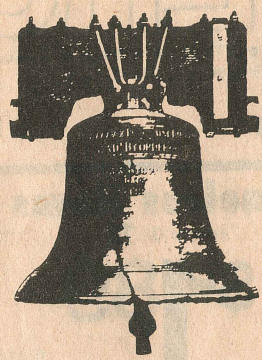
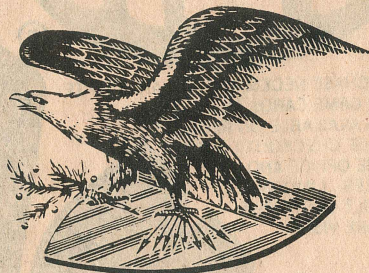


MADRID

AREA



BICENTENNIAL



1776-1976

"Remembrances of Days Gone By"

Madrid Telephone Service Dates Back to 1893

Editor's Note: The following information was taken from a 1962 issue of the Madrid Register-News.

Madrid's first telephone was installed in the year 1893. J. P. A. Anderson, was the first manager of the telephone company, which also had an ice house in the building. This too was owned and operated by Mr. Anderson. Annually, the ice company, as it was known, supplied between 700-800 tons of ice per year to the residents.

The Peoples Telephone Co. was incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa, June 1901 in Madrid. In 1906 this company moved from the Anderson Mercantile building, once used as a feed and flour house.

Telephones at this time were run by means of a switchboard and operator and this continued to be the practice until 1962 when the direct dial system came to Madrid.

Alice B. Peelstrom was an early switch board operator and she recalled many remembrances in an article that appeared in the Register-News several years ago.

Her memory of a telephone office in Madrid dated back to 1898 when she was eight years old and a telephone operator, Miss Bell Todd along with her mother came to Madrid to work. They roomed with the Peelstroms until they could find a home. They located one later, that of Mrs. Chris Dyer.

One Sunday afternoon during that same year, Miss Todd took Alice with her to the telephone office while she worked. Service at this time to the public was for two hours only. She allowed Alice to talk on the switchboard to a friend of hers, Helen Hopkins, now deceased. The telephone number was 10.

In 1906, J. P. A. Anderson who was the manager of the telephone company, inquired of Alice's parents if she could take the night work during her high school years, 1906 through 1908. The request was granted and she became the first girl operator to work nights until 1908. No service was given after 10 p.m. except in the case of an emergency.

Law Practice Began in 1881

There were no lawyers in Madrid prior to 1881, but the town has always had a justice of the peace. Phillip Snyder, of Snyder Point, Dallas County, practiced law before the justices of the peace in the early days. His wife did his reading and writing as he was unable to do either.

Some time in 1857, Dr. Wood sued a man named Bailey for an unpaid bill. Bailey was a citizen of Dallas County and the suit was brought before Squire Holcraft in Madrid. He filed counter claims against Dr. Wood and then sought Snyder to act in his defense.

Snyder told his wife to get the code and read the law defining the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace. The section read as follows: "No process can go from a justice of the peace from one county to another, except upon written contract to pay money in the township and county where the justice resides."

This is the law he was hoping to find. He ordered his wife to copy on a piece of paper, the page number and section of the law.

This being done, he put the slip of paper in his vest

Day operators working at this same time were Emma Hull and Emma Walrath.

Upon graduation in May 1908, Alice had a choice of teaching school or continuing with the telephone company with the latter being chosen. She spent four more years as night operator with the two Emmas working the day shift. Seven and one-half years those three ladies worked together.

While night operator, Alice assisted in the bookkeeping for the telephone company during her spare time. She also relieved the day operators and assisted in collecting telephone rentals.

Emma Hull moved to Granger with her parents in July 1912 and Alice took her place to work with Emma Walrath, who later resigned on September 5, 1912 to marry Charles A. Berg, a local tailor of Madrid. This then made Alice the chief operator, assisted by Edith Bowen until her marriage about four years later.

Her sister, Esther Peelstrom assisted from 1916 until Alice left the phone company, February 1, 1918 and went to work for the Milwaukee depot.

It was in 1953 that the United Telephone Company began serving the Madrid area. Before that time, the company was known as the Iowa State Telephone Company. Local direct dial service went into effect on Monday evening, October 29.

Workmen began pouring the concrete footings for a new building, on the vacant lot just south of the building that had been the home of the telephone company for many years. Between March and October, the construction continued steadily until completion day.

Changing all rural lines and making the necessary dial changeovers in the city was a time consuming operation. It was first thought the service would be available on Oct. 8, but a 3-week delay was necessary to complete the task.

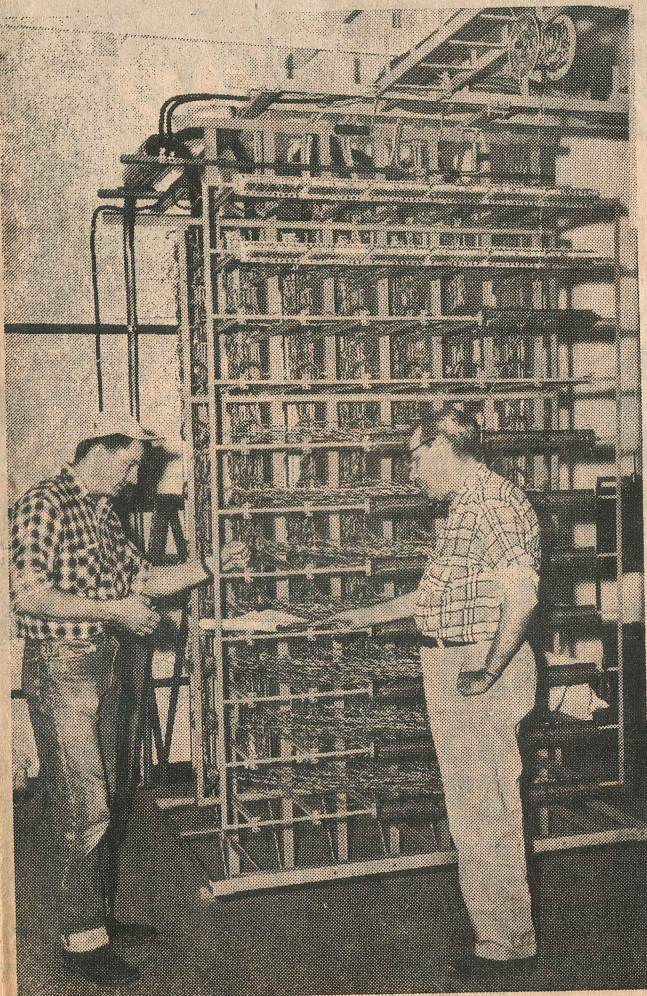
The following statement appeared in the paper explaining the procedure. "When the changeover takes place there will be no noticeable interruption. If parties are talking at the time, there will scarcely be a

pocket and on the morning of the trial, he arrived at the justice's office just as the case was being called. The court asked him if he was ready for trial. "No sir," said Snyder. "But I wish the court to enter in the docket this motion: 'That the pending case be dismissed because the court has no legal jurisdiction to try it.'"

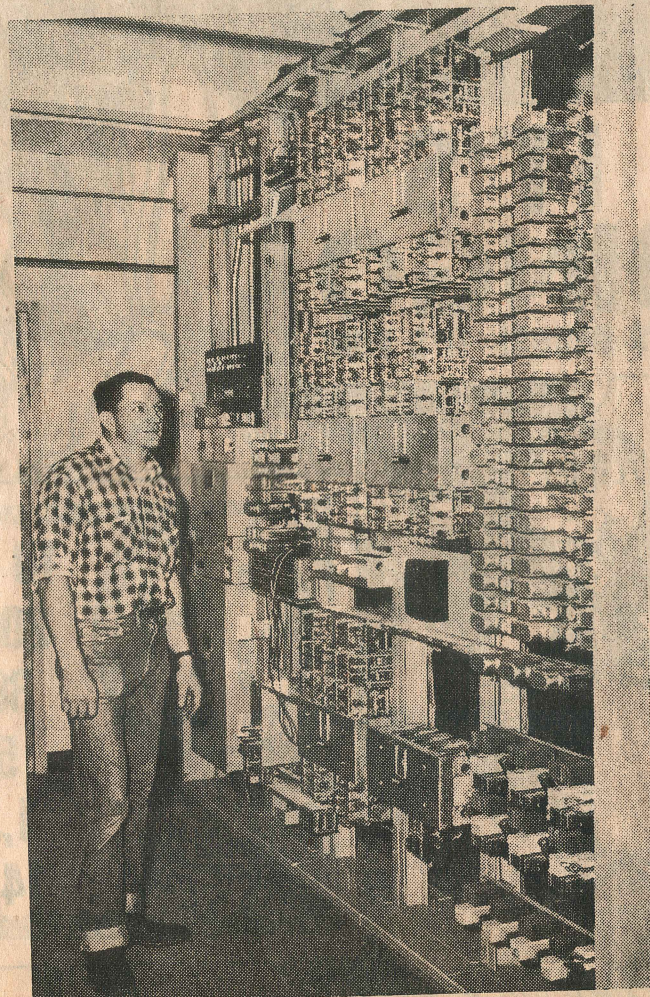
The justice asked him upon what he based his motion. Taking the slip of paper from his pocket, Mr. Snyder handed it to the court saying: "Read the section referred to on this piece of paper." Finding his reasoning correct, the motion was sustained and the case dismissed.

R. B. Likes was the first lawyer to locate in Madrid, in 1881. Although he had a considerable practice, he had no office, other than the one in his home. He remained less than two year before moving to Kansas.

Madrid's second lawyer was Charles G. Moberg. Like Mr. Likes, he too did not have a regular office, other than the one in his home. He remained in Madrid for a relatively short time before moving to Boone to



Don Meier, left, and Don Lewis of Newton, equipment man, are shown hooking into the main cable of the distributing frame. Note the many many small wires yet to be hooked up.



Don Meier, district manager of the local telephone company stands back of the long distance circuit panel. There are approximately 17 long-distance lines to Des Moines, for instance.

moment's hesitation and the person talking may not realize the change took place during the course of the conversation."

In making calls, the patrons no longer heard the familiar "Number please", but there was a dial tone audible when the receiver was removed.

The new telephone system, according to the article, was as nearly free from the possibility of service interruption as any equipment could be. The article also said that in one area of the newly constructed building

continue his practice. He was the first Swedish lawyer in the county.

A. K. Webb came in 1882. He was the first lawyer to open an office in Madrid and furnish it with a law library. Webb had the misfortune of falling into the disfavor of some of the local citizens, and he eventually paid the price. One evening while he was out of town, a group of displeased citizens banded together, pulled down his law office and destroyed the law library. Mr. Webb left the area shortly after, moving to Kansas, but eventually moved back to Iowa and H. W. Hull came to Madrid in the year 1901.

Attorneys M. C. Creighton and H. W. Hull came to Madrid in the year 1901. Creighton's health failed him a few years after his arrival, forcing him to go west, where he died a short time later. Hull, too suffered from poor health and he practiced here about ten years.

For many years, C. J. Cederquist was the only lawyer in Madrid, coming here in 1910 from Boone, after holding the office of county attorney for two terms.

In November of 1948, Glenn Allen, an August graduate of the University of Iowa, joined Cederquist as his associate. Their offices were located over the City State Bank which was then located in the United Mutual building.

In 1955 Mr. Allen purchased the building that housed

there was power supply equipment. There were two rows of storage batteries that could take over the entire load for several hours should the electric current be interrupted. There was also a standby generator installed should it ever be needed. In any event of interruption, the proximity of the headquarters at Newton, should make it possible to have everything back in order in probably less than two hours.

the Perrier Food Market and remains in this building today.

As mentioned previously, Mr. Allen was an associate of Cederquist's when he first began in Madrid. Shortly after, they entered a partnership and in later years, Allen took over the business and hired Cederquist as his employee sometime in the late 1950's. He was given his own office and his name still appears on that door.

Glenn stated that Walter Anderson contacted him while he was still in Iowa City and asked him to come back to Madrid and set up his business.

"I was a former principal and teacher in Madrid before entering law school," he said. "I knew the town and community so I decided to come back." He purchased a home following his graduation and he and his family still live in it today.

Cederquist, a graduate of the Des Moines College of Law, now a part of Drake University, died in 1958.

Mrs. Pat Cronk is the only full-time employee serving as personal secretary. During income tax time, part-time help is employed.

"Lawyers are quite important in any town, particularly in one the size of Madrid," he said. "As a rule in any town, the lawyer lubricates the wheels of commerce and keeps problems from interfering. They keep the fabric of the community intact and in proper working order."

THE MADRID REGISTER-NEWS
Thursday, June 10, 1976

Luther Bicentennial Celebration Saturday, June 19

The Luther Bicentennial Celebration will be held Saturday, June 19. Members of the parade will assemble at the old bus barn at 9:30 a.m. All volunteers for the parade are welcome.

The Bicentennial flag will be presented at the town hall at 10 a.m. by State Senator Jack Nystrom. Recognition will be made for the beginning of IOOF Lodge 677, and a plaque will be dedicated to honor Clark Luther and all pioneers of this community. The United Community Choral Reading group will also be giving their presentation. Former Superintendent E. E. Andrews will be Master of Ceremonies. Following the presentation, the parade will continue to the churches where special services will be held.

There will be exhibits on display at the town hall and also at the Christian and Methodist churches.

There will be activities throughout the afternoon, including a softball game at 2:30 p.m.

For any further information please contact one of the members of the Bicentennial committee: Mrs. Larry Bishop, 795-3281; Joyce Isabell, 795-2354 and Audrey McVay (Chairman), 795-2064.

Adel Rotary Club is sponsoring a project for exterior lighting for the Dallas County Courthouse. The purpose is to set forth the beauty of one of the finest examples of French architecture in the United States.

Twin Club Convention June 19 in Cedar Rapids

The Hawkeye Twin Club of Iowa Inc. is holding their State Convention at the Montrose Hotel 223 3rd Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids on Saturday, June 19.

All of multiple birth along with their families are invited to participate. Contests for most identical and most unlike in various age groups, oldest and youngest twins present as well as mixed sets. Ribbons for all winners, luncheon and banquet followed by a Twin Talent Show.

All twins are eligible to enter.