

Musical Notes to Be Used in Toll Dialing



OPERATOR DEMONSTRATES HOW THE NEW METHOD WILL WORK

Cord goes into trunkline connection, then code is punched on keys at lower right.

Operators Soon Will Use a "Bee-Bo-Bee-Ba" To Complete Customers' Long Distance Calls

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Every time workmen loosen a brick in tearing down an old Detroit telephone building it has some significance for Birmingham telephone users and many others on this side of the state.

The building that's coming down is in the back of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company's main office in Detroit. This annex was in use by Michigan Bell for many years in which it served its purpose, "with a faithful devotion," veteran telephone people say.

But in looking out now to telephone progress.

In its place will rise a new 8-story, \$6 million structure to house \$7 million worth of magic switching equipment that will do astonishing things telephonically. Telephone people call it Number 4-A Crosbar equipment.

One of us will evel out the equipment, and its name won't stick in our memories for long, but for users of the telephone, its performance should make a lasting impression.

When the equipment is in operation, engineers estimate that should be sometime in 1953) it will be possible for the operator to ring a telephone in Oakland, California in a split second.

IT WILL BE possible to ring telephones in a number of distant spots in the United States with the same speed as calls to friends in Birmingham or Detroit.

Number 4-A is toll dial switching equipment, and it virtually makes one exchange out of a whole section of a state as if as long-distance calling is concerned.

Much of the system, of course, is still in the "on paper" stage. A numbering plan divides Michigan into three areas. Birmingham will be in area "412" along with Detroit and many other cities in the east and southeast part of the state.

The western half of the state, almost from top to bottom, will be in area "415," and so on.

The Bell System plan has divided the entire country into such 3-number areas—about 83 in all, with some of the sections taking in a whole state.

LET'S SUPPOSE, under this plan, a caller in Oakland, Calif., wants to reach a friend in Birmingham whose telephone number is Midwest 4-9900. The Oakland number gives the Birmingham number to his long-distance operator. On her chart, the operator sees Birmingham 3 in section "412." She "dials" 313M149900. Her "dialing" activates the 4-A equipment in Detroit and in a few seconds Midwest 4-9900 is ringing. No other human assistance is necessary. The switching equipment does it all after the one operator sends the number to the equipment.

What about busy circuits? In this respect, the 4-A apparatus does some of its best work. It is most persistent in finding a clear talking path from one place to another, no matter how far, and it does it with lightning speed.

IT IS POSSIBLE for the equipment to seek out a circuit, find

The Birmingham Eccentric
Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 223-1/2 North Woodward Ave.
Telephone Midwest 4-1100
C. E. BORGES & ASSOCIATES
Editor and Publisher

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES	
One Year (in Oakland County)	\$2.50
Six Months (in Oakland County)	\$1.50
Three Months (in Oakland County)	75c
One Year (Outside Oakland County)	\$3.00
Six Months (Outside Oakland County)	1.75
Three Months (Outside Oakland County)	90c

BHAM ECCENTRIC Thursday, November 30, 1950

Storm

(Continued from Page One)

POLICE OFFICIALS in Bloomfield Hills said that members of their own department were about the only ones using the highways and even they, with or without chains, managed to get stuck.

"The highways in our area were just about deserted and the few who did venture out were extremely cautious," they reported.

Both here and in the area covered by the Bloomfield township department, traffic started up as a nearly even hill. It was estimated that 300 cars and trucks were jammed up Sunday on the East Long Lake hill between Telegraph and Lahser roads.

In spite of the sharp drop in temperature and strong winds, fire departments experienced no difficulties.

WALTER FAUSER, local manager, said the telephone situation was "nothing unusual." Michigan Bell experienced no difficulty at all and no interruption of local service here, he said.

The same conditions prevailed for the Detroit Edison company, according to District Manager Harold J. Hall. Emergency crews were kept available, he said, but were not needed.

Lee Brooks, speaking for the Oakland county road commission, said every available man was pressed into service and county highways were still not fully cleared.

"We had to concentrate on east-west highways," he said, "since these were badly drifting. All roads in the county are open but most of them are in pretty bad shape."

"THE CREWS have spread salt in especially slippery areas but it seems to be doing little good. Most of the ice is from hard-packed snow, though, and this is the worst kind to remove."

"We are still advising motorists to go out only when absolutely necessary and then to be very very careful."

A spokesman for the Greyhound bus company said that other than a few available men, they had had no difficulty in maintaining service to the area.

High Twelve Holds Annual Election

The annual election and installation of officers of the Birmingham High Twelve club took place at their regular meeting Nov. 25. Jesse Hildebrand will head the group for the coming year with Percy Burnett, first vice-president; Wilson Wagner, second vice-president; Floyd Franklin, secretary and Ed Smith, Jr., treasurer.

Board members elected include Fred Temple, Roy Laning and Thomas Campbell.

At the next meeting, scheduled for Dec. 4, members will hold their Christmas party.

Man Forfeits Bond By Not Appearing For Court Sentence

Failure to appear in court to receive sentence brought about the issuance of a bench warrant for Kenneth Wein of Exeter, Canada and the forfeit of a \$100 cash bond.

Wein was to have appeared before Judge John J. Schulte, Jr. of Farmington on Nov. 24 for sentence of maintaining an unsanitary slaughterhouse in Southfield township.

Judge Schulte said that should Wein be apprehended in this country and served the bench warrant, he will in addition be charged with selling meat unfit for human consumption. Since this is a high misdemeanor, if found guilty Wein might be sentenced to as much as one year in jail, according to Schulte.

City Settles Argument Over Eton Dump Use

With the payment of \$397.78 to George W. Dweley, the city will be released from any further claim by Dweley for use of his Eton road property as a city dump.

This figure is the amount of city taxes on the property since 1947, which are still outstanding.

In addition, the city attorney has been instructed to prepare an agreement under which the city will continue to use the property for storage of certain DPW materials for \$20 a month after Dec. 1.

Dweley, in his discussions before the commission, contended he was assured by city officials before he bought the property that the city would be through using it for dumping by 1948, one two years after he purchased it from the state.

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Deficiency Roll Is Approved for Henrietta Paving

The accounts of two special assessors' districts were closed out by the city commission this week and a deficiency roll created on the third.

A deficiency of \$2,994.25 exists for the special assessment district for road improvements on Henrietta street between 14 Mile road and a point 406.4 feet north of the north line of Southlawn.

The commission approved setting up a deficiency roll for \$2,800 with the assessments payable in two annual installments.

CITY MANAGER Donald C. Dweert said the overexpenditure is the result of increase in prices subsequent to the preparation of the original estimate in May, 1948.

The curb, gutter and gravel roadway was constructed in 1948 and asphalt surface applied in 1949. Asphalt concrete surfacing was done this year. Cost of the project was \$18,020.45.

The assessment district for an alley pavement from George Zo Landot was closed out. The project was constructed at a cost of \$5,796.68 and the work is now complete.

An amount of \$34.78 remains in the account for this project but the commission felt it was insufficient to justify a refund to property owners.

ALSO CLOSED OUT

was the assessment district for asphalt concrete surfacing on Chapin street from Grant to Woodward. Although there is a deficiency of \$329.47 for this project, the commission closed it because payments to be collected on the last two installments will reduce the deficiency.

The total cost of this project was \$7,048.43 and the original appropriation was \$6,500.

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This & That

(Continued from Page One)

ing more than 76 people and injuring several hundred, thousands of people in the New York area rushed to their aid. Nothing was spared to help extricate the victims.

The voluntary reactions of people to risk even their own lives and fortunes when a catastrophe strikes some region are, indeed, wonderful. That is when mankind proves its true divinity.

But alas, how weak is mankind to rush to the defense of its freedom, its processes of character and its government, when its liberties are threatened.

Squad, too many beneficiaries of freedom remain aloof from participation in the rescue of Liberty's collision with an alien ideology.

The federal government has appointed a special committee to study the Kaplan's system of taxing certain purposes, otherwise known as a sales tax, such as we have in Michigan.

The federal boys want more dough, and Michigan's war's emergency requires a new tax. Well, if such a tax ever is levied on the federal level, it will not be done away with, ever.

For proof of this, review the history of all taxes. Predatory politicians thrive on your taxes, without which they would be without the means of remaining in office as long as they do.

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Lions to be Typed

It was announced at the Wednesday meeting of the Birmingham Lions club that the blood-typing team will be present at their Dec. 13 meeting. Members of the club will be typed at this time in cooperation with the city-wide program now under way.

The normal tour of Navy duty at Kodiak and Adak, Alaska, is 18 months but at Attu, it is six months.

It is easy, select another and find it busy, select another and find it also busy, and do this six or seven times if necessary until it finds a clear path leading to the next nearest hop toward its final destination—all within eight or ten minutes.

Examples of the alternate route: a call from Oakland to Birmingham would take might be as follows:

From Oakland a call might go direct to Detroit and then to Birmingham. It may go from Oakland to Chicago, to Detroit, and then to Birmingham. From Oakland the first hop of a call might land it in St. Louis, then on to Detroit and Birmingham.

If some routes this side of St. Louis were closed to traffic, 4-A would keep on trying by sending a call to Pittsburgh from St. Louis, then to Detroit and Birmingham.

IF A CALL from Oakland for Birmingham gets into Pittsburgh, then it must come direct from there to Detroit. That is the Detroit alternative. To the 4-A equipment, each one of these attempts means only a fraction of a second.

You may wonder why the word, "dial," back in the story a ways, is in quotation marks.

An operator placing a long-distance call through 4-A equipment does not always dial the number. Sometimes she punches it out on a key board in front of her.

These keys cause musical notes to sound off, inaudible to the customer, and the sounds, with their varying frequencies, activate the right switches in the distant telephone office to get the correct number there.

The number 313M149900 might be the phonetic equivalent of "the e-b-a-bip-bab-boo-bop-bip-bip"—something not very melodious but sounds that do the job anyway. These notes cause the work as the clicking pulsations on your local dialing. Incidentally, you may hear these notes as the operator punches them out.

The telephone company can't say which all of the country's 4-A points will be operating on this zip-zip-zip long-distance calling system, but it is coming and work on it is going ahead.

\$100,000 Sewer Bond Issue Is Exhausted, Manager Reports

Capital sewer improvements in the past 18 months have used up the \$100,000 sewer bond issue approved by the voters at the April 1949 election, the city commission learned Monday evening.

Commissioners appropriated the final \$28,478.83 to the \$57,946.79 Webster storm sewer extension under the Grand Trunk right-of-way.

According to City Manager D. C. Ebert, the bond issue was expended in the following manner:

- Grant street sewer, \$2,128.07;
- Lincoln-Purdy improvement, \$26,212.77;
- Eton sewer, \$929.30;
- Quarlan Lake Estates sewer, \$14,716.08;
- Maryland Blvd. sewer, \$2,370.73;
- Shipman Blvd. sewer, \$1,389.62;
- Maple-Coolidge sewer, \$63,000.00;
- Webster storm sewer, \$6,000.00;
- and Webster storm extension, \$28,478.83.

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