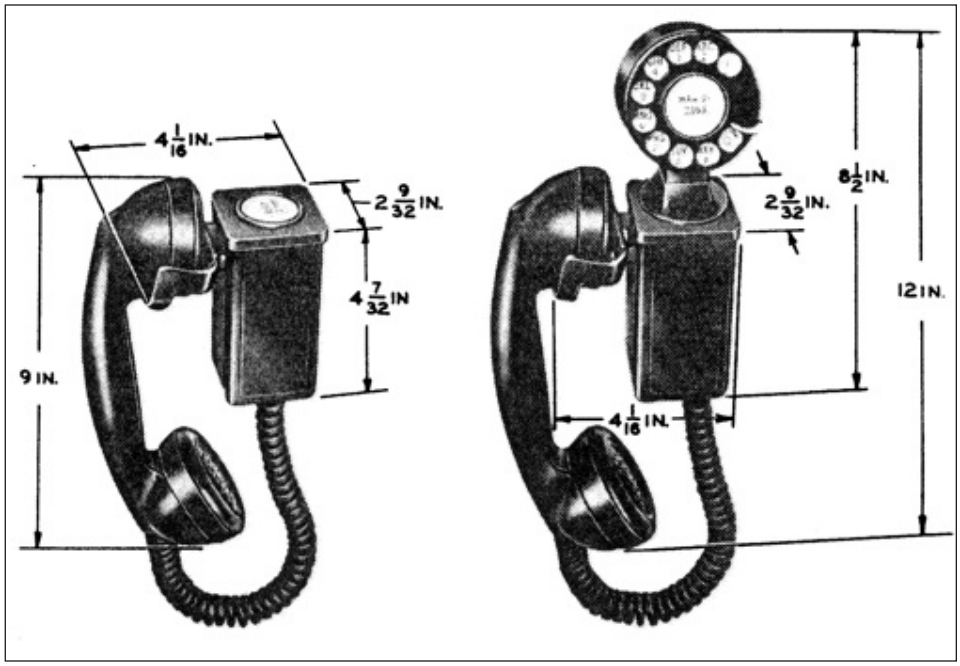
Singing Wires
The Journal of Telephone Collectors International
TELEPHONE COLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL, INC.
A HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WWW.TELEPHONECOLLECTORS.ORG
Volume 26, Number 11 ☎ November 15, 2012

THE WESTERN ELECTRIC HANG-UP TYPE SETS

by Jonathan Finder, MD

Recent chatter on the TCI listserv brought up a somewhat obscure Western Electric wall telephone that has been called the "Hang-up set" by the Bell System. The term "Space Saver" is often erroneously used to refer to these sets. The Automatic Electric term for a similar kind of set was actually the "Spacemaker." One major difference between the AE sets and the WE sets is that the AE sets actually had an internal network, while the Western Electric sets did not.



Left: 211-Type Manual, Right: 211-Type Dial

The earliest version of these sets was the C1 mounting, which used an E1 handset and a #2 dial, and was contemporaneous with the D1 mountings (WE202's). Later in the 40's and 50's, the G1 version came out. The G1 handset mounting is a compone nt of the 211 set. The G-series, properly called "Hang-up sets," were made for decades. Interestingly, despite progress in miniaturization that occurred in the 60's (witness the Trimline's development), these sets never had an internal network. Running through my collection I came upon 2 "Hang-up sets" new in the original boxes, pictured here.

The earlier version shown here, with a box date-stamped March 10, 1952, uses a cloth handset cord, and has a case marked G1. This set would have been paired to a subset. All 211/G1 sets were wired in a similar manner to a D1 mounting (also called WE202) with a dial/switch/handset wired to a subset box containing the network and ringer using a 4-conductor mounting cord. I have pictured this set in the accompanying photographs.

Why did Western Electric create this set? Clearly other wall phones were in use at the time. This was likely a set chosen for its small footprint. I have seen these used in stores and other commercial settings where wall space was at a premium. The L-shaped bracket allowed it to be mounted at the end of a counter or bar, on a wall, even a beam or other narrow space. In addition to use on a counter or bar, the sets

Continued on page 5.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

November and December are renewal months for all TCI members.
An electronic member renewal form can be found on page 13 in the Bonus Pages.

In This Issue

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Paul Wills, TCI President

It's November and, in the USA, everyone is looking forward to the Thanksgiving holiday. As I did last year, I like to use the holiday to express my thanks to all those who make TCI work. I decided to do something unique this time.

It is said that a picture is worth one thousand words. Since the Singing Wires Editorial Board might take exception to a 1000 word President's Column, I decided to provide a picture instead.

The picture (on page 4) is a "block diagram" showing all of the TCI functions and the people responsible for those functions. I think you will agree that it is quite impressive. What makes it even more impressive is that, with the exception of the layout editors, everyone is an unpaid volunteer.

Also note that the diagram only includes those members who are elected or appointed to the positions shown and does not include the many others who regularly contribute articles to our publications and documents to our library site. The contributions by those individuals are innumerable and each person deserves our thanks for sharing their time and resources.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the TCI members whose financial support is critical. Think about that as the membership renewal time is upon us.

So I thank you all who make Telephone Collectors International an organization of which we can be proud. If you should cross paths with one of those people referred to above, be sure to thank him too.

2013 Membership Renewal

The renewal of YOUR membership in TCI for the 2013 year is definitely a part of our financial planning. A quick read of our annual income and expenses provided in this issue of the Journal will show you that. Like any positive annual report, income exceeds expenses by a reasonable amount. This provides a cushion for unexpected expenses during the following year, which in our case can include higher postage and printing costs. We also knew that providing an electronic membership can reduce the cost of membership to those who chose it, while reducing printing costs for TCI. We also anticipated, and have been told, that some members share their Journals or newsletters with others, which of course has the potential to reduce membership income. Everyone who works or volunteers his or her services for TCI does so without recompense, except for the professional layout editor. All other duties are performed by volunteers who need your financial support for software licensing, website costs, purchase of material for reproduction sales, show costs, etc., all of which come from dues revenue. We hope that you have or will take advantage of all that we have to offer by renewing your membership between now and the end of the year. Much of what we offer can be had by anyone, but it's the members who make it possible for everyone to enjoy these services by paying their dues.

ANNUAL REPORT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012

Revenues:	
Annual Membership Dues	$17,194.00
Online Store Merchandise Sales	2,065.25
Contributions	591.00
Net Income from Shows:	
Lancaster, PA	971.68
Lansing, MI	(1,471.00)
Cincinnati, OH	144.00
Singing Wires Advertising Revenue	454.00
Total Revenues	**19,948.93**
Expenses:	
Monthly and Quarterly Journal Costs	9,689.83
Mailing and Distribution	3,077.37
Printing of items for online store	1,037.95
Web hosting and software licenses	1,003.94
New member books	925.41
PayPal fees	520.37
All other expenses	158.50
Total Expenses	**16,413.37**
Surplus	**$3,535.56**
Treasury Bank Balance	
TCI Treasury Balance at October 1, 2011	$32,118.57
Surplus for the year (See above)	3,535.56
TCI Treasury Balance at September 30, 2012	$35,654.13

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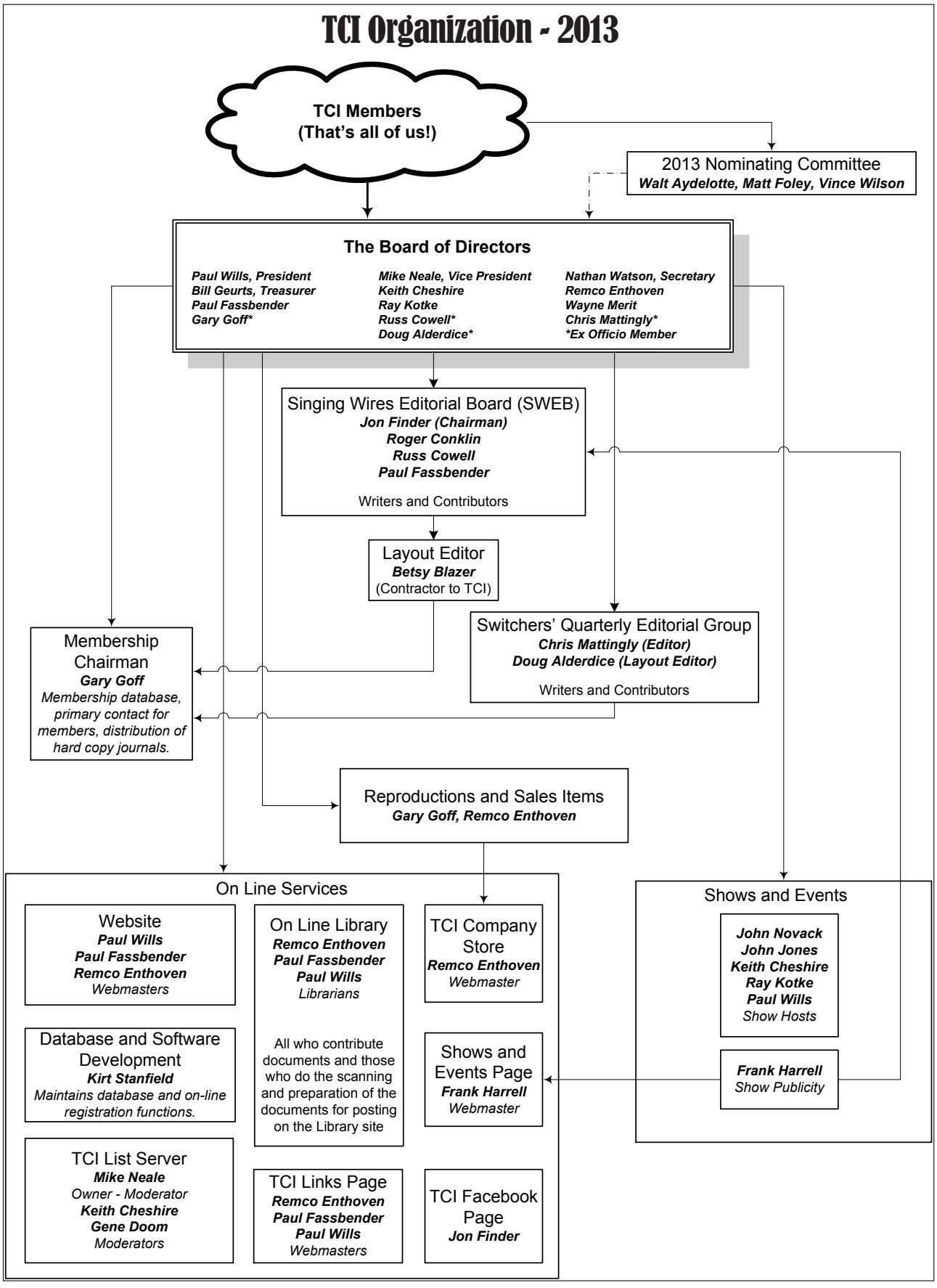
THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Continued from page 2.



HANG UP TYPE SETS

Continued from page 1.

were often shown mounted to the side of a desk, often near a box with a line key or button line selector/ signaling button. This freed all the space on the desktop otherwise used by a phone. Clearly where space was a premium, this was a good choice for the subscriber.

Another cool feature about this set was that the dial could be both angled and turned. It could face the dial, or face perpendicular to the dial, according to the needs of the subscriber. These modifications would be made by the installer.

A 1957 Bell System practice (which will be found in our Bonus Pages this month) documents that models they referred to as 211A, B, C, and D were in use. What is fascinating to me was that even as late as 1957 the BSP practice showed that the E1 handset was being used for this telephone. The standard handset for this set in this 1957 document was the F1 handset. Most telephone collectors are aware that the famous Henry Dreyfuss had created the G1 handset in the late 40's and that this handset had come out with the model 500 in 1950. Clearly F1 handsets were in widespread production even in the late 50's. This makes some sense when you consider the huge investment the Bell System had made in creating the F1 handsets by the millions. The Bell System wasted nothing, and clearly this was part of the "don't fix it if it ain't broken" philosophy.

Hand Tel. Set Codes	Components				
	Handset	Handset Mounting	Dial or Apparatus Blank	Dial Mounting	Type Handset Cord
211A-3E (As furnished)	E1E-3	G1-3	Number Card Holder	—	H-3
211A-3F (As furnished)	F1A-3 F1G-3				
211A-3F (Modified)	F4A-3				
211C-3E (As furnished)	E1E-3		5H	43A-3	
211C-3F (As furnished)	F1A-3 F1G-3		5H or 6A		
211C-3F (Modified)	F4A-3		6A		

1954 model 211, as removed from original box

1954 model 211, as removed from original box

1974 model 211, as removed from original box

the original Western Electric boxes that housed these 211 sets.

This 1957 Bell System practice shows a manual, or non-dial version of this set, to be used where operators were still dialing your number for you. Other variations were that the dials used then were both the 5H and the 6A.

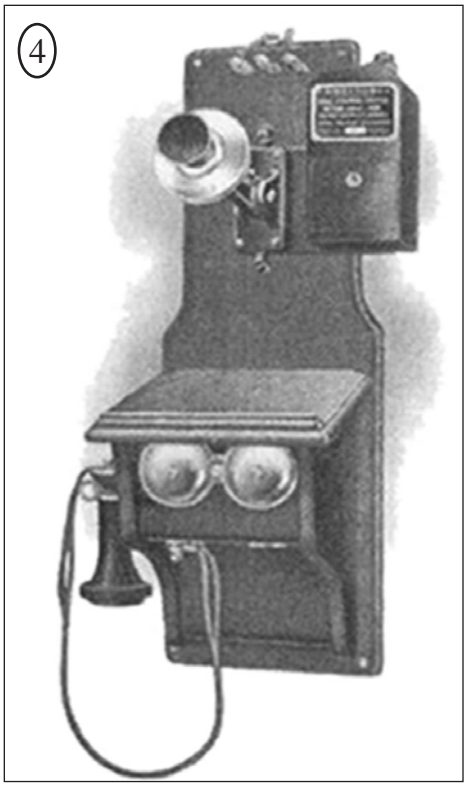
The box I picture here is marked 211C-3F. According to the BSP, this means that this set has an F1A-3 hand-

Continued on page 11.

GRAY 8A COIN COLLECTOR RESTORATION

by Gary Goff

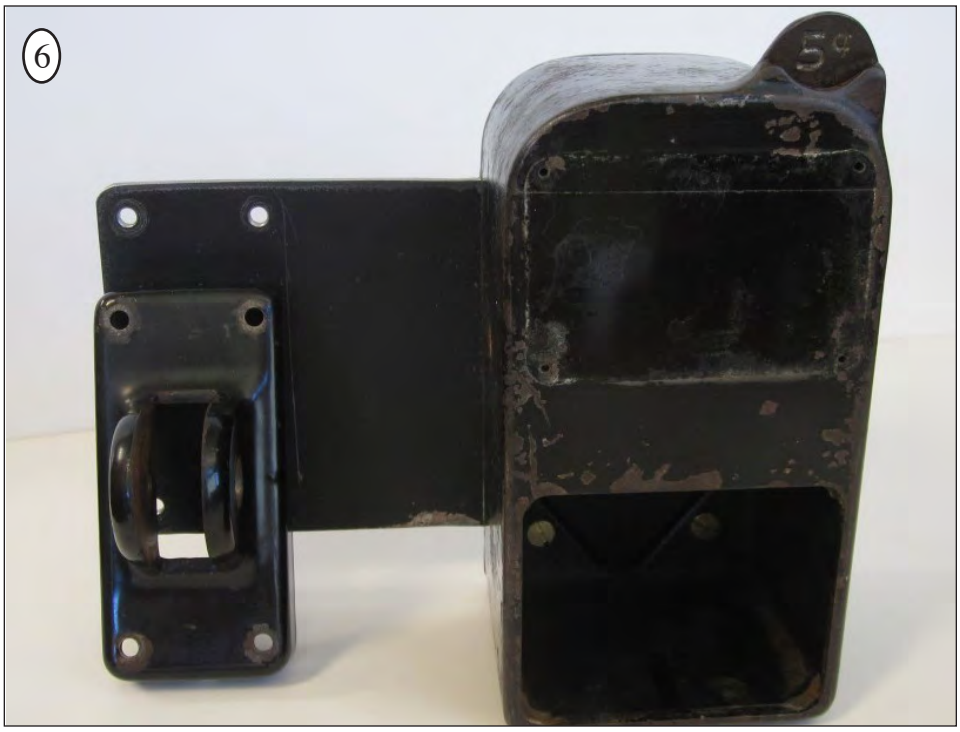
Don't you just love coin-op machines? I do, and what makes it even better is when the coin-op device is part of a telephone. I have many telephones or related devices that only work when a coin

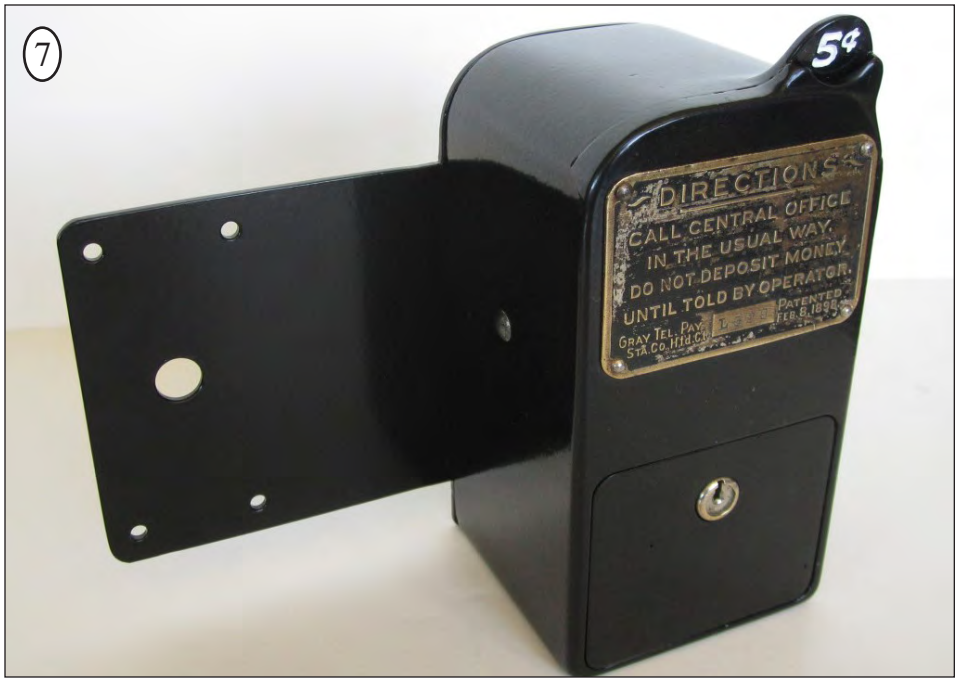


is inserted and only a few of them are your typical three slot coin phone. Many are early Gray models and the others are devices that are considered attachments or coin operated switches connected to standard telephones. Some are very unusual or unique and have been featured in earlier attachment articles.

This article focuses on my latest acquisition, a small, rather rare Gray collector, the model 8A. The first one that I saw for sale was in the first of the three Bill Daniels auctions. In fact, there were two; one mounted to a fiddleback and the other outfitted with a carry handle (photos 1, 2). A third unit appeared in the final Daniels auction. For a variety of reasons, I was not able to acquire any of them. My luck changed however when I shared my desire to own one with a collector at the Lancaster show and he offered to sell me one that was complete but in only fair condition (photo 3).

A review of the Gray catalog (Circa 1912) states that the 8A collector is provided without a backplate, but if one is desired, the buyer needs to provide the phone model on which the collector is to be installed. The collector can be mounted on the wall or di-





rectly on the face of a wood wall set and no backplate is needed as there are mounting tabs inside the collector. The seller of the phone pointed out that there were generally three types of backplates and described one that looked very much like the one pictured in the catalog (photo 4) and visible on one of the Daniel's sets. This design provides a projection on the left of the backplate that can be mounted on the backside of the telephone backboard or under the transmitter base found on a W.E. Fiddleback.

I made a precise template of the back of the collector with a projection that would position the collector on the right of the transmitter arm, and sent it, along with the collector and the base of the transmitter off my fiddleback, to the craftsman who makes parts for telephone collectors (photo 5). The completed plate has a special riveted pocket on the top inside of the plate into which the

tab on top inside of the collector inserts. The plate is also predrilled and threaded where appropriate. It is a superb piece of work, very much "original" looking (photo 6).

It was a tough decision as to how to refinish the surface of the collector, but I decided that powdercoating with a black finish very close to black jappaning would look the best and be

the most durable (photo 7). It's always important to know your powdercoater and to be sure that he understands that a very light coat of powder is a must when refinishing old phone parts. The three parts of the collector were separately coated and then assembled, and the instruction plate was remounted using very small brass brads (photo 8). The 5 cent marking was highlighted with model airplane white enamel using a toothpick. Two or three photos of the finished project including its final resting place have been provided (photo 9).

The model 8A is one of those where the operator "heard" the nickel drop by the "sound" carried through steel to the transmitter. ☎

TESTING PULSE-TO-TONE CONVERTERS

by Ralph Meyer

This article summarizes tests using three pulse-to-tone converters on two internet-based voice services.

Although the public switched telephone network (PSTN) was required to be backward compatible, telephone service over the internet is not governed by the same rules. Therefore, rotary-dial telephones will always work on your local telephone company's line, but they might not always work with internet service. Small pulse-to-tone converters seem to offer an attractive way to use our vintage rotary phones on "modern" phone lines, so I made several tests recently to see how this would work out.

Tests of Services and Converters

The tests were run on two different voice-over-internet services (VoIP for voice-over-internet protocol). Internet service requires an analog telephone adapter (ATA), which is a small box like a cable modem. In my home I have Vonage service with a Vonage Model VDV21-DV ATA. The other service available was in the office of the internet service provider, Easton Utilities, in our small town of Easton, MD. Easton uses an Arris Model TM602G/115 ATA.

The phone used for most of the testing was a Western Electric 302. Before going further, let me say that the WE 302 will work directly on my Vonage system, so you might be able to use a rotary-dial phone directly on your VoIP system without a converter. But not all ATAs will accept pulses, and the Easton system would not even break dial tone with pulses.

The following three pulse-to-tone converters were tested: Oldphoneworks.com LPT310 ($39.95 plus shipping), Dialgizmo.com (no model number)($39.95 plus shipping), and Alldav.com P2Tv2.1-48 ($20 including shipping). Don Woodbury at Oldphoneworks graciously provided the Oldphoneworks and Dialgizmo converters for testing whereas the Alldav converter was purchased on the internet.

During the tests, I was able to ask questions to the developers: Don Woodbury at Oldphoneworks.com in Canada, Justin Vietz at Dialgizmo.com in Australia, and Allen Wan at Alldav.com in the U.S. In spite of this help, I do not consider my tests definitive or comprehensive, but I'll describe the results anyway.

Test Results

All three converters worked well on the Easton Utilities VoIP system, and the Dialgizmo and Alldav converters worked well on the Vonage VoIP system. The Oldphoneworks converter did not work at first on the Vonage system, although it would produce tones for several digits and then stop as if it were running out of gas. Further study of the three converters produced some interesting observations that impact performance.

Use of "Ultracapacitors"

The Oldphoneworks and the Alldav converters use ultracapacitors in their circuits. These are used like little batteries with a stored charge. Consequently, these two units have to charge up for at least 10-15 minutes before first use. If you try to use them before their capacitors are charged, they will generate a few tones and then quit, just as the fully charged Oldphoneworks converter did on my Vonage system. You can also deplete the charge by dialing too many numbers in quick succession.

The Oldphoneworks and Alldav converters are also sensitive to polarity because of those ultracapacitors. Although these converters are wired to have the correct polarity with most ATAs, there could be a case where the polarity is reversed. In that case, the polarity could be corrected in one of several ways: (a) reverse the red and green leads inside the converter, (b) cut off the RJ11 plug and crimp on another one upside down, (c) use a line extension cord that reverses polarity, or (d) reverse the wires in the line if there is house wiring between the ATA and the converter.

When asked about the potential use of a polarity guard, Allen Wan of Alldav.com said, "Designing for reversed polarity in this situation is actually much more complicated than doing so for a telephone. I can't just rectify the signal because a negative voltage is part of the AC ring signal which will affect some phones upstream. At a minimum, bell ringers will sound different if you rectify the signal. There were other approaches, but they were all more complicated than I was willing to deal with since my goal was to keep the design simple and cheap."

The Dialgizmo converter, on the other hand, does not use ultracapacitors and is not polarity sensitive. Just plug it

in and it is ready to go. I noticed that the off-hook voltage with the Dialgizmo was higher (about 8 volts and relatively stable) than the other units, which exhibit an off-hook voltage of 4-5 volts and rather variable, just like the phone without any converter attached. It looks like the Dialgizmo has a current limiter (perhaps a resistor) in it rather than letting the transmitter resistance (varies a lot) determine the current – and hence voltage. This is consistent with the Dialgizmo design objective of stealing as little power from the line as possible.

Performance may differ with Dial type

Don Woodbury pointed out that some converters might behave differently with different dials because some dials have transmitter shunts (e.g., WE 302) and others do not (e.g., WE 500). I don't understand what these converters are looking for, but do I know what these telephones are presenting to the line. With its dial shut, the resistance and voltage across the 302 are zero for the entire time the dial is rotating. The resistance and voltage are not zero across the 500 because its dial does not short out the resistance of the coil primary (about 30 ohms), the transmitter (75-275 ohms), and that little 22-ohm resistor. Together these are on the order of 200 ohms.

So I tested a WE 500 with the Oldphoneworks converter and it worked fine. Then I added a 220-ohm resistor to the line between the WE 302 and the Oldphoneworks converter. It worked like a charm. Next I removed the resistor and disabled the dial shunt by removing the wire from terminal marked "R" – the dial still works well. With this change, the Oldphoneworks converter also worked with the WE 302. By the way, adding a 220-ohm resistor in this location is just like a PSTN line with 220-ohms resistance, which would be typical and not a big deal.

There are Kellogg, S-C, and AE dials that also use a transmitter shunt. I think those shunts could likewise be disabled by simply removing one wire, and I don't think the performance would be affected in any significant way (maybe early CO equipment required a stronger pulse current). But if you just add about 200 ohms resistance to the telephone end of the converter, the problem experienced by the Oldphoneworks converter should go away. Don Woodbury is considering adding such a resistance to his product.

Other Observations

By the way, the Dialgizmo has a ringing pass-through limit of 2 REN. I don't know about the other converters. If you have more than two phones on your VoIP line, you may need to put a converter behind each phone rather than at the ATA.

I noticed one other thing during the tests. You have to wait for the converter to produce its tone before dialing the next digit. Don't get ahead of it. But you then have to keep moving so you don't exceed the 5-second time limit between digits on some (all?) systems. No napping while dialing.

There are a lot of reviews on line regarding pulse-to-tone converters, and it appears to be well known that not all converters work with all phones and all ATAs. So, while I learned something, I don't think my tests provide enough information to know if these converters will work on your system or not. You might just have to try a converter to see if it works with your telephone and VoIP system – and then try one of the remedies mentioned above if it doesn't. ☎

# # #

Editor's note: Please send your pulse-to-tone observations to eab@telephone-collectors.org and we'll include them in a future issue.

BUY / SELL / TRADE

BUY / SELL / TRADE Ads are free to TCI members. Please send an e-mail to: editor@telephonecollectors.org. (Large display ad space is available for a modest fee. Visit www.telephonecollectors.org and click on "Singing Wires" for rates.) Ads may be edited for clarity and length.

FOR SALE

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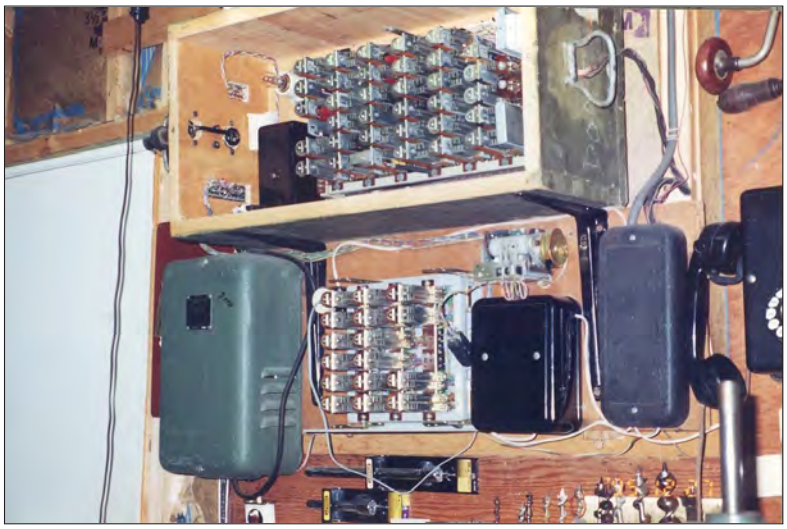
Christmas Gift? Not to early to consider. Birthday? Fairly accurate Eiffel Tower replica. Mfd. in 1976 by original maker of the 1892-1932 model (LM Ericsson); claimed cost $1500. In Phoneco catalog for $385. They are fastened to a wood-like base with T/P dial. These are attrac-

Continued on page 12.

AN OLD NOBLE FAMILY, A CASTLE, THE AMERICAN ARMY, AND AN ATEA PABX DURING WW II

By Jan Verhelst

What is the correlation between all this? Read the full text of the article in this month's bonus pages, which includes complete details of an ATEA PABX which Frank Reese brought back from Europe after serving in the US Army in the European Theater of operations during World War II. Frank was a long time executive of GTE and its subsidiary companies and died in 2011 (*Singing Wires* August 2011).



WW II ATEA PBX which served in Frank Reese's homes in the US for some 60 years after he served in the European Theater of War.

The "Friends of the ATEA museum" would like to locate the unit and possibly acquire it.

The original ATEA PABX was equipped with 4 local lines and one exchange line. It was later expanded to 8 local lines. When DTMF phones became popular, Frank installed an Automatic Electric DTMF receiver on the lines, superimposed upon the dial-pulse counting chain relays. The system operates from the output of a Lorain 20v DC, 30 Hz AC power supply. Some functions with "pre war" technology have been replaced:

o The **dial tone generator**, originally with some kind of buzzer, has been replaced by a electronic dial tone source

o The low voltage internal "pole changer" ringing source has been replaced by a 30hz ringer of the Lorain power supply.

The ATEA PABX was still in service at Frank's home, 50 years after World War II, and was sold in about 2008 when downsizing to move into an assisted-living facility.

If you have any info about this PABX, please contact us at eab@telephonecollectors.info. ☎

HANG UP TYPE SETS

Continued from page 5.

set, the G1-3 handset mounting, a 5H dial, a 43A-3 dial mounting (that is the projection on the little metal box that holds the dial), and an H3 (straight cloth 3-conductor) handset cord.

The later version I picture here is the G7 from 1974. This set has a chromed cradle (as opposed to the painted black metal cradle on the G1) and a G handset. Not surprisingly the 1974 version I show here uses a thermoplastic handset (rather than Bakelite) and has a coiled handset cord. It uses the same L-shaped mounting bracket used on the earlier set, and is electrically identical. The subset that would have been used would have been the later 685A model.

These are distinct sets, and so very different from the contemporaneous 354 and 554 sets. They are hard to find at flea markets these days, but can be easily found at our telephone shows. ☎

The case of the vanishing headset

Once upon a time, about sixty-five years ago, telephone operators wore a bulky 6 1/2 pound transmitter and receiver balanced on a shoulder harness. They sat very still and spoke directly into the transmitter.

But today's operators can turn their pretty heads as they will. A delicate transmitter faithfully follows their lips. The new headset is small, dainty and efficient. It weighs a mere 5 6/10 *ounces*.

This is just one of the many improvements that are constantly being made by your Bell Telephone Company to give you the finest telephone service in the world.

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

SHOW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central Kansas Antique Telephone Show

April 20, 2013
Sterl Hall
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☎

Southern California Telephone Show

June 1, 2013. Hours are from 8:00 AM to noon. Setup starts at 7:30 AM (Table holders only)
Placentia Presbyterian Church
849 N Bradford
Placentia, CA
8:00 AM to Noon
Admission $2 - Tables $10
Payable in Advance
Show hosts: Gary Goff & Remco Enthoven
Mail table fee to: G.Goff, 3805 Spurr Cr, Brea, CA 92823
There will be a silent auction at 11:30 AM so bring those items you would like to donate to the clubs or sell for your own benefit. For more information, contact Gary at 714 528-3561.

☎

TCI Annual Spring Show

June 7 - 8, 2013,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

TCI Annual Labor Day Show

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Erlanger, Kentucky

BUY / SELL / TRADE

FOR SALE

Continued from page 10.

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mvtel@verizon.net

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Sturgis MI 49091

.....

W E Phones Wanted:
#10 Candlestick Nickel Finish marked "10" on the perch.
#10 Candlestick Black with Unmarked Perch.
#22 with a Marked or Unmarked Perch, Black or Nickel Finish
#140 AL non-dial stick.

302	1936
302	1st quarter of 1937
302	1944
302	1954?
354	Dated 3-1954
500	Dated 3-1954

W E Candlestick Parts needed.
1-Beveled Transmitter either a *229* or 7 digit.
1-7 digit Transmitter
2-Black *229* Transmitters
1-Black *329* Transmitter
2-Black Transmitter Cups with solid lugs and hole for transmitter wire.
1-Transmitter Cup solid lug that screws to back of transmitter cup.
Lug that attaches the base to the stem on model 22 sticks
Also looking for glass or porcelain mouthpieces and advertising attachments.

Mark Johnston
Weekday: 410-970-7067
Cell: 443-244-2825
mark4589@hotmail.com

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I'm looking for these W.E. items: AUTOVON Card Dialer cards, key for 19A or 23A lock, RED 680A Speakerphone transmitter, G4 handset with shoulder-rest in pink, gray, blue or turquoise, 259B KTU, 661 Card Dialer. Thanks!

David Friedman • (310) 837-3089
mommabirdie@netzero.net

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Turquoise handset and coil cord for W/E 500 telephone ... Transmitter cup for Kellogg candlestick telephone ... back end must be dent free. Either black or nickel ok.

Paul McFadden
singwires@aol.com • (847) 971 6568

TRADE

I have three Western Electric 500 sets in three of the discontinued colors - oxford gray, mahogany brown and Mediterranean blue - to trade for 8" "hubcap" signs that I don't have.

Chuck Hensley • 510-339-1758
cihensley@aol.com

REPAIR

I repair ALL payphone locks. All Ace tubular cam locks and keys repaired and cut. Hard to find key blanks. Northern, Western, and Automatic Payphone lock and keys.

Jody Haralson • Cell: (626) 219-4006
Home: (626) 692-9161
haralsonlock@aol.com

Singing Wires continues on-line in the Bonus Pages. Download them from your Member Area.