ga., Southern Division president, will discuss contract negotiations for the current year and the 1948 political campaign.

## Awards Given Telephone Company Employees



27 May 1948

### Awards Given Telephone Company Employees

Herman Frye, an employee of Southern Bell Telephone Company in Reidsville is pictured receiving a safety card for 20 years of driving without a traffic accident from G.W. Cox, Greensboro District Plant Manager as C.G. McClintock, who was awarded a safety card for nineteen years of accident free driving holds the card given him.

Safe driving cards were presented to four employees of the Reidsville office of Southern Bell yesterday afternoon by G.W. Cox, Greensboro District Plant manager of the company.

Herman Frye received a card showing he had driven 20 years for the company without a traffic accident and C.G. McClintock was given a card for 19 years of safe driving. C.W. Martin received a seven year safe driving card and a one-year card was given to W.M. Foster.

To be eligible for the cards, Southern Bell employees must spend 50 percent of their time in a driving capacity.

A button for 20 years service with the Southern Bell Company was presented to Pulasky Boland, colored, by Cox who congratulated the recipient on his good record with the organization.

9 February 1949

### INSTALLS 4000TH TELEPHONE



E. A. Bennett, Jr., is shown above after he installed the four thousandth telephone in Reidsville. The telephone was installed for A. M. Orrell, right above, in his real estate office located in the Morehead Arcade.

31 May 1949



**SAFE DRIVERS RECEIVE AWARDS** — Shown above are the four men who received safe driving awards from Southern Bell Telephone Company last week. They are, left to right: Chief of Police Maury Loftis, who made the awards;

E. A. Bennett, G. C. McClintock, M. W. Foster, and R. S. Hurley. The awards were made Wednesday at a luncheon honoring McClintock, plant manager for 30 years of service and 21 years of safe driving.

11 April 1949

# SEASON TICKETS and BOX SEATS

FOR THE HOME GAMES OF THE  
**REIDSVILLE LUCKIES**

*Now On Sale At*

**WILLIAMS & CO.**      **BASEBALL OFFICE**  
Scales Street                      Morehead Arcade

**SEASON TICKETS . . . \$50.00**  
**BOX SEATS . . . \$20.00**

## *Special Notice to Children*

"LUCKIE" SHIRTS ARE NOW ON SALE AT  
WILLIAMS & COMPANY.

**PRICE \$1.00**

~~All Children, 12 years of age or under, wearing a "Luckie" shirt  
and accompanied by their parent will be admitted to all Home  
Games FREE OF CHARGE!~~

Children thus admitted must sit with their parent during the game.

**REIDSVILLE BASEBALL  
CLUB**

The Reidsville Review  
16 March 1950

### Telephone Officials Review Plans For Dial Service Here

Twenty-two representatives of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company are holding a two day meeting here working out the final touches on plans to convert the manual telephone exchange in Reidsville to dial service.

Engineers from the general office in Atlanta, Georgia and the division office in Charlotte are among the group working as a coordinating committee to complete the plans

Claude M. Davis, local manager for the telephone company said plans were laid several months ago to install dial telephone service in Reidsville. He stated that actual work will begin immediately and the company expects to have it completed by early fall of this year.

Davis said the entire program is being reviewed by the telephone representatives in the meeting. The group discussed dates and methods of the conversion program and a schedule for completing this work will be set up before the meeting closes.

The Reidsville Review  
1950

### Dial System Installation To Begin Soon

Telephone subscribers are being advised by letter that the work of changing telephone sets from manual to dial control is starting. Crews of men will be detailed to this step of the conversion program and should complete their work by September.

Several precautions regarding use of the new dial telephones have been made by Claude W. Davis, manager of Southern Bell. In a letter to local customers, Davis warned that dials should not be used until the new dial central office is ready for service. It is necessary that the new dial telephones be used exactly as before for a time. Disturbing the dial while making a call by the old operator method may cause a disconnection or otherwise impair service, Davis advised.

The letter to the customers also advised that after that after the new dial office is placed in operation, it will be necessary to change present telephone numbers. The new numbers will be furnished well in advance of the transfer to dial services and will appear in the new phone book.

The Reidsville Review  
12 April 1950

Southern Bell Employees To Receive Wage Increase Within 12 Months

Three out of four of the non-supervisory Bell Telephone Company in the nine states it serves will receive automatic "progression" wage increases within the next 12 months under the present contract with the Union, it was revealed today by Claude Davis, Southern Bell Manager.

"As a matter of fact," Mr. Davis said "over the length of our present contract with the Union, which runs until June 1953, the total of the automatic increases alone will be 8 cents an hour (\$3.20 a week) per employee, or about \$8,000,000 a year.

"The rate increase obtained by the Company have fallen far short of meeting the cost of wage increases as already granted," Mr. Davis said. "Any further general increases in wages would have to be paid by telephone customers."

Mr. Davis said, according to a recently completed survey which covered 3,799 firms employing 737,379 persons the wages of Southern Bell workers compared very favorable with the pay of other workers in the community possessing similar skills.

"The fact that Southern Bell's wage rates for non-supervisory employees have been boosted 8 times in the last 10 years for an increase of 117 per cent, while cost of living for southern cities jumped about 73 per cent, shows that the CWA-CIO Union demands for 9<sup>th</sup> round increases are completely unjustified," Mr. Davis added, " And these wage rate increases of fifteen per cent do not include promotional increases or the regularly progressive increases which non-supervisory employees receive until they reach the top rate for the job."

17 April 1950  
No Phone Agreement Yet

Efforts to stave off a nationwide telephone strike set for next week have failed so far, it was reported today.

Unless the wage dispute is settled by April 26-the date on which a 60-day truce requested by President Truman expires, the communication workers of America (CIO) plans to walk off the job.

The union and 20 units of the Bell Telephone system have carried on intermitted negotiations during the past two months but have failed to settle the union's demand for a 15-cent-an-hour wage increase.

Long-distance calls would be hit first in a nation-wide strike. They are normally handled by the 20,500 long-lines operators of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Local calls could still go through on automatic dial switchboards-unless these systems broke down. CWA President Joseph Bierne has urged all CIO members to over-use dial telephones in an effort to jam switchboards

The telephone company claims its wages are good and have kept pace with the rising living costs.

# Look What Telephone Employees are Getting Now

*After 8 general wage increases since 1939, the 9th round wage increase demanded by the Union is not justified by the facts. Southern Bell people are already getting good wages and liberal benefits.*

## AUTOMATIC WAGE SCHEDULES FOR TWO TELEPHONE JOB CLASSIFICATIONS IN REIDSVILLE

Basic wage rates being paid to skilled craftsmen, such as Installer Repairman

LENGTH OF SERVICE	WEEKLY WAGE
Start	\$32
End of 3rd Month	\$34
End of 6th Month	\$36
End of 9th Month	\$38
End of 12th Month	\$40
End of 18th Month	\$42
End of 24th Month	\$44
End of 30th Month	\$46
End of 36th Month	\$48
End of 42nd Month	\$50
End of 48th Month	\$52
End of 54th Month	\$54
End of 60th Month	\$56
End of 66th Month	\$58
End of 72nd Month	\$60
End of 78th Month	\$62
End of 84th Month	\$64
End of 90th Month	\$66
End of 96th Month	\$68

Here are the Basic wage rates being paid to Telephone Operators:

LENGTH OF SERVICE	WEEKLY WAGE
Start	\$30
End of 3rd Month	\$31
End of 6th Month	\$32
End of 12th Month	\$33
End of 18th Month	\$34
End of 24th Month	\$35
End of 30th Month	\$36
End of 36th Month	\$37
End of 42nd Month	\$38
End of 48th Month	\$39
End of 54th Month	\$40
End of 60th Month	\$41
End of 66th Month	\$42
End of 72nd Month	\$43
End of 78th Month	\$44
End of 84th Month	\$45
End of 90th Month	\$46
End of 96th Month	\$47

### IN ADDITION....

In addition to the BASIC wages shown above, Southern Bell employees also get liberal pay treatment as follows:

They are PAID FOR TIME NOT WORKED because of:

### They get TIME-AND-ONE-HALF pay for:

- Overtime
- Sunday work
- Working on non-scheduled day
- Starting scheduled work less than 11 hours after completing previous tour
- Non-scheduled emergency work
- Evening and night duty Christmas and New Year's Eves
- Shifted tour without advance notice

### They get EXTRA PAY OR ALLOWANCES for:

- Evening and night work
- Relief work on higher-rated jobs
- Acting as working leader
- Assisting in training classes
- Work performed on a holiday

## ACTUAL EARNINGS EXCEED BASIC RATES

Including the liberal allowances and extra payments shown above, the actual earnings of telephone employees are well above their basic wage rates. Here are typical average weekly earnings, with corresponding monthly and annual earnings.

#### IN EXCHANGES LIKE REIDSVILLE—

	A Week	A Month	A Year
Craftsmen, such as Installer Repairmen, at the Top Rate (Basic rate \$70 weekly)	\$71.43	\$310.72	\$3,714.36
Craftsmen, such as Installer Repairmen, with 2 or More Years of Service (Average for group having basic rates between \$44 and \$70 weekly)	\$77.98	\$334.98	\$4,004.00

#### IN EXCHANGES LIKE REIDSVILLE—

	A Week	A Month	A Year
Operators at the Top Rate (Basic rate \$44 weekly)	\$41.00	\$178.74	\$2,136.68
Operators with 2 or More Years of Service (Average for group having basic rates between \$35 and \$44 weekly)	\$46.53	\$202.41	\$2,419.24

## ON TOP OF ALL THIS

Southern Bell employees get ALL of the following benefits and advantages:

**PENSIONS**—A minimum of \$100 a month at age 65, including Social Security. Many non-supervisory employees will receive substantially more than this minimum. Liberal pensions for disability or other earlier retirement.

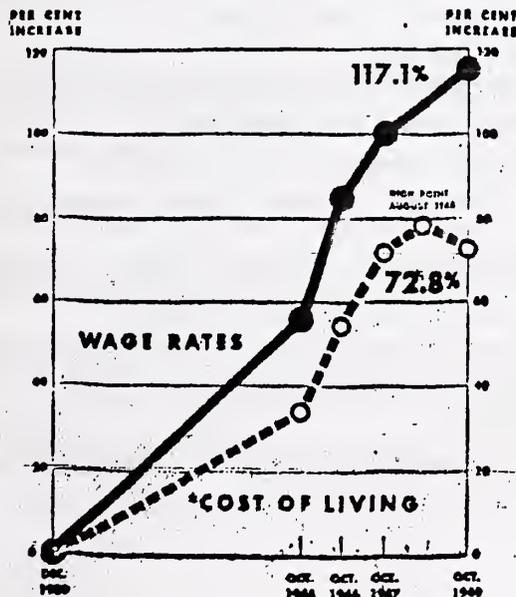
**SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT BENEFITS**—Up to one full year's pay (depending on length of service) at Company's expense.

**DEATH BENEFITS**—Up to one full year's wage, depending on length of service, paid to employee's dependents, at Company expense.

**STEADY WORK**—No seasonal layoffs.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT**—A total of 4,349 non-management employees were promoted to better jobs last year.

**Increases in Southern Bell Wage Rates and in Living Costs Since 1939**



U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index (Data for Southern cities combined)

Yes, under the present contract, telephone jobs are good jobs... That's why labor turnover is so low... less than half the rate for manufacturing industry as a whole. And that's why we have proposed to the Union a continuation of the present contract until its expiration date of June, 1951. As the contract now stands 3 out of 4 employees will receive one or more wage increases in the next twelve months. We believe this proposal to be fair and just to all.

**SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**

## The Reidsville Review

24 April 1950

Telephone subscribers are being advised by letter that the work on changing telephone sets from manual to dial control is starting. Crews of men have been detailed to this step of the conversion program and should complete their work by September.

Several precautions regarding use of the new dial telephones have been made by Claude W. Davis, manager of Southern Bell. In a letter to local customers, Davis warned that dials should not be used until the new dial central office is ready for service. It is necessary that the dial phones be used exactly as before for a time. Disturbing the dial while making a call by the old method may cause a disconnection or otherwise impair service, Davis advised.

The letter to the customers also stated that after the new dial office is placed in operation, it will necessary to change present telephone numbers. The new numbers will be furnished well in advance of the transfer to dial service and will appear in the new directory. The Bell Company will give any assistance needed before the new equipment is placed in operation.

The enlargement of the Reidsville has been planned not only to meet present and future needs of our progressive city but to provide the very latest developments that the art of telephony provides. We look forward, with you, to the coming dial conversion as an important step in the continuing progress of Reidsville." Davis concluded his letter.

## The Reidsville Review

12 May 1950

The South-Eastern Construction Company yesterday turned the new telephone building on South Main Street over to Southern Bell Telephone Company. Completion of the building was part of the \$652,000 dial conversion program in Reidsville. Work on the building began late last summer and was scheduled for completion in May.

A. Lacy Harper, Construction Superintendent expressed his opinion that the building is the ultimate in soundness of construction from an engineer's viewpoint. The structure is supported by what Harper calls a rigid steel framework. It contains 38 rooms, the largest of which dial mechanism for local calls. This room located on the first floor along the North side of the building is 44 by 62 feet. It will be specially air-conditioned to the needs of the intricate telephonic switching equipment in operation there.

### Mechanism Being Installed

The installation of the dial switching mechanism will be done by the Western Electric Company with G.F. Patterson in charge. Patterson's work has already begun.

Other contracts are being handled for interior decoration such as this work, an immense job in its self. The entire floor space of the Bell building is being covered with asphalt and Linotile.

The construction equipage of the Telephone Company's new home is only part of the enormous job of converting Reidsville from manual to dial telephones. Local management since 1947 have been faced with the complicated task, first allowing for the increase of subscribers from 2,000 to 4,000 with manual equipment and now with conversion from the manual system to dial.

W.D. Bailey is the Chairman of the Dial Co-coordinating committee and is directing the switchover which will be affected at midnight of October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1950 (Greensboro was converted to the dial system in 1930)

The Reidsville Review  
4 May 1950

Telephone Official Explains Peculiar Ringing Sound

C.W. Davis, local manager for the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company said today numerous inquiries have been made recently by local telephone customers concerning the change of ringing tone when the operator placed a call for them. In an attempt to explain the peculiar tone heard by telephone users, Davis issued the following statement: The dial conversion program now underway to change the telephone exchange in Reidsville from a manual system to that of a dial system, made it necessary to change from one type of ringing system to another. A new ringing machine has been installed to better answer the purpose during the dial conversion program.

The old machine operating on a different electrical cycle than that used by the new machine, produced a certain tone in the customer's ear. The new machine, operating on a higher frequency cycle, produces a steadier and more pleasing note to the subscriber's ear. The tone is closely akin to the dial tone that will be employed when the dial system is placed in service."

Reidsville's new Dial system is demonstrated and explained by the Southern Bell Telephone Company in a condensed version on display at the Reidsville fair this week. In this model telephone exchange each step of the way toward the completion of a call may be watched as it is explained by the hostesses (l to r) Mrs. Edith Gunn, Miss Nancy Dixon and Mrs. Layla Ella or by Mr. Norris Russell, Special Services Supervisor of the Bell System. Mr. Russell stated that he hoped the people of Reidsville would make good use of the exhibit so they will better able to use the system when it goes into operation at midnight, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Reidsville Review  
16 October 1950

Former Mayor W.A. Trotter stayed up late Saturday night to be the recipient of the first local call made by dial which was placed by Mayor George Hunt at the new Telephone Office.

Some of the guest of the local Telephone Company were shown the Long distance Board on a tour of the Building prior to ceremonies putting Reidsville's Dial System into use Saturday night.

Three of the technicians who threw the switches to put Reidsville's into service await the signal to yank the rope that was attached to a multitude of switches. 4413 telephones were affected by the cutover.

These are part of the guests that attended ceremonies shown in the switchroom waiting to see the actual switching that was done at midnight last Saturday. A few of the many relays that are necessary to operate the system may be seen in the upper left center. In the

center (back to the camera) is C.W. Davis, local manager of the telephone company, explaining the operations of the dial system.

Mayor George Hunt tried his hand at dialing Saturday at mid-night as he makes the first local call to former Mayor W.A. Trotter as part of the change-over ceremonies in the new Telephone Building.

Charlie Ray, Western Electric engineer was in charge of making the installation. He said he was tired but happy after the change-over Saturday at midnight. "It was one of the smoothest change-over I've seen," he said,

William M. Oliver, president of both the Review Company, inc. and Reidsville Broadcasting Company, (WREV-FM-AM) places the first long distance call on the new dial system to F.J. Turner, Atlanta, Ga., vice-president of The Southern Bell Telephone Company in ceremonies Saturday night. Mr. Oliver is the son of the late R.J. Oliver, who founded Reidsville first telephone exchange about the turn of the century.

The Reidsville Review  
17 October 1950

Reidsville's oldest telephone was given to Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Carroll of 508 Maple Avenue, its original owners on their 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary October 4 by Southern Bell Telephone Company. The telephone has been in use in the Carroll home ever since their marriage in 1908 and according to Mr. Carroll it has needed little servicing over the years. It was necessary for the old phone to be replaced because of the new dial system which went into use Saturday midnight. According to Claude W. Davis, manager of the local telephone exchange, this is the oldest telephone known to be in existence in Reidsville.

The Greensborough Patriot  
4 April 1894

Through the efforts of Judge Schenck a telephone line will be established to the Battle Ground in a few days. The wire will be put on the Western Union poles. The instruments, wire and supplies have all been donated, the Bell Telephone Company and Odell Hardware Company generously contributing the same. G.W. Allen, Sr., has offered his services to the Battleground Company, which is an assurance that the line will be put up right.

IT MEANS SO MUCH TO KEEP IN TOUCH

"Hello, Dad - it's a Boy!  
we're naming him  
for you!"



The true value of your telephone is the  
value of voices you love, brought right into  
your home. It's the value of steps saved,

seconds run, questions answered, peace of mind  
restored. All told, it's an amazing day's

work for a modest day's pay... The price of

your telephone service is still remarkably low

as compared with the prices of most other

things you buy. And telephone folks

are busy all the time expanding and improving

the service further—making it still more

useful and valuable for everyone.

*Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company*



"Wonderful, Son!  
I wouldn't take a  
million for your call!"

so big in service



so little in cost

16 JUL 1950

Reidsville's 5th Annual  
**HARVEST JUBILEE**

Presents

**THE JUBILEE  
JAMBOREE**

**THE HILSON-STARR SHOW**  
**THE HILSON-STARR SHOW**  
FROM NASHVILLE  
TENNESSEE



**THE TUBB**

TWO HOURS SHOW

★ THE NATION'S  
LEADING COWBOY  
RECORDING STAR

**Kiker Stadium-Reidsville**

**August 31st 8 P. M.**

Admission: Adults \$1.00, Children 50c  
(Tax Included)

26 AUG 1950



## Both Go into Service Saturday, October 14

*All Numbers  
Change!*

All Reidsville telephone numbers listed in the new directory are new numbers which which do not go into effect until the dial central office is put into service at midnight, Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>, therefore the new directory should not be used before the change to dial and should not be used thereafter

If you haven't received your new directory, by October 3 Please notify our business office so that a copy can be sent to you

The change to dial service which required the construction of a complete new building and gross expenditures of approximately \$652,000 gives Reidsville as modern telephone service as found anywhere. We are pleased to bring you this fine telephone service.

Claude Davis, Manager

Between now and October 14 is a good time to familiarize yourself with the dialing instructions in your new directory and to make a new list of "frequently called numbers" from the new book. After the change, to obtain a number not in the directory, dial "113."

**SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**

The Reidsville Review  
5 October 1950

The Reidsville Review  
14 October 1950

**DIAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM GOES INTO OPERATION IN REIDSVILLE**

**24,000 Phone Calls Completed By Nine O'clock Sunday Morning**

Reidsville's modern dial telephone system went into operation at 11:56 o'clock Saturday night with a total of 5,000 calls made during the first hour and 24,000 calls completed by Sunday morning at 8 o'clock.

The first calls of the dial system by Mayor George Hunt who talked to former Mayor W.A. Trotter at his home and William Oliver, of the Reidsville Review, who called Fred J. Turner, vice-president of the Southern Bell Telephone Company in Atlanta, Ga.

**Witness Ceremonies**

The cutover ceremonies were witnessed by members of the city council, county commissioners, heads of various civic groups and representatives of the press and radio. The group was taken on a conducted tour of the building by Claude W. Davis, manager of the local company.

The switchover from the manual system in the old building was completed as soon as the board was cleared and the 12 o'clock deadline approached. As soon as the operation was completed the signal was flashed to Mr. Oliver and Mayor Hunt.

Richard Hurley (Switching Technician) explained the operation of a certain power unit and function of the emergency diesel unit which is used in case of electric power failure. G.C. McClintock, plant foreman, assisted in dial equipment usage.

**Tour Building**

The tour of the second floor included an inspection of the test function of the toll operation board was explained by Miss Leila Mae Spivey, Chief Operator and Mrs. Robin Irvin, division staff assistant for Southern Bell Telephone of Charlotte. W.E. Ray, Western Electric Supervisor, explained the functions of the toll test section and pointed out the methods to quickly locate the trouble on any line.

The tour was completed with the inspection of the attractive rest rooms, kitchen, lounges and recreation rooms for employees.

Mr. Davis pointed out that W.B. Bailey of Greensboro was chairman of the coordination committee and was responsible for the successful cutover. He stated that the installation of the system required the cooperation of all employees and that the change had been completed with the least possible trouble. Even though the project required over 2,000 conversion items, the switchover was a complete success. Officials of the company reported the conversion in Reidsville was one of the most successful completed in southern Bell Territory.

**Benefit To City**

In summing up Mr. Davis declared that people of Reidsville will be greatly benefited by the many advantages offered by the dial system and added that the office is now in a position to offer much faster and better service.

The change to the modern system was made necessary due to the great increase of the number of telephones in the area. Three years ago Reidsville had approximately 2,000 telephones as of the cutover at total of 4,413 stations were in use with an estimated average of 27,000 local calls daily.

The Reidsville Review  
27 May 1964

Reel Lovelies-A picture appears in the Reidsville Review with the following: Part of the initial shipment of the 1964 allotment of cable for the continued expansion of Reidsville Telephone service is shown above. The cable carries 600 pair wires and is for expansion in the Reidsville Exchange underground systems. Pictured left to right, Mrs. Eleanor Carter, plant clerk; Mrs. Thelma Brooks, business office cashier, Mrs. Sue Sharpe, service representative and C.L. Mullis, group plant manager

The Southern Bell Reporter  
June 1968

The following article appeared in the Reporter: Nestled in the midst of the picturesque Piedmont, Reidsville grew out of a settlement begun in 1815 by Reuben Reid. Today, Reidsville and the surrounding area of Rockingham County have an excellent balance between industrial and agricultural interests.

The American Tobacco Company, Sylvania and Burlington Industries Drapery plant are major employers in a town of 670 firms. Seeking a steady and progressive growth, the civic and business leaders are working through agencies such as the Chamber of Commerce to Spread the Reidsville story.

Rockingham Community College provides learning opportunities beyond the high school level in general college, vocational and technical subjects.

Telephone services in Reidsville was begun by R.J. Oliver in 1893. Southern Bell purchased his Company in 1903. From this beginning of 148 phones (actually 45 phone lines when Mr. Oliver founded the company) has grown a system of more than 13,000 phones. Toll free service to Eden was begun in 1967.

A major improvement in local service occurred when the Ruffin exchange was placed in service on March 17, 1968. Costing \$419,000, the office is now serving 800 customers with private and two-party service with over 40 miles of new underground cable.

The following appeared under pictures in the article;

Handling customers request, collecting money and preparing service orders are among the duties of the Reidsville Business Office staff pictured in front of their office. Mary Lou Andrews, Dot Wilson, Sue Sharp, Layla Eller, Thelma Brooks and June Palmer.

Glass insulators and bare copper wire, symbols of an obsolete technology, disappearing from the skies in Reidsville as linemen such as Bill Eagle, remove the wire for salvage. The Lynchburg-Savannah toll line is being replaced by underground cable.

Earl Vaughan, speaker of the North Carolina Legislature, makes the first telephone call from the Ruffin Central Office to Governor Dan Moore. Looking on are Lt. Governor Bob Scott, Center and P.D. Hunter, right.

Wayne Jarrett, switchman, inspects equipment in the Ruffin Wire Center Prior to Cutover.

Shown above is the recently completed Ruffin Central Office. The office and the associated outside cable enable the company to provide one and two-party service to an area previously served by four and eight-party lines.

C.W. Davis, Reidsville Manager and C.L. Mullis, Plant Service Supervisor, examine some of the cable awaiting installation in Reidsville.

Joe Harrelson, Father-in-law of Jerry Jarrell, retired cable repairman in Reidsville, that when he was a young man, he replaced carbons and repaired telephone lines in Caswell County. This would have probably been Farmers Exchange Telephone lines he was working on.

The Reidsville Review  
28 Apr 1952

Nine employees of Southern Bell Telephone Company received words of thanks and praise from Chief of Police Maury Loftis when they were presented awards for safe driving in 1951. Singled out for special praise were C.G. McClintock who had been driving for 24 years without an accident. Receiving the awards from Chief Loftis were B.D. Alverson, two years, D.G. Bradley, three years, J.C. Howard Jr., four years, G.E. Kincaid, four years, C.G. McClintock, C.E. Poindexter, one year, H.E. Richmond, one year, C.E. Apple, one year and L.G. Stanley Jr., one year.

Where there had been only two main outside plant workers in Reidsville prior to 1950, the telephone service began to grow to in Reidsville and many men were hired to install and maintain telephone lines for the growth in the county. These two men handled any troubles that occurred on the switchboard.

C.G. McClintock started with the Telephone Company in Greensboro as an installer and was in Reidsville by the year 1925 as he is listed in the Reidsville Telephone Directory for the year 1925. He had begun his career in 1925 or earlier. He worked all jobs in Reidsville and when he retired (in the 1960's) he was Plant Manager in Reidsville. He had 43 years of service with Southern Bell upon his retirement. The telephone directories show that he lived at 215 and 209 Thomas Street. His telephone number was 9082 and was later changed to 9087. Herman Frye came from Greensboro to Reidsville around 1932 and retired from Southern Bell with 42 years of service. He lived on Thomas Street and his telephone number was 682J. He later moved to 705 Barnes Street and his telephone number was 9028.

C.G. McClintock's daughter, Edith Gunn Manley had a long career with Southern Bell where she worked in operator services in Reidsville. Her son, Max Gunn, also worked for 30 years as a splicer in Reidsville. Max lived with C.G. McClintock from the time he was 5 years old until he was 14 years old. C.G. daughter, Betty Jean, married John Warner, an installer and Supervisor in Reidsville. John's son, John C. Warner was later a construction supervisor in Reidsville.

Edith Gunn Manley was an operator in the old telephone building beside the Belvedere Hotel in Reidsville. The Piggly Wiggly Grocery store was on the street level floor and the Southern Bell switchboard was on the second floor until the new Dial building on Main Street was put into operation in 1950.

C.G. McClintock told his grandson, Max Gunn, that he would hire Frank Neal to pull in telephone poles and wire, with a mule, since a lot of the telephone lines in the Reidsville area were placed over rough terrain. He said that he must have paid Frank a "million" dollars to do this work for Southern Bell Telephone.

In the early 1900's, there were many rural families who were not reached by the lines of the Bell System. These families could build their own lines by providing the poles and wire. They had to do the work of placing the line and hook it onto the Bell System's lines. They also maintained their own lines. These lines were called Farmer's Exchange lines and the farm families would sign a contract with the Bell System to connect to their lines. There could be any number of lines on a Farmer's Exchange line.

The Advisor – January 1970

### SOUTHERN BELL, BURTON LINES TO BUILD ON AIRPORT SITES

Reidsville's Chamber of Commerce announced that Southern Bell Telephone Company and Burton Motor Lines will build facilities at the site of the old Airport here (Groom Road).

According to Hubert Safriet, Southern Bell will construct a maintenance facility and Burton Motor lines will use the existing hangars at the old airport for maintenance and storage purposes.

The Reidsville  
1897

“Telephone all local news you know to us. If our friends are so disposed they can assist us very materially by doing us this favor. Our phone is No. 1.”

15 May 1894

“The wires are being strung for the telephones this week”

The Advisor  
July 1971

### Girls Get Pay Boost

(Under a picture that appeared in The Advisor in July 1971)

Ann Yow and Juanita Sutton were among those on the picket line in Reidsville during the Communication Workers of America strike against Bell System this month. Over 400,000 CWA members walked off the job June 14<sup>th</sup> over wages, pension improvements and job security.

The workers received what amounts to a 33 ½ per cent boost in wages and benefits, an agency shop and a cost-of-living feature, which adds an increase to the national cost of living index to a telephone worker's wages.

Basic wage increases for most workers range from \$16.50 a week in the first year and a maximum of \$17.50 over the remaining two years

A two-inch empty pipe  
can carry 230,000 telephone conversations

The pipe is no bigger than your wrist.

Yet what really makes it news is that there's absolutely nothing inside:

Except room for 230,000 simultaneous telephone conversations.

In the years to come, millimeter waveguide pipe will be buried four feet underground. In a larger cradling pipe to give protection and support

It'll also have its own amplifying system about every 20 miles. So your voice will stay loud and clear.

Even after 3,000 miles.

Yet this little pipe is capable of carrying a lot more than just conversations.

It can also carry TV shows, Picturephone pictures. Electrocardiograms. And data between thousands of computers.

All at once.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company and your local Bell Company are always looking for new ways to improve your telephone service.

Sometimes that means developing a better way to use two inches of empty space.

(Life Magazine, 30 October 1971)



At 100,000 miles per second  
the shortest distance between two phones may be a zigzag

At the speed telephone signals travels, a detour isn't  
a delay.

Say you're calling from Boston to Miami. It's quite  
possible that you'll be routed through San Bernardino,  
California.

But you'll arrive in Miami just as fast. Or only a fraction  
of a second later.

Your call goes the long way for just one reason: so  
you won't get caught in a traffic jam the short way. (When  
it's an extra-busy 10 a.m. Christmas morning in Boston,  
it's only 7 a.m. in California.)

To know when to send you where, network traffic  
Managers aided by computers are watch-dogging millions  
of calls each day.

Each of the regional centers in North America has  
its own traffic team that studies a board lit up with calls  
flashing to their destination.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company  
and your local Bell Company aren't satisfied just perfecting  
this overland route.

Now we're working wider uses for the communication  
satellites overhead.

So the shortest distance between two phones may  
take you through outer space.

(Life Magazine, 20 November 1970)



**GREENSBORO DISTRICT ENGINEERING – CONSTRUCTION**  
 (72-9277-90 #16) J.W. WILLIAMS, DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN 621-1502  
 Brenda Williamson, Construction Clerk

Date June 1, 1976

73 Total Employees

PLANT CONTRACT SUPERVISORS

W.R. Archer 288-5495 74-3142-10#5  
 G.S. McClintock 674-2121 75-9170-91#27  
 J.P. Royal 674-0298 67-1078-10#12  
 J.R. Stanfield 349-7250 74-2288-10#22

C.G. BIGHAM, MGT. CNTR FMN. ELECTRA DR

Home Phone 697-0333  
 Eileen Coble Construction Clerk  
 Lillian Somers Construction Clerk  
 Hazel Way Construction Clerk

B.L. COBB, LINE FOREMAN, BURLINGTON, N C

Home Phone 584-1513 74-2287-10  
 Apple, W.S. LM 584-7175 74-1926-79#1  
 Conner, E.K. LM 228-0784 72-1940-70#2  
 Cooper, G.E. LM 376-6807 66-3908-50#3  
 Edwards, J.W. 578-0954 66-3601-42#4  
 Gerringer, H.P. CS 584-8996 73-2574-20#5  
 Hughes, W.T. CS 584-0867 68-3331-10#6  
 Ingle, W.H. CS 449-6148 74-2599-20#7  
 Lee, J.C. CS 228-6113 71-2609-40#8  
 Parker, T.W. CS 732-8469 72-1573-21#9  
 Pearson, R.H. CS 584-9660 74-5529-20#10  
 Welch, C.G. CS 227-5706

T.A GAMMON, CABLE SPL. FM. RDSV., N.C.

Home Phone 349-7535 68-2195-10  
 Chandler, J.D. LM 342-2614 69-1950-79  
 Kelly, P.F. LM 349-5354 70-2606-40  
 Revis, J.F. CS 349-3493 72-2534-20  
 Stone, R.W. CS 349-8306 68-1148-10  
 Ware, R.C. CS 342-1404 74-2598-20

WILLIAM GANN, LINE FRM., GNBO, N.C.

Home Phone 621-6565 72-5121-10#9  
 Cartledge, R.L. LM 621-4446 73-8523-42  
 Chappell, H.G. LM 621-3748 73-8523-42  
 Coltrane, S.G. LM 621-1468 72-5908-70  
 Cybrynski, R.W. LM 621-8733 75-5908-70  
 Hamilton, D.A. LM 379-0000 73-3190-15  
 Tallant, J.D. LM 294-1959 71-3800-60  
 Tuttle, L.W. LM 643-5719 74-3914-70  
 Williams, J.E. LM

T.E. FAIRCLOTH, CA. S.L. FMN. ELECTRA DR

Home Phone 288-5371 74-3143-10  
 Blake, N.W. CS 643-3855 73-2584-20  
 Brady, W.W. CS 621-3720 73-5518-20  
 Fields, S.L. CS 288-2063 75-5532-20  
 Fogleman, F.V. CS 697-0896 73-2585-20  
 Gunn, J.F. CS 697-0268 71-2610-40  
 Harmon, C.R. CS 674-2247 75-5536-30  
 Herbin, B.R. CS 621-5950 74-5530-20  
 Jackson, H.M. CS 674-5353 74-5531-20

J.B. WILSON, LINE FOREMAN, ELECTRA DR.

Home Phone 622-4913 73-9345-91  
 Blake, P.E. LM 668-0173 73-8533-42  
 Hill, P.S. LM 621-2595 73-0533-42  
 Carter, D.E. LM 621-2922 74-5901-70  
 Belton, B.M. LM 275-4738 74-5901-70  
 Reynolds, A.M. LM 294-5128 66-3602-42  
 Garrett, H.B. LM 674-2797 65-2920-59  
 Waldrop, D.S. LM 643-3032 72-2124-14  
 Hanner, J.S. LM 288-1953 72-2124-14  
 Coble, G.W. LM 674-0395 72-2125-14

H.W. GUTHRIE, CABLE SPL FRM. SPG GDN ST.

Home Phone 292-7476 74-3141-10  
 Hennis, W.J. CS 292-5310 72-1574-21  
 Simmons, H.C. CS 668-0117  
 McCuiston, J.C. CS 299-5343 71-1407-20  
 Middleton, C.C. CS 427-3194 71-1448-20  
 Smith, T.I. CS 788-1180 72-1562-21  
 Stone, D.L. CS 275-4927 73-5516-20

M.E. PEARSON, CABLE SPL FRM. SPG GDN ST.

Home Phone 288-1082 72-9249-91  
 Hefner, E.W. CS 288-2182 72-1642-40  
 Humphries, M.R. CS 227-0707 68-1147-10  
 Keller, J.A. CS 674-2535 73-5515-20  
 Needham, R.G. CS 668-2896 72-5513-20  
 Riley, T.A. CS 889-5107 73-5521-20  
 Simmons, R.J. CS 668-0459 74-2525-20  
 Staley, J.E. CS 227-2198 69-3333-10  
 Vickery, S.W. CS 674-9774 73-5517-20  
 Kirkman, J.P. CS 643-5856 72-5513-20

The Greensboro Daily News

August 1983

AT&T Strike Talks Stalled In Fifth Day

A strike against American Telegraph and Telegraph Company went into the fifth day today as a federal mediator tried to get stall negotiations moving.

"We don't seem any closer to getting back to the bargaining table," John Shaughnessy president of the Telecommunication International Union who request intervention by the Federal Mediator and Conciliation service, said Wednesday. The TIU represents 50,000 of the 675,000 workers who struck the AT&T Sunday over wages, job security and working conditions. The other two unions are the Communication Workers of America which represent 585,000 workers and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, representing 100,000.

In Greensboro today, striking CWA workers were expected to get some moral support from Crystal Lee Sutton, the union organizer whose work in Southern textile plants inspired the movie, "Norma Rae."

Sutton works with the American Clothing and Textile Union which like the CWA is affiliated with AFL-CIO. "She's coming to give us some inspiration and help," Margie Morgan, Secretary-treasurer of the CWA in Greensboro, said Wednesday.

Sutton was scheduled to join picketing at the Southern Bell building on Eugene Street about 2 p.m. today.

Local company and union officials did not expect a settlement any time soon in the four-day-old strike.

"Everything is still the same. The two sides are still apart," Charlie Carroll, executive vice-president of CWA local 3606. "I don't foresee settlement anywhere in the next five days."

Jim Belk, Southern Bell's District Manager, for Greensboro, Burlington and Reidsville, said the Burlington office had a couple of workers who had been on strike return to work today. But Belk said the strike would probably continue into next week.

"Things are flowing as smooth as possibly under the circumstances with very few complaints and the morale is outstanding among our people," Belk said.

AT&T Supervisors and executives have been filling in for the strikers. The company says there has been no breakdown of service because of the strike, but there were delays in getting operators assistance and repair.

28 February 1912  
B.C. Telephone Co.  
History In Progress  
The Danbury Reporter Started Less Than Five Years Ago With Five Miles Of Wire  
Is Branching Out In Every Direction

Westfield, Feb. 16

The Danbury Reporter  
Danbury, N.C.

Messrs. Editors:

A bout four years ago a few of the citizens of this section of Stokes County met at Mr. J.C. Frans' store and decided to organize a telephone company. I believe the number was just five. We had a Sears Roebuck Co. catalogue and ordered five miles of No. 14 wire with brackets and insulators from it, also each man ordered a phone for himself. Thus started The Big Creek Telephone Co. But we were not destined to stop there. We were very weak for a long time and had to depend entirely on two more telephone companies for outside communications, but were very fortunately situated, being the connecting link between Dr. Slate's system and another system in Surry county belonging to Mr. Ray Love. We held regular meetings and had a President, Sec-Treas and Board of Directors.

Finally the citizens of this section got interested and every man wanted a 'phone at once. We called a meeting of the stockholders and decided to let anyone join our company that would take a ten dollar stock, buy a 'phone and assist in building lines. So, we bought a switchboard and installed it at the store of Mr. J.H. Wright and the people sure did take stock in our company.

We were getting so strong now that we decided to have the company incorporated which we did last year.

About a year ago we decided that we needed a line of own to Pilot Mountain. So we called a meeting of the stockholders and put the matter before them with the result that today we have a direct line to Pilot Mountain without a 'phone on it except the Westfield switch.

Three months ago we took over the property of the Westfield Telephone Co. and issued them certificates of stock in our company. It was mutually beneficial to them and us to do this, as it made both stronger and gave us both connections.

We are now contemplating organizing a branch of the B.C. Tel. Co. at Lawsonville soon. Also extending our line to Danbury.

We learned many, many lessons and we have learned those well. First we found that No. 14 wire was too light. Second, that it did not pay to buy any kind old 'phone. So today we are using heavy wire and nothing but Sumpter 'phones as they give the best service.

Now about our connections and I will close:

1. We are connected with Mr. Slate's system which gives us Danbury, Walnut Cove, Germanton, Rural Hall and other points.
2. We have connections with Mr. W.E. Bryant's Co. which owns the switches to Pilot Mountain and Ararat and we get free service over all his lines which include Mt. Airy and Vicinity.

3. We have connection with the big independent company in Virginia which gives us Stuart, Va., Hillsville and anywhere their lines extend. And the beauty of it all is it has just cost each stockholder \$24.00 in money, 'phone and all, outside of his work on the lines and the switch fee for each member so far has been just \$1.00 per year, yes we have some money in the treasury. We are not in it for the money we get out of it, for we expect none. We just want service we sure do get that.

Starting less than five years ago with just five miles of wire, today we have over 100 'phones and several hundred miles of wire with free communications of several miles.

This is a partial history of our little company from the beginning up to the present but the progress must not stop here. The company owes much to Mrs. H.L. Wright and Mrs. J.C. Fran and others who have given their time and effort to telephone company.

29 August 2007 "Billy Alverson at his home at Deep Springs near Stoneville"

I worked for Syi Martin in Reidsville when I first came to work. He must have come to work around 1945 (probably around 1941) as he had been there around 5 or 6 years when I came to work for Southern Bell Telephone in March 1950. He was the test deskman, assignment and repairman all in one at the same time.

There was a frame in the old building (over the Piggly Wiggly Grocery store) which terminated local lines plus it terminated a cable that extended to a box on a pole at the intersection of Wentworth and North Scales street. There it was xconnected to Lynchburg-Savannah toll line. This box contained carbons that had to be replaced occasionally. Billy said he had run troubles on the L & S line from Virginia to Greensboro. This toll line was composed of Copper, open wire strung on x-arms and insulators. Several sections were cut down and stolen near Benaja. We had to replace it. Another time, a truck hit a pole in this line (Buck Bennett recalled a time when a Greyhound bus hit a pole) near Stacey Rock quarry in Gatewood and the rippling effect broke 7 or 8 poles. We had to guy off the pole line each way and place temporary drop wire in this section. Later it was replaced with open copper wire.

On the L&S Toll line there were two wires that composed a circuit. They were rolled to a different cross-arm and positions from pole to pole. This was done to reduce cross-talk and interference.

Carl McClintock was in Reidsville around 1925 and later he hired Herman Frye around 1932. They worked both inside and outside and did any work that had to be done to a telephone line to provide service.

My assignment in 1950 when the Dial Telephone came to Reidsville was to go to the customer house and add the dial to their telephone. The customers were not sure this was going to work. A new telephone directory had been issued to give instructions on how to use a dial telephone.

I installed telephones in Ruffin, North Carolina with Ed Piondexter where Southern Bell was establishing telephone service in that area.

Billy Alverson retired in 1982.

30 August 2007 David Bradley (Living at the Carolina House assisted living)

I remember working on the Lynchburg-Savannah Toll line that came through Reidsville. When cold weather came, copper strands would break. They seemed to always send me out to fix them. The circuits were transposed between poles to cut down on cross talk and interference.

I was hired in 1950 when business for Southern Bell was expanding in the Reidsville area and I retired in 1983. The Carolina House is a pretty nice place to live.

There is another telephone person living here. She is Evelyn Balsely who was Chief Operator here in Reidsville and then worked later in Greensboro.

17 September 2007 Paul Tucker

Edna Rattcliffe worked in assignment in Greensboro. She had a son, Julius Rattcliffe who worked for the telephone company. Paul Tucker (his title was rural telephone man), Charlie Williams and Vernon Piondexter were the telephone men responsible for

designing and laying out the plant when Southern Bell extended service into the Milton and Gatewood areas. They worked from the Greensboro office.

19 October 2007 Larry Rierson

The Rock Quarry was going to do some blasting at the Quarry in Gatewood. The gravel company assured Southern Bell they would not harm the telephone lines. Larry said (Eulas Gladden was there with him) he heard the boom of blasting and rocks were flying through the air as big as basketballs. They started hitting telephone lines and poles and took the lines down and covered them with rock. This was old tone cable and difficult to replace.

Larry's brother worked with Southern Bell when spans of the L&S Toll line were cut down near Monroeton, his brother was the one sent to check out the trouble reports. The section cut down was from Mike Saunders home to Apples store. This section of cable was on a cross country pole line. When he checked for battery in front of Mike's hose, he found battery from the Central Office. When he checked at Apples store, there was no battery, thus he had found the missing sections that had been cut down.

Thelma Brooks  
Reidsville, North Carolina

I went to work in February, 1947. Our office was located on Gilmer Street, up a long flight of steps, over the Piggly Wiggly grocery store on the left side and an office which I think was Duke Power business office. On the left side of the steps, was the switch board was located. On the other side of the steps was our lounge or break room and kitchen. Directly behind these quarters, the switchroom or inside plant department was located.

Mr. G.C. "Mac" McClintock was manager. The men that worked under him were Si Martin, Matthew Foster, Richard Hurley and Otis Melvin whose wife, Annie Ruth is pictured at the switchboard. Mr. Melvin came to Reidsville from Georgia with Western Electric to install new equipment.

Mr. G.C. McClintock's daughter, Peggy, married John Warner who also worked and retired from the telephone company. Tom Gammon may be able to give you information on how to reach him.

Mr. Herman Frye was foreman over the outside plant or installation, one of which was J.D. Grogan. Curly Richmond who is deceased but has a son, Steve Richmond who is still working in the Reidsville office.

I'm sorry that I can't give you any information on picture 80169. I am not familiar with anyone in the picture. It is my belief that it could be a group from the Greensboro business office. There were always contest going on in the business office and this could be the winner of one. I do know that we never had a young man in any of the three offices where I worked.

It could be a group that worked in the dial office preparing for the cutover. There was a lot of temporary help hired at that time as well as in our office which is pictured in 80172. At the far end of the switch board was the toll board and you had to have a right smart seniority to be selected to train for that and a 3 or 4 week training period was required for that, but we really felt like we were coming up in the world when selected. The next two positions next to that were the party lines. There were either 2, 4 or 8 parties on the same line, whichever you could afford or desired. When the customers needed to talk to someone on their line, they called the operator and asked her to ring the number, they then had to hang up so the operator could ring the number. As an operator, you then had to monitor the line to see if the party had answered or if the customer wanted you to ring again. Needless to say, nobody wanted to work those positions.

Looking from the right to the far end I can only identify a few of the ladies. The one in the plaid dress I believe is Martha Gillie. I think she is still living, but I've had no contact with her for years. To her left is Eleanor Payne who is deceased. To her left is Edith McClintock Gunn, also deceased (daughter of plant foreman, Mac McClintock). Edith had two sons, one of whom may still be working for the company. His name is Max Gunn, but I can find no telephone listed for him.

The next two ladies I can't identify. Beside them is Annie Ruth Melvin who married Otis Melvin, as I've mentioned before. He is now deceased but did retire from the telephone company. Annie Ruth said she would be glad to talk to you and that she may have some things that may be useful to you. Her telephone # is 349-3440.

The other pictures I am not able to identify. I noticed that the girls are all wearing the newer type headsets, which we had not had very long when this picture was made. When

I went to work we wore the two piece headsets which consisted of a tri-angle shaped breast plated which was about 3 inches wide at the top with a mouthpiece attached. The mouthpiece looked like a small megaphone. This had a fabric strap that you wore around your neck. The ear piece was black and flat and about 3 inches across. There was a "U" shaped wire attached to the ear piece and this went across the head. (Very Cumbersome)

The night of the cutover from the old Telephone office on Gilmer Street (Dry Battery) to the new Dial Office on Main Street in 1950, we were working at the old Switch board over the Piggly Wiggly Grocery store. When the time for the cut-over arrived in October 1950, we got up from our positions at the old board and marched across the vacant lot to the new office on Main Street and assume the positions at the new board.

As you can see by the floor fans behind the operators, we had no air conditioning, so there was always a squabble between those who liked the fans and those who didn't. (You might call it the battle of the young and older) One thing that had always amused me through the years when I think of it, is when one little lady got so irritated, that she got up and kicked the fan.

A very strict rule for the traffic department was no chewing gum. Many operators were pulled from the board to dispose of it.

For a while before the cut-over, all help that was hired was temporary help and it was learned that some were too young, so they required everyone to bring a birth certificate. Those under 18 could not work after 6 o'clock, so that did not go over well at all with the employees who had been working the early hours. To my knowledge birth certificates had not been required before then.

The picture 80188, the taller girl on the left is Edith McClintock Gunn identified before. The other young lady I believe is Nancy Dixon who was an operator. On the right is Layla Eller who retired from the business office with over 40 years service. I am not sure who the gentleman is, unless he was the district manager over Reidsville, Burlington and Greensboro. The business office at this time was located about ½ block from our office and consisted of only one fairly large room with three ladies employed there.

As for my views on the company, it was a great place to work, especially for a young mother with children in school. We could make arrangements with other operators to exchange hours or even days off if there was something we needed to do. On our scheduled days to work as long it was okay by our chief operator. That way, I missed very few the school activities! I also liked working the split shifts, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.- 4 p.m. to 8 or 9-1 & 5-9. Sometimes I looked forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> segment so I could sit down to rest.

I retired with 35 years service working as a operator, cashier and service Rep. during that time. The position being an operator was the most interesting and was the one that I have the fondest memories of.

Over the 35 years, I can't remember anytime of being treated unfairly or unkindly by any of my co-workers or supervisors. I would recommend our telephone company to anyone although I know there have been many changes since I retired.

I apologize for taking so long to return this and also for not being computer smart. It would have been so much easier for us both. I hope this has helped some in the preparation of your book

Sincerely Thelma Brooks

John T. Dallas  
3929 Ribbon Grass Terrace  
Greensboro, N.C. 27405

Dear Mr. Dallas:

A history of the telephone company would be most interesting, however, there are not many people still living who worked there – at least not too many that I know.

The Southern Bell Telephone Company, as far as I can remember, was located on the second floor of the building which was located on Gilmer Street next to the Belvedere Hotel. At that time the hotel had a parking lot between the hotel and Southern Bell Building. The bottom floor had a grocery store and the stairs to the second floor were next to the grocery store. I think it was a Piggly Wiggly store. I went work in 1937 at the age of 18.

There was a local board and farther down the room was the long distance board. A new employee I started out on the local board for a period of two weeks. Then I was moved to the long distance board to learn that. It was a little more complicated, at that time. We had no direct lines except to Greensboro and Danville, Virginia. If you a placed a call out of Reidsville you had to go through Greensboro. My first call was to New York and I remember I was very nervous as I knew that Miss Flossie Huskey was monitoring me. I made it and from that time on there was no problem.

After my first few months working just about all shifts, I got the hours from 11:00 p.m. to 7 a.m., at that time there was only one person working all night. This was not much fun because not many people used the telephone at these hours, only emergency calls. That was changed and two girls worked that shift. This was better; at least you had someone to talk to.

After I had been employed for about 10 years, we were unionized and there was a strike called. Everyone had to take their turn walking the picket line. I did not choose to do this and quit my job in March of 1947. While I was working there only two men were working in the plant-service, H.E. Frye and C.S. McClintock. Their office was in the room behind the switchboard.

The building was safe. We all had a key and the police checked in if we were alright. They did not come to the building; they would call in during the night.

Wilkerson Funeral Home was across the street on the corner, so it wasn't too bad

Flossie Huskey was Chief Operator

Becky Matthews's night Chief

Later on

Fannie Clark

Mary Corum

All acted as Chief. They are all dead now.

In the picture of the girls at the switchboard, I think I may be the only one living now.

When I left the telephone company I went to work for an electrical company and retired from the job in 1976.

I am enclosing the picture with names on the back. Hope this little bit of information will help, if I think of any thing more I will let you know. It would be interesting to get the book. Respectfully, Robie J. Barnes 1020 Cypress Dr, Apt A, Reidsville

Ms. Eleanor Perdue  
631 Fagg Dr Apt 7A  
Eden, N.C. 27288

1 September 2007

Ms. Perdue

I worked for the Telephone Company in Reidsville from 1990 until I retired in 1996 and still do some contract work for the phone company on a part time basis. I have begun to collect information on the telephone company in Reidsville to compile a book or booklet on the Telephone Company.

I wrote to Mrs. June Palmer and she told me that you had worked at the Phone Company in Reidsville and could probably give me some information. I am looking for names of people, dates when events happened and just anything you know about the employees who were there and where Telephone offices were located. Interested in any articles that you have that was published on employees or the company.

I have enclosed two copies of photos. I have identified people that I know and hope that you can help me with the others.

Thanks for any help

John T. Dallas  
3929 Ribbon Grass Terrace  
Greensboro, N.C. 27045

336-621-3943  
[Email=jdallas@bellsouth.net](mailto:jdallas@bellsouth.net)

Mr. Dallas

August 30, 2007

I thank you for your letter about the telephone company

However, I didn't move to North Carolina until 1962. I went to work in Burlington, North Carolina Telephone Company in November 1962. I worked there until I went on maternity leave. By the time my leave was over, it was 1964. Then I went work at the telephone company in Reidsville, North Carolina.

When I went back to work in 1962, Clyde (Claude) Davis was manager. There were only five of us in the business office. Lyala Eller, Oldest, now deceased. Thelma Brooks, teller, Sue Sharpe, relief teller and Business Representative. Dorothy Wilson was our clerk. We added more and more. Sue Sharpe was made office manager. I was made business representative. We worked on Main Street until 1972 when the company moved us to Turner Drive office.

We worked there until January 1, 1982. On the 1st work day of 1982, all the representative were transferred to Greensboro. In about three or four years, they transferred the Burlington group to Greensboro and then the Winston-Salem group was moved to Greensboro.

I retired June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1986, to help take care of my father-in-law and my parents. Then in 1982, my husband retired from Road Way Trucking as a driver.

Thelma Brooks and Eleanor Perdue may be able to help you more. I know Eleanor worked as an operator in 1950 and 1960

Thelma Brooks	182 Regency Drive, Reidsville	342-2468
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Eleanor Perdue	631 Fagg Dr. Eden	623-3611
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If I can help you anymore, please call me 342-1721

June B. Palmer  
138 Palmer Road  
Reidsville, N.C. 27320

Horace Jones, the grandson of Horace Jones who lives on the Flat Rock Road, has original telephone that his grandfather had. Horace has a bill dated 25 May 1911, made out to his grandfather for one phone, 3 batteries and other items from Green & Weatherly, Benaja, North Carolina. The bill was for \$12.50. His phone number was 3622. 349-2525

When Randy first came to work for the telephone company around 1977, he was working on a phone at a house on Hwy 87 just east of Big Oaks. The old man at the house was telling Randy that when he was a boy that the Southern Bell Lines stopped on Lindsey Street. He said that the telephone company gave his father the wire and insulators, then they went and cut cedar pole and they strung the wire themselves to connect phone service to their home.

Don Overby, a barber in Reidsville and a member of the Short Sugar's Overby family, said that they lived near the present day gas plant in Bethany. There was a man that who lived in the old Pearman house on Pearman road. His mother would send him to the Pearman house to use the telephone. It was one of the few phones in the neighborhood.

Robie Jones, a retired operator for Southern Bell lives at 1020 Cypress Drive, Apt O She married Forest Barnes. She did not go to Greensboro when they did away with the switchboard in Reidsville

Tim Walker, who operates a internet service in Rockingham County, said that his mother told him that on the third floor of the old Southern Bell building on Gilmer Street in Reidsville was a rooming house. Ladies of the night lived here.

Charles Wharton lived on a farm in Ruffin and had phones strung to all the buildings on the farm.

Dr. J.H. Thacker had two phone numbers, 124-1 at his office uptown Reidsville and 124-2 at his residence on Groom road in the year 1911.

Randy Caviness was at a convenience store in Reidsville. Jill Costner, another Bellsouth employee was there. A distinguished looking man, Richard Hurley, came up to him, saw the Bellsouth on his shirt and said that he had been a Telephone employee in Reidsville. He was the switchman when the new dial building was put to work in 1950. Richard said that he was sent to Switchman school in Gastonia and finished the school on Friday. He was at the office working the cut-over when it was made on Sunday night. He worked in Reidsville until 1964 when his grandfather died. His grandfather had a farm in Rockingham, so Richard transferred to Bellsouth in Rockingham and tended the farm. Randy took Richard Hurley on a tour of the Central office and he pointed out the furniture that was still there from 1950. This was after the year 2000.



Ed Poindexter  
Winston Salem  
North Carolina

22 July 2007

Dear John

The following information is about all I can recall. If I get any further info, I will let you know. When compiled I would really like to have a copy and if I can help you further, let me know. April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1950 I was hired as a lineman. The line crew and installers worked out of a metal garage behind the Piggly Wiggly store on Gilmer Street.

The line crew consisted of John Coburn (he transferred to Tennessee), Tom Gammon, John Warner, Jerry Jarrett, C.A. Woosley (deceased), Hop Jones (deceased), Arlen McKinney and C.E. Poindexter (Army Dec 9, 1952 to Dec 8, 1954) transferred to Winston-Salem, N.C. March 1955

Installers; George Kincaid, David Bradley, J.D. Grogan, Billy Gann

Cutover Crew; Built new Dial Office & Work Center – Winston-Salem store room  
Billy Alverson, L.G. Stanley, Elvin Richmond, McAdoo Jones, Otho Mickey

Mac McClintock was Plant Manager and Betty Ware Howard was his clerk.

New Central Office; Matthew Foster, Sye Martin, Fred Falker, Harold Chappell  
District Manager was George Cox (located in Greensboro)  
Business Office manager was Claude Davis

Ed Poindexter  
301 Hambrick Ct  
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106

## The Reidsville Review

Reidsville's new Dial system is demonstrated and explained by the Southern Bell Telephone Company in a condensed version on display at the Reidsville fair this week. In this model telephone exchange each step of the way toward the completion of a call may be watched as it is explained by the hostesses (l to r) Mrs. Edith Gunn, Miss Nancy Dixon and Mrs. Layla Ella or by Mr. Norris Russell, Special Services Supervisor of the Bell System. Mr. Russell stated that he hoped the people of Reidsville would make good use of the exhibit so they will better able to use the system when it goes into operation at midnight, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## The Reidsville Review 16 October 1950

Former Mayor W.A. Trotter stayed up late Saturday night to be the recipient of the first local call made by dial which was placed by Mayor George Hunt at the new Telephone Office.

Some of the guest of the local Telephone Company were shown the Long distance Board on a tour of the Building prior to ceremonies putting Reidsville's Dial System into use Saturday night.

Three of the technicians who threw the switches to put Reidsville's into service await the signal to yank the rope that was attached to a multitude of switches. 4413 telephones were affected by the cutover.

These are part of the guests that attended ceremonies shown in the switchroom waiting to see the actual switching that was done at midnight last Saturday. A few of the many relays that are necessary to operate the system may be seen in the upper left center. In the center (back to the camera) is C.W. Davis, local manager of the telephone company, explaining the operations of the dial system.

Mayor George Hunt tried his hand at dialing Saturday at mid-night as he makes the first local call to former Mayor W.A. Trotter as part of the change-over ceremonies in the new Telephone Building.

Charlie Ray, Western Electric engineer was in charge of making the installation. He said he was tired but happy after the change-over Saturday at midnight. "It was one of the smoothest change-over I've seen," he said,

William M. Oliver, president of both the Review Company, inc. and Reidsville Broadcasting Company, (WREV-FM-AM) places the first long distance call on the new dial system to F.J. Turner, Atlanta, Ga., vice-president of The Southern Bell Telephone Company in ceremonies Saturday night. Mr. Oliver is the son of the late F.J. Oliver, who founded Reidsville first telephone exchange about the turn of the century.

Bob Carter – 27 June 2007

I was walking on the Roy Crowder farm one day which is near the Hiatt Apple orchard west of Wentworth. There was an old insulator on a tree with a wire hanging down from it. Roy said that was the remains of an old Farmers exchange telephone line that was in the area in the early 1900's."

The Reidsville Review  
17 April 1951

***SOUTHERN BELL TO BUILD LINES TO SERVE  
SOUTHEASTERN PART OF COUNTY***

The Southern Bell Telephone Company plans early construction of new telephones to serve the eastern and southeastern portion of Rockingham County and a small adjoining portion of Caswell County it was announced today by Claude W. Davis, Southern Bell Manager.

Davis said that Charlie O. Williams and Robert Cobb, two Southern Bell men well qualified to develop the lines, already are on the scene taking applications and working out details with the farmers. Present plans anticipate placing lead covered cable along the Burlington Highway to a point about one mile east of Thompsonville. From the end of the cable and at other points along the route the latest type of "long span" steel wire laterals will fan out into the areas to be served. One of these laterals will be placed along and into the Groom road territory. Another will extend from Thompsonville to the Haw River Bridge on the Greensboro road, thence south to Guilford County line. From the end of the cable additional wire routes will cover the High Rock Farm area, bearing northeast and terminating near Quick.

Davis emphasized that it was very necessary that any person desiring telephone service in the area must sign up now as the lines are so constructed as to effect economy in wire. For example the longest wire circuit into the area would serve the group most distant from Reidsville, the second circuit would serve the next group closer in. Since this method is followed and various lines will be built according to the initial number of applicants, it is asked that all applications be placed now. The area will be canvassed road by road.

Davis stated that under the present status of man power and supplies, the present huge project is the only one contemplated for this year. Plans for other areas have been accomplished and will be placed in effect as quickly as conditions permit. The project will supplement the Lawsonville and Greensboro Road projects which were completed and placed into operation late last year

The Reidsville Review  
17 October 1950

Reidsville's oldest telephone was given to Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Carroll of 508 Maple Avenue, its original owners on their 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary October 4 by Southern Bell Telephone Company. The telephone has been in use in the Carroll home ever since their marriage in 1908 and according to Mr. Carroll it has needed little servicing over the years. It was necessary for the old phone to be replaced because of the new dial system which went into use Saturday midnight. According to Claude W. Davis, manager of the local telephone exchange, this is the oldest telephone known to be in existence in Reidsville.

The Greensborough Patriot  
4 April 1894

Through the efforts of Judge Schenck a telephone line will be established to the Battle Ground in a few days. The wire will be put on the on the Western Union poles. The instruments, wire and supplies have all been donated, the Bell Telephone Company and Odell Hardware Company generously contributing the same. G.W. Allen, Sr., has offered his services to the Battleground Company, which is an assurance that the line will be put up right.

The Greensboro Daily News  
23 May 1958  
Southern Bell - CWA Agree On Contract  
Wages increased

The Southern Bell Telephone Company and Communications Workers of America reached agreement yesterday on revision and modifications of their contract which resulted in pay increases ranging from \$1 to \$3 a week, it was announced yesterday by the company.

Personnel Vice President W.A. Thompson said the contract became effective yesterday for one year and it is to continue in effect after that unless either side gives 60 days notice of termination. It is subject to ratification by the CWA membership.

The wage increases vary, depending on the job and town classification and affects 36,000 workers. Negotiations had been in progress since April 21. The wage increases granted are necessary, Thompson said "to keep our people's wages in line with those prevailing in communities where they work and live, which is our policy. In order to carry on this policy we make regular surveys of wages and other conditions of employment in communities throughout our territory.

"These surveys, including one made just recently, showed some increase (was) justified to keep our employee's pay in line. The new contract is fair and just to all concerned."

The Reidsville Review  
Oct 1952

Rural Telephone Coverage For Reidsville Exchange To Be Completed In Near Future

Canvassing of the last segment of rural area within the Reidsville Telephone Exchange service boundary has been started according to Claude Davis, Southern Bell Manager. The area to be furnished service covers approximately forty-four (44) square miles of territory. The area to be covered is bounded by the Greensboro Road south to the Guilford County line encompasses the Benaja area, continues along Guilford County Line to the Summerfield Exchange area, turns northeast along Troublesome Creek at the northern boundary and territories to the area north of Washburn Service Station. The communities of Midway and Monroeton are the focal points within the territory. It is expected that several hundred new telephones will be requested here.

A called meeting sponsored by Midway and Monroeton farm planning groups and County Agent Ed Foil have been called for at 7:30 Friday night at the Monroeton school at which time details of planning and construction is to be outlined by Southern Bell Engineers and rural development personnel. Since 1945 with approximately 2,000 telephones, Southern Bell has expanded to almost 6,000 telephones. Approximately one-third of this number of telephones are located in rural homes.

Starting in 1945 with a definite program of expansion to provide service to rural families, Southern Bell in initiating construction in the Midway-Monroeton area rounding out rounding out approximately three hundred seventy two (372) square miles of expansion. The first project in 1945 covered the Bethany-Wentworth- Bakers Crossroads area with a territory of sixty-four square miles (64) in the Harrison's Crossroads area, 28 square miles, ninety six (96) square miles in the Dawsonville, Narrow Gauge Road area, Groom Road-Thompsonville-Haw Creek area. One hundred Forty (140) square miles of territory in the Oregon Hill-Ruffin-Doves Cross Road area is just being completed. A modern dial exchange building was erected and placed into service in October 1950.

It was explained by Davis that people desiring telephone service in the area to be canvassed must sign up initially as the telephone plant will be engineered for economy of wire and materials. Anyone doing this necessarily would be placed on a waiting list. All persons within the boundaries outlined are urged to attend the Friday night meeting for details

The Reidsville Review  
24 May 1955

CONTRACT INCLUDE NO-STRIKE CLAUSE  
Reidsville Exchange To Return To Work

The 71-day-old strike of union telephone workers in nine Southeastern states formally came to an end today with the ratification of a contract which included a no-strike clause and broaden arbitration rules.

The striking CIO Communications Workers of America notified Southern Bell management of the rank and file vote and ordered pickets removed from scores of exchanges and other telephone company installations.

The vote ending the strike was not announced immediately by the union. A union spokesman will end officially at mid-night tonight when pickets will be removed from all telephone property. He said strikers will begin reporting on all shifts that begin after mid-night.

The union vote was highly in favor of abiding by the agreement reached with the telephone company last Friday although several big locals cast dissenting votes.

The company said it would begin scheduling work for returning employees immediately but normal complications may delay return to work for a few days. The company has a week to complete work schedules and union members must seek reinstatement within one week and report to work within two weeks from the end of the strike.

The company won a non-strike clause in the one-year contract. The union claimed on the other hand, that it was full arbitration procedure, a statement disputed by the telephone management which contended it had offered prior to the strike virtually all the arbitration schedule that finally was approved.

Wages lost by the union during the strike amounted to an estimated 17.5 million dollars.

In a separate agreement it specified approximately 175 union members were fired for misconduct during the violence filled strike will not be rehired unless required to do so by the arbitrator.

Also included in that section were an unspecified numbers of employees the company said are still under investigation for strike incidents. It has 15 days from May 30<sup>th</sup> to complete action on these.

After a meeting between company and union during which Southern Bell's misconduct charges will be re-stated, it will be up to the union to determine which if any of the discharges its wants to submit arbitration. The union must make the decision within 30 days of the joint meeting.

The Reidsville Review  
9 May 1955  
Telephone Exchange Reports Record Number Of Calls

The Telephone Exchange, while not setting a record of calls for Mother's day and Easter as compared with the volume of 1954, generally was average in comparison according to Claude W. Davis, Reidsville Group Manager. The number of calls handled for Mother's day of this year was about 10 calls as compared with last year. Easter calls were about 7 calls as compared with 1954.

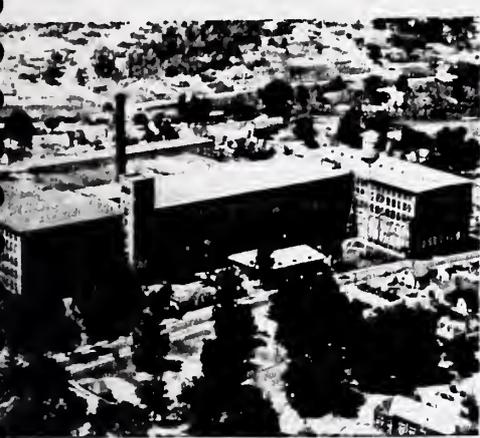
Davis stated that long distance calls from Reidsville for the eight weeks of the strike in 1955 is 33,664. For the same period in 1954, the total was 34,633. Of this amount, 97.2 per cent of the calls were successfully completed. For the company as a whole, he stated, April was a record month and even though switchboards were being manned by supervisory and loyal employees, the volume of calls handled in April were higher than any previous in the Company's history, or 15,682,000 calls against, 15,317,000 for April 1954.

The public in Reidsville has been exceptionally cooperative during the past eight weeks of our strike. While we have not been able to set a definite appointment on a customers request for additions or changes, most of the work has been done the next or following day.

At the present time work is progressing on schedule for two new telephone exchanges for the area, the Milton Exchange which is due to cutover on June 7h and the Gatewood-Pelham Exchange which will which will be placed into operation on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1955. Barring unforeseen conditions these new Exchanges will provide service into two adjacent areas heretofore without any communication services.

Webster's Weekly  
10 January 1907

The telephone girl sits in her chair and listens to voices from everywhere. She hears all the gossip, she hears all the news, she knows who are happy and who has the blues, she knows who has the sorrows, she knows all our joys, she knows every girl who is chasing boys, she knows every man who talks to his wife harshly, she knows every time we out with "the boys," she hears the excuses of each fellow employers; she knows every woman that has a dark past; she knows every fellow that is inclined to be "fast," in fact, there's a great secret beneath each girl of the saucy girl of the quiet, demure looking telephone girl. If the telephone girl told all she knows it would turn half our friends into bitter foes; she could sow a small wind that would turn into a gale, engulf us into trouble and land us in jail; she would let go a story which gaining in force, would cause half our wives to sue for divorce; she could get all our churches mixed up in a fight and turned all our days into sorrowful nights, in fact, she could keep the whole town in a stew if she 'd tell a tenth part of things that she knew. Oh, brother, now doesn't it make your head whirl, when you think what you owe to the telephone girl?



*Textile mills make great contributions to the prosperity of North Carolina.*



*Tobacco sheds near Reidsville store leaf for a major North Carolina industry.*

# North Carolina

Agriculture is important to North Carolina, but the State's industrial income now exceeds that from its farm lands. Textiles, tobacco products, furniture, chemicals and electronics equipment lead, industrially. Tobacco is the leading crop. Manufacturing concerns have increased over 76 per cent since 1945.

North Carolina's mountains, its resorts and historical pageants attract tourists.

Our 78 North Carolina exchanges serve almost 452,000 telephones—an increase of 182 per cent since 1945.

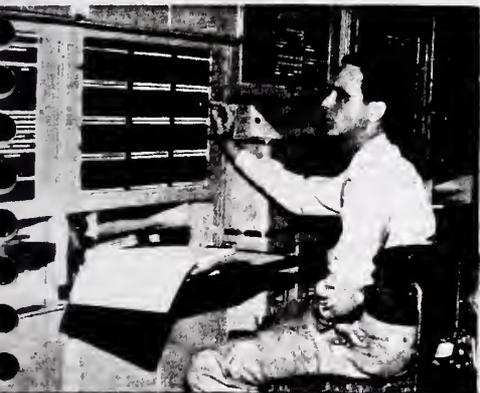
During 1955, we established dial exchanges at Julian, Kimesville, Denver, Locust, Milton and Gatewood, and converted Mount Holly to dial. We added 29,100 telephones and other communications facilities during the year.

We have 5,719 employees in North Carolina.

• DIVISION OFFICES / JEFFERSON STANDARD BUILDING, CHARLOTTE



J. S. STONE  
*General Manager*



*A skilled technician tests intricate long distance facilities at Charlotte.*



*Tourists visiting the Tarheel State enjoy spectacular mountain scenery.*

The Reidsville Scene  
Phone firm Planning Expansion Program  
9 January 1956

The Reidsville Exchange of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company is rapidly out growing its facilities.

Last week Southern Bell announced a \$100,000 expansion program for the local exchange. The program calls for the spacious addition to the dial division, a new building, to include basement space and one story above ground, which will be added to the back of the handsome and virtually new Bell building on Main Street.

Claude W. Davis, manager of the Reidsville office of Bell, said the new structure was a forward step looking to steady growth – making room for future expansion of the system. Bell executives and representatives of Barge-Thompson Construction Company met in Reidsville last week to get things rolling for the building project.

Davis, also pointed out that of six new exchanges installed by Bell in North Carolina during 1955 (where telephone service had not existed previously), two of them were set up through the Reidsville exchange and work out of this exchange. In other words Reidsville is credited with one third of the new 1955 exchanges in the state.

Well, three long rings and a busy signal for Reidsville's Bell exchange.

The Greensboro Daily News  
31 May 1958

### Southern Bell Sets Millions For Project Expansion Program Will Make Greensboro Vital Wire Center

Greensboro will become the hub of telephone operations for over 60 per cent of the state when latest plans announced yesterday by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company creates an electronic long distance switching center here.

The company announced it would spend five million dollars in two years in the long-range multimillion expansion program for the Greensboro area. It will make Greensboro one of the key cities in the long distance, automatic dialing system planned to be in operation by 1960.

Construction is expected to start this fall on a three-story and basement addition to the present dial building on South Eugene Street, three blocks from the center of downtown business section. This building will cost about \$1,200,000.

More than 3 ½ million dollars will be spent on the giant electronic "brain" which will be installed in the addition. Engineering and architectural work for the addition is in progress.

Parks D. Hunter, District Manager for Southern Bell said the new installation will provide better and faster telephone service for the area. It will establish Greensboro as a major center for switching and direct routing of calls linking northern and eastern part of the state more directly with the rest of the nation and points in Canada, Alaska and Hawaii

When the installation is completed in 1960, a Greensboro telephone subscriber will be able to dial long distance numbers directly without channeling his calls through an operator. The electronic equipment will do the work and record the call on tape.

Greensboro headquarters will control long distance calls from Winston-Salem eastward to the coast and southward to Wilmington. It will be designated as Code Area No. 919. Charlotte will be headquarters for Area Code No. 704 which served the Charlotte-Gastonia, Asheville section.

In recent years Southern Bell has spent many millions for installations in Guilford County. They include coaxial cable to work the relay station microwave tower at Brown Summit and exchanges at Julian, Pleasant Garden, Monticello and Summerfield.

Here, the Southern Bell expansion had involved considerable expansion of the Eugene Street dial exchange building, moving of executive offices and billing department to the North Elm location in the Beard building and the construction of an exchange on Oakland Avenue and of a large garage and service center in the ORD (Tucker Street) section of the city.

The new center in Greensboro, Hunter said, was considered a need because of the increasing tempo of industrial, commercial and residential activity of the city and the resulting increase in incoming and outgoing long distance calls.

Greensboro was chosen, Hunter continued because of its strategic location in the South's long distance cable and radio relay routes and the because of the area's rapid postwar growth and prospects for continued progress.

“We have every reason to believe that the progress of Greensboro and surrounding areas will continue at steadily increasing pace in the future,” Hunter said. “Our faith in this area’s future is evidenced by the five million dollars we are spending to provide the modern and up-to-date telephone service it needs to meet and encourage further development.”

The installation is called a 4-A toll switching center, it will contained the most advanced telephone equipment.

The electronic “brain” knows the destination of the long distance call after the operator had key pulsed the routing code and the distance telephone number. Once the operator has given the machine the necessary information, the machine thinks it out and directs the call by the shortest route, even if the most direct route is busy. For instance, if a call is being made from Greensboro to Baltimore and all the direct routes are busy, the brain may even channel the call through Atlanta to get to Baltimore.

The new equipment is self-testing. If trouble develops in a in a section of the electronic brain, it automatically detours that part of the equipment and completes the call without delay. At the same time, the machine punches a trouble card, which it drops into a tray in front of a technician who proceeds to clear up the trouble.

Equipment is expected to be installed in the fall of 1959 when the building addition is completed. The new center is scheduled to be in operation in the fall of 1960.

### Bellsouth’s North Carolina History

Bellsouth first served North Carolina Customers in Raleigh and Winston-Salem

Exchanges were established in Greensboro in 1889, Winston Salem and Asheville, 1899

By 1920, Southern Bell had 491,000 phones lines

In 1948, the one millionth rural phone in Southern Bell region was installed near Burlington, N.C.

Over the years, Bellsouth sold a few local telephone exchanges

In 1984 as part of the breakup of the Bell System or “Ma Bell” Southern Bell came part of a new parent company called BellSouth

In October 1995, the company adopted the name of BellSouth service operations

Switch Center Created In Greensboro  
25-31 May 1958  
Greensboro Daily News

The fifties brought many changes to the use of telephones in the small areas of North Carolina such as the Main C.O. in Reidsville. Operator's services moved from local Bellsouth offices such as Reidsville to the large area that was the Reidsville exchange. From the Greensboro Daily News came the following "Greensboro will become the hub of telephone operations after Southern Bell Telephone spent several million dollars to create a long distance switching center at its expanded South Eugene Street Building.

"Mac" McClintock appears to have been one of the first craft employees of Bell South in Reidsville, in the mid 20's. The early 30's brought the hiring of Herman Frye. These two men performed all the tasks necessary to get a telephone call from the customer through the switchboard and back to another local customer. There were just a few toll lines leaving Reidsville connecting with Greensboro to the South and Danville to the North. These long distance calls were carried on open iron wire lines called the Lynchburg to Savannah Toll Line. Then in the early 40's Si Martin was hired to assist these two men in the operations of the telephone Company in Reidsville. In 1950 the new Central Office was created on Main Street and at midnight on the day the new office was put in operation, the operators at the Switchboard in the office on Gilmer Street, took off their head sets and closed the switchboard down at this location. They walked across the corner lot to the new Main Street office, put on the head seats and began answering calls there. In the late 40's Bell South had begun to add employees in Reidsville and this was the beginning of changes in Reidsville and all other Bell switching operations.

Operators had been increasing in numbers from the one or two that were in Reidsville in the year 1894 when the Reidsville Review had created the Reidsville telephone. Their number grew over the years as service requests increased in Rockingham County. With the moving of long distance switching services to Greensboro, the operators were moved with them. Only a few operators were left in Reidsville.

The Reidsville Scene  
Southern Bell Telephone  
18 June 1962

Cut-over---At one minute past midnight this morning the Reidsville exchange of Southern Bell Telephone Company passed into history by a simple but carefully prepared cut-over to the Greensboro Exchange. Local circuits had always run through Greensboro. This change meant in simplest terms that no operators remained on duty at local switchboards.

When you dial from a long distance operator or information in Reidsville the operator who answers will be in Greensboro. She may be one of the Reidsville operators transferred to Greensboro by the cut-over but she will be at work in Greensboro.

(This does not mean you can call Greensboro subscribers without long distance service and the customary charges---except in the case of Western Union or other rare subscribers to direct lines which have Reidsville numbers.)

Changes in telephone service have come rapidly in the past few years and as Claude D. Davis, manager of Southern Bell's Reidsville office, points out, the air is filled with new electronic and communications wonders soon to come.

Under the old switchboard system, when operators handled every call, the Reidsville exchange kept about 20 switchboards and some 60 operators busy in the old building on Gilmer Street. With the new building on Main came the dial system. Cutover to dial came on October, 14<sup>th</sup>, 1950.

There was no firing, job transfers took care of displaced operators and some retired, they were not replaced. This is also the case with the cut-over to Greensboro. The crew of operators had diminished to 11. (There were three occasional operators who did relief of emergency work.) Three are retiring. Eight will be transferred to Greensboro.

A few weeks earlier Miss Flossie Huskey, one-time chief operator and Mrs. C. Eugene Graves, retired with years of service behind them. Both had been on sick leave for some time before retirement.

The three retirements coincided with the cut-over are Mrs. J.S. Corum, Reidsville's Chief operator with 36 years of service last March, Mrs. R.A. Clark, Chief evening operator with 35 years of service last March and Mrs. T.D. Hopkins, regular operator and relief Chief with 20 years last month.

"What will they do? "Well, that's no problem," says Mrs. Corum, "We all keep house anyway."

The eight who are being transferred (most of whom will commute from Reidsville) are Miss Ethel Cardwell, Mrs. Lewis Moore, Miss Eleanor Payne, Mrs. J.L. Combs, Mrs. Oscar Chaney, Mrs. Calvin Poole, Mrs. Hugh Carter and Mrs. Lewis Boyd.

A tea honoring the three retiring operators was held this afternoon in the Reidsville Bell building.

Davis, has seen the Reidsville exchange with 1,900 subscribers including 90 rural telephones grow in fifteen years to the Reidsville Exchange Group. The Groups consisted of Reidsville, now with 8,000 subscribers, Gatewood exchange with 520 and Milton exchange with 300(all figures are approximate). The group serves large portion of Rockingham, Caswell and Person County.

Gatewood and Milton received construction and maintenance through the Reidsville exchange, but its calls were always handled through Bell's Danville, Virginia exchange. Bell says service will not flag. Sixty circuits are already in service for the traffic from Reidsville to Greensboro.

In 1950 a two-story dial building was completed at 211 S. Main Street. Rural development for the entire Reidsville exchange area was started in 1951.

The Milton area lying approximately 14 miles east of Danville, Virginia was built and added to the Reidsville group in 1955. Free long distance service to and from Danville was started at that time.

In January, 1956 an addition was made to the building located at 211 E. Main Street at a cost of over \$100,000.

In January, 1957 a new telephone numbering system was stated for the Reidsville exchange area with the prefix of Dickens 9 or 349 office. The exchange now has grown to a second office which is known as Dickens 2 or 342.

In 1958, because of growth, the base rate area for the Reidsville exchange was established and mileage charges reduced.

In November, 1959, a new central office, DI-2 was placed into operation. On November 1, 1960 All Number Calling (ANC) was instituted.

The use of Area Code Numbering was put into effect a year later. In 1961, Direct Dialing was instituted and long distance operations were transferred from Reidsville to Greensboro.

August 1962, teletype service to and from Reidsville was converted to Dial operations. November, 1962, free long distance service to and from Milton and Danville, Virginia was started.

January 8, 1964, Computer billing was started.

The Reidsville Review  
9 August 1933

## CUT IN 'PHONE RATES FOUGHT BY COMPANIES

### Protest Against Reducing General Exchange Charges In State Heard DECISION IS REVERSED

Raleigh-Protests against reducing general exchange charges made by telephone companies were heard today by the state corporation commission which reversed decision on a proposed order to become effective September 1. It was indicated however, that special charges made for headset telephones and extra length cords would be ordered reduced. Under the proposed order, a maximum rate of 50 cents per headset instrument would be permitted and a flat installation charge made for extra length cords.

Telephone representatives appearing before the commission stressed objection to the extension of the boundary rate areas to conform to municipal boundaries and to propose reductions in connection and service charges.

During the hearing, the commissioners; W.T. Lee, chairman, George P. Pell and Stanley Winborne expressed themselves as impressed with the objections filed against these proposed changes, and it was indicated the order may be amended if it is put into effect.

The order does effect monthly exchange rates as the commission felt that this was a subject that should be taken up with the companies individually because of the

dissimilarities of conditions under which they operate. There are 101 telephone companies in the state.

E.E. Smith of Atlanta, GA., General Manager of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company which protested to every section of the order, said his company would have no fight if the commission had confined it to a reduction in headset charges.

He was followed by Fred J. Turner, Carolina Manager of the company, who read a lengthy brief declaring the proposed lower rates would be "confiscatory" of the company's proper.

G.B. Denmore of Charlottesville, Va., president of the North Carolina Association of Independent Telephone companies appeared in behalf of exchange members of this organization.

R.N. Simms Jr., Raleigh attorney, urged lower rates of the handset models, saying he represented a client who had paid the extra charge for five years.

Others who were heard included Robbins Tilden of High Point of the North State Telephone Company, George J. Johnson of Franklin of the Western North Carolina Telephone Company, R.B. Durant of Siler City of the Central Carolina Telephone Company and J.M. Porter, of Tarboro of Carolina Telephone Company.

Andrew Joyner Jr., city manager, of Greensboro, Alfred B. Barnard, representing the city of Asheville and Albert Keister, councilman of Greensboro also were heard by the commission expressing with the proposed order;

The Advisor  
December 1967

N.C. GETS MILLIONTH PHONE  
AT WENTWORTH

85 YEARS IN STATE

Reidsville-North Carolina now has one million Southern Bell Telephones in service. Special luncheon ceremonies Nov. 17 at the Masonic Temple commemorated the historic installation.

The luncheon gathering heard Governor Dan K. Moore speak from Raleigh over a statewide telephone network in observance of the event.

Attending the luncheon were City and County officials, representatives of civic groups and business enterprises.

A commemorative telephone, symbolic of the one millionth telephone installation was presented to A.S. Daniels, Rockingham County Manager. The telephone will be installed in his office at Wentworth, North Carolina.

North Carolina had its commercial telephone service in 1879 in Raleigh. Southern Bell took over operations there in 1882 with an exchange of 29 subscribers. Reidsville had its first telephone service about 1890(1894). Reidsville now has 12,062 telephones, Gatewood area 712 and Milton, N.C. 413 or a total of 13,187 telephones for the group. An eighty square mile area of territory is now being converted to completely new exchange serving the Ruffin area. Construction will be underground, including approximately 40 miles of main feeder cable. Service date for the new exchange is scheduled for March 17, 1968.

Addressing the Reidsville luncheon over the state network, John J. Ryan, Southern Bell's Vice-President for North Carolina said, "The Bell System has been charged with the awesome task of maintaining the communication system for the national defense. Southern Bell is pledged to ever improving service for every individual telephone customer as well."

Governor Moore commented on the growth of the industry in North Carolina and, in particular, the role the telephone has played in that growth. He pointed out that the milestone achievement is a reflection of rapid economic strides not only by Southern Bell but the state as well. The Governor who made note of Southern Bell's contribution to the state's economy.

It took Southern Bell 75 years to reach the half-million telephone mark yet only 10 years to double the amount. Southern Bell employs more than 8,000 North Carolinians and the company's total investment in equipment and facilities is more than \$4.35 million. This year alone \$52.6 million will be invested in new equipment and facilities throughout the state. Telephone service in Reidsville was first established by R.J. "Bob" Oliver about the year (1894). The exchange had about 100 customers.

The exchange was sold to Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1900(1903).

Service by 1946 had grown to approximately to 1900 telephones of which 91 customers were classified as rural.

The Greensboro Daily News  
10 August 2003

Mrs. Rebecca Emerson Matthews, 91, died Thursday, Aug. 7, 2003, at Wesley Long Nursing Center.

The funeral will be held at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, 2003 at Hanes Lineberry Vanstory Chapel conducted by the Rev. Robert L. Glasgow. Burial will follow in Guilford Memorial Park.

A native of Mt. Airy, Virginia, Mrs. Matthews was a daughter of the late George Lawson Emerson and Snowie Reynolds Emerson. She was a member of the Florida Street Baptist Church. After 28 years of service, she retired from Southern Bell. Rebecca was a skilled seamstress, sewing and quilting for her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alfred C. Matthews; sisters, Lora E. Raynor and Avis E. Hester; brothers, Lawson Emerson and Wilson Emerson and grandson, William Andrews Matthews.

She is survived by her daughters, Janice Matthews Holder and Ruth Matthews Thomas and husband, William E. Thomas; son, Alfred C. Matthews II, all of Greensboro; brother-in-law, J. Melvin Raynor; seven grandchildren

The family will receive friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, 2003 at the funeral Home.

The Greensboro Daily News  
4 Jul 2007

Greensboro-William Frye, lifelong resident of Reidsville and Greensboro, passed away Tuesday, July 3, 2007, after a hard fought two-year battle with cancer.

Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Friday, July 6, at Gate City Baptist Church on Hilltop Road in Greensboro. Interment will follow at Lakeview Memorial Park.

He was a life balanced with equal portions of passion, service and concerns for his family and community.

A graduate of Reidsville Senior High School, Bill entered the Army in 1953 and served honorably and with distinction at various posts as an infantryman and paratrooper on bases in Kentucky and Alabama. Upon his discharge, his wife Ruth and son, Barry settled back in Greensboro beginning a 30-year career with AT&T Southern Bell. (His father, Herman Frye, had spent his career with Southern Bell in Reidsville). Their first daughter, Kaye, was born 1959, establishing deeper roots in the Guilford County Community that they never gave up.

A member of Camp Herman Church, Bill was a devoted member who served faithfully as a Sunday School teacher and deacon for a number of years. Bill's and Ruth's third daughter, Tammy was born in 1963 and by 1971 they moved up the road to a new home less than a mile away, beginning years of home renovations, family weddings and addition of grandchildren. Bill also became increasingly active in a wide range of civic groups ranging from the Brightwoods Men's Club, the Masonic Revolution Lodge and the AT&T Pioneers of North Carolina, to the Carolinians Square Dance Club.

The family continued to flourish with the addition of two sons-in-law, Terry Hatcher and Tom Rierison; six grandchildren and two additional members with the marriages of two of their grandchildren to Joe Evans and Dorothy Frye.

Retired in 1986, Bill enjoyed his free time traveling with Ruth around the country, working on occasions while she was completing her own career and spending time with his beloved family and friends.

In 1999, Bill and Ruth moved across town to Waterwheel Court and joined Gate City Baptist Church, where they became active members. Bill became a deacon of Gate City in 2001 and again found an outlet for his compassion for others known by some members simply as "Deacon Bill."

His legacy of love and compassion will endure for many years. William Frye leaves behind him his beloved sister, Barbara and a family he cherished along with a vast community of friends.

Family will received friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday evening at the church.

The Reidsville Review  
31 Dec 1964

Miss Nina F. Ellington

Funeral services for Miss Nina Frances Ellington, 82, formerly of Wentworth, who died Friday at the Oakhurst Nursing Home, Greensboro following a critical illness of one week, were held Sunday at 2 p.m. at Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel conducted by the Rev, J.R. Woods, pastor of Wentworth Presbyterian Church. Interment was in Greenview Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Tyra Dodson, Bruce Gunn, Wilson Waltingon, Otis Carter, Jule McMichael and Elmore McMichael. Flowerbearers were friends and neighbors of the deceased.

Miss Ellington was a life-long resident of Wentworth and was a daughter of the late William M. and Martha Settle Ellington.

She was employed by Southern Bell Telephone Company for 41 years, retiring in 1946. She was a member of the Wentworth Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are one sister, Mrs. A. Newton McCollum of Route 8; and several nieces and nephews.

The Reidsville Review  
18 July 1988

Alice Hopkins

Reidsville-Alice Gregory Hopkins, 85, of 746 Crescent Drive, died Saturday at Annie Penn Memorial Hospital.

Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Monday at City Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will be in Fairview Baptist Church cemetery.

Mrs. Hopkins was a native of Osborne County, Kansas, and had lived in Reidsville for the past 60 years. She was retired employee of Southern Bell Telephone Co., a member of First Presbyterian Church, order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 172 and Pioneers of Southern Bell Co.

Surviving are son, Thomas G. Hopkins of Annadale, Va.; daughters, Mrs. Rachel A. Scott of Reidsville and Mrs. Mary H. Isley of Raleigh; eight grandchildren

The Reidsville Review  
22 January 1991

Fannie Clark

Reidsville-Fannie Carter Clark, 87, of 630 Lindsay Street, died Sunday at Annie Penn Memorial Hospital.

Funeral will be at 2:30 p.m. today at City Funeral Home. Burial will be in Greenview Cemetery.

A native of Henry County, Va., she was a retired employee of Southern Bell, a member of the Eastern Star Chapter 172 of Reidsville and of the First Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are sisters, Mrs. Annie Williams of Reidsville, Mrs. Emma C. Baker of Missouri City, Texas.

The family will be at the home of Evelyn Balsley, 632 Lindsey Street.

The Reidsville Review  
29 Apr 2003

Edith McClintock Gunn Manley

Reidsville-Edith McClintock Gunn Manley, 81, of Fran Turner's Family Care Home, died Monday, April 28, 2003, where she had been a resident for five years.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 2, 2003, at Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Todd McDonald officiating. Interment will follow in Reidlawn cemetery.

Mrs. Manley was born in Guilford County to the late Carl Gilmore McClintock and Bessie Mitchell McClintock. She was a retiree of Southern Bell, a member of Faith Christian Church, The telephone pioneers and the CWA. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Her hobbies were crocheting and

lap quilting until she had her stroke. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Nathan Allen Gunn and William Russell Manley, brother, George Gilmore McClintock and sister, Dorothy McClintock Knighten.

Survivors include sons, Gordon Allen "Skip" Gunn and wife Martha, Earl Max "Bubba" Gunn and wife, Virginia "Ginny" and William Bennett "Benny" Manley and wife Sandra; daughter, Carol Manley Driscoll and husband, Preston, all of Reidsville; five grandchildren, Wendy Gunn; brother, Carl McClintock and wife Estelle; sister Peggy Warner and husband, John, all of Reidsville.

The Reidsville Review  
23 August 1982

#### Carl Gilmore McClintock

Carl Gilmore (Mack) McClintock, 81, of Route 5, Reidsville, died at 3:30 a.m. today at Annie Penn Memorial Hospital following a lingering illness.

A native of Guilford County, he was the son of the late George and Minnie Mangrum McClintock and had lived in Reidsville most of his life. He was a retired employee of Southern Bell where he worked for 43 years and was a member of the East Side Baptist Church. He was a member of Jefferson Penn Lodge 384. His first wife was the late Mrs. Bessie Mitchell McClintock who died in 1970. His second wife was the late Mrs. Thelma G. Warner McClintock who died July 31, 1962.

Surviving are daughters, Mrs. Russell Manley, Mrs. David Knigthen, Mrs. John Warner all of Reidsville; sons, George McClintock of Augusta, Ga., Carl McClintock of Bluefield, W. Va.; sisters, Mrs. Nellie Ford, Mrs. Maggie Gibson, Mrs. Douglas Mills, Mrs. Lake Knight, all of Greensboro; 18 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday at Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Grover Everette officiating. Burial will be in Reidlawn Cemetery with Masonic graveside rites.

The Reidsville Review  
30 June 1992

#### Mary Spangler

Reidsville-Mary Belle Smithey Spangler of 1311 Richardson Drive died June 29, 1992, at the Skilled Care Unit of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in Greenview Cemetery. Surviving are sisters, Mrs. Layla Eller, Wylene Williams, both of Reidsville; brother James Elon Smithey of Memphis, Tenn.

The family will be at Wilkerson Funeral Home 7-9 p.m. Wednesday. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association

The Reidsville Review  
20 March 1996

Layla Smithey Eller

Layla Smithey Eller was a native of Reidsville and retired Southern Bell Telephone office employee.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Telephone Pioneers of America and the Pilot Club.

She was greatly admired an elegant hostess who created lovely weddings and designed flower arrangements for social functions in Reidsville, Greensboro and Danville.

She was the widow of Paul T. "Red" Eller, retired Duke Power employee. Her parents were Ida Virginia Totten Smithey and Jesse Thomas Smithey of Reidsville and Rockingham County.

Survivors include sister Wylene Smithy Williams (Mrs. Clay) of Reidsville; brother, James Elon Smithey of Memphis, Tenn., six nieces, and twelve nephews and numerous grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

The family will be at Wilkerson Funeral Home Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Graveside services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday at Greenview Cemetery.

The Reidsville Review  
5 August 1978

Herman E. Frye

Herman Ernest Frye, 71, of 705 Barnes Street was dead on arrival Friday at Annie Penn Memorial Hospital.

Funeral will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Reid Montgomery and the James Clifton officiating. Burial will be in Reidlawn Cemetery with Masonic graveside rites.

A native of Greensboro, he had lived in Reidsville most of his life. He was a retired employee of Southern Bell where he worked 42 years. He was member of Jefferson Penn Masonic Lodge 384 and was a Boy Scout leader for many years.

Surviving are wife, Mrs. Thelma Hilliard Frye; daughter, Mrs. Dillard Taylor of Rt. 10, Reidsville; son, son, Bill Frye of Greensboro; mother, Mrs. E.M. Frye of Greensboro; sister, Miss Madge Frye, Mrs. Hale Leonard and Mrs. Frances Smith of Greensboro; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

The family will be at the Funeral Home 7-9 p.m. today.

The Reidsville Review  
24 Apr 1994

Matthew William Foster

Reidsville-Matthew William Foster, 76, of 1111 Rosemont Drive died at Annie Penn Memorial Hospital early Wednesday morning, April 22, 1994.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at Faith Christian Church. Burial will be in Alamance Memorial Park.

A native of Guilford County, he was retired from Southern Bell Telephone. He was a charter member of Faith Christian Church and a member of the Men's fellowship. He was a member of the telephone pioneers and the Reidsville Elk's Lodge. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Anne Kimbro Foster of the home; sons, Steve "Rick" Foster of Boonville, Michael D. Foster of Reidsville; two grandchildren.

Visitation will be 7-9 tonight at Wilkerson Funeral Home and other times at the home.

The Reidsville Review  
28 November 1983

Flossie A. Huskey

Reidsville-Miss Flossie A. Huskey, 85, of 1243 Richardson Drive, died Monday at Annie Penn Memorial Hospital.

Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. today at Reidlawn Cemetery. She was a native of Rockingham County, a retired employee of Southern Bell, a member of Telephone Pioneers of America and a member of First Baptist Church.

Surviving are sister, Mrs. George Lambeth of Greensboro; half-brother, Charlie Scott of Reidsville. Citty Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

The Reidsville Review  
13 April 2003

Thad Otis "T.O." Melvin

Reidsville-Thad Otis "T.O." Melvin, 75, of 424 Pinedale Drive, died Wednesday, April 12, 2000 at Moses Cone Hospital.

The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, April 14, 2000, at First Baptist Church with Dr. David Moore and Rev. Dave Huggins officiating. Burial will follow in Evergreen Memory Gardens.

A native of Blakely County, Ga., he was a son of the late George Hollis and Bonnie Mae Evans Melvin. He had lived in Reidsville for the last 60 years. He was a retired foreman with Southern Bell, a member of First Baptist Church where he had served as deacon, a member of the Reidsville Lion's club, the Reidsville's men's garden club, a former Scoutmaster of Troop 714 and U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, serving the submarine fleet.

Surviving are his wife, Annie Larimore Melvin (a former telephone employee); two sons, O. Gary Melvin and wife, Kathy D. Melvin of Reidsville, G. Keith Melvin and wife, Janice C. Melvin of Roswell, Ga.; two brothers, Joseph Melvin of Ft. Worth, Texas and Carson Melvin of Atlanta, Ga.; and two grandchildren, Scott Melvin of Reidsville and Holly Melvin of Roswell, Ga.

The Reidsville Review  
30 November 2001

### Mary Meador Corum

Mary Meador Corum, 95, of 8389 NC 87, died Monday at Annie Penn Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Citty Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

A native of Rockingham County, she was the daughter of the late Charlie and Mattie Land Meador and had lived in the Wentworth Community all her life. She retired from Bellsouth after 36 years of service, was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and a member of Rockhouse Creek Club of the N.C. Extension and Community Association.

Mrs. Corum was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse Samuel Corum and sons, Robert "Bobby" Corum and William Ronald "Ronnie" Corum.

Surviving are granddaughter, Rhonda C. Paschal and husband Wesley of Reidsville; daughter-in-law Carol Corum of Reidsville; sister, Helen M. McCollum of Lynchburg, Va.; great-grandchildren, Molly Paschal, Matthew Paschal and Mason Paschal of Reidsville.

The Roanoke Times  
28 Jul 1993

### Elizabeth Dallas Coble

Elizabeth Dallas Coble, 72, of Roanoke, passed away Tuesday, July 27, 1993 in a local hospital. She was the widow of Gilmore O. "Bill" Coble. She had been an operator for Southern Bell Telephone in Reidsville, North Carolina. Surviving are daughter and son-in-law, Annette and Don Proffit, son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Carolyn Coble, all of Roanoke; seven grandchildren, Shannon Coble and wife, Blenda, Adam, Christopher, Kimberly Coble A graveside service will be conducted 11 a.m. Thursday.

The Reidsville Review  
24 July 1990  
Eddie Apple

Reidsville-Charles Eddie Apple, 58, of 1417 Green Briar St., died Sunday at Moses Cone Hospital.

Funeral will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at Citty Funeral Home. Burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

A native of Rockingham County, he was a retired employee of Southern Bell, a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, a member of the Reidsville Elks Lodge #1730 BPOE and the Moose Lodge #809 and was a Army Veteran of the Korean War.

Surviving wife, Helen Neal Apple: stepdaughter, Miss Amy S. Neal of the home, Mrs. Susan Coble or Reidsville; stepson, W. Jerry Neal of Reidsville; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Apple of Reidsville; sister Mrs. Agnes A. Morris of Reidsville; brothers, H. Dean Apple, R. Ray Apple both of Reidsville; one grandchild

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The Greensboro Daily News  
27 November 2001  
Mary Meador Corum

REIDSVILLE – Mary Meador Corum, 95, of 8389 N.C. 87 died Monday, Nov. 26, 2001, at Annie Penn Hospital.

The funeral will be conducted 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2001, at City Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

A native of Rockingham County, she was a daughter of the late Charlie and Mattie Land Meador and had lived in the Wentworth Community all her life. She was retired from Bell South, with 36 years of service, was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and a member of Rockhouse Creek Club of the North Carolina Extension and Community Association. Mrs. Corum was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse Samuel Corum and her sons, Robert “Bobby” Corum and William Ronald “Ronnie” Corum.

Surviving are granddaughter, Rhonda C. Paschal, Reidsville; daughter-in-law, Carol Corum of Reidsville; sister, Helen M. McCollum of Lynchburg, Va. and great-grandchildren, Molly Paschal, Matthew Paschal and Mason Paschal of Reidsville.

The family will see friends from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2001, at City Funeral Home and at other times, they will be at the home of her granddaughter, Rhonda Paschal, 1501 Woodside Drive, Reidsville.

The Greensboro Daily News  
26 June 2000

Richard Conrad “Dickie” Ware, 64, of 302 Wilson Road, died Sunday, June 25, 2000, at his residence.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, at Reidsville Christian Church, with the Rev. Shannon Newsome officiating. Burial will follow in Reidlawn Cemetery.

He was the son of the late Percy Melvin and Theresa Milton Ware and he had lived in Rockingham County his entire life. He was a member of Reidsville Christian Church, a retired employee of Southern Bell and a graduate of Less-McCrae College. Dickie was preceded in death by his brother, Earl Milton Ware.

Surviving are his wife, Florence Stone Ware of the home; son, Richard Bartley Ware and his wife, Diane P. Ware of Waynesboro, Va.; daughter, Beth Ware Burnette and her husband, Neil S. Burnette of Reidsville; three brothers, Pat Ware (retired from telephone company) of Oracoke, Robert Cary Ware of Reidsville, Spencer Ware of Winterville; three sisters, Betsy Len Thompson and Jasmine Piondexter (husband Ed Retired from telephone Co.), both of Winston-Salem, Mary Ellen Frye of Jacksonville; four grandchildren, Kalyn Dillard, Jared Dillard, Alex Burnette and Nicholas Burnette.

The family will receive friends from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday at City Funeral Home and other times at the residence.



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