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An Operator's Honey-Dipped Voice Makes Telephoning A Real Pleasure



TYPICAL SCENE — This is a portion of the "board" at Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company where friendly operator keeps a watchful eye to insure expediency in long distance calls.

BY AL HARRISON

A ringing bell gives notice that a message is about to be transmitted.

It can be an important business message, words from a close friend passing through town, or just a wrong number call.

At any rate the tingling sound is one of a modern convenience—the telephone.

It has in recent years removed itself from the "luxury" list and become one of the necessities of life.

Those who have phones in their homes or places of business are affectionately called "subscribers" in phone company terminology.

Only recently the cost of this necessity was increased in this area serviced by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company.

The increase brought about normal reactions from few of the 150,000 subscribers. But like all reactions to increased cost of living it soon dissipated itself. Only a few subscribers called it quits.

Using the telephone is a simple operation. One merely selects the number, flips the dial and within seconds the conversation is underway.

But step behind the scenes and the simplicity is lost in a mesh of wires, transmitters and thousands of small electronic gadgets. This is the actual mechanical setup that makes possible the conversation between two people located at points that may be several thousand miles apart.

Probably the people most closely associated with the "subscriber" would be the group of honey-voiced, calm and collected young women who serve as long-distance telephone operators. The dial system has made the local operator obsolete.

Seldom is urgency detected in their voices. Even when an emergency arises the operator remains that cool, calm, honey-dipped voice that gives confidence to the caller.

In situations that would stir the normal person to anger and result in a verbal discharge there remains the pleasant operator who minds her manners. She is the public representative who links the company with the subscriber.

But she is not without her problems. Although she calls them "minor" ones. Take for instance when an inebriated soul who has painted the town as far as the paint would go and longs to hear the sound of a friend's voice. The friend might reside in San Francisco and the caller might be armed only with the name and city he lifts the phone from its cradle and dials "O" which is standard for securing services from the long distance operator.

From this point on it might resemble a comedy of errors. While the operator might tire of this ordeal and have great desire to mutter "get lost" she must by company rules and her love for the service she is rendering be keenly aware of etiquette, tolerance and friendliness.

The operator handles the inebriate with patience possessed only by telephone operators and school teachers. Sooner or later, and probably sooner than one ordinarily expects, the call will be completed. What earlier looked like a comedy of errors was really a trial and error method that usually gets results.

But a point to remember is that the caller can always find service quicker when he is able to provide the operator with the name and phone number of the person he desires to reach in another city.

And there is a reason for this expediency when armed with the desired number. You pick up your phone and dial "O". A light flashes on one of the boards manned by an operator. She plugs in the jack which she holds in her hand anticipating a flash on the board. She simply responds — "Operator" and the call is underway. You give her the name of the desired party, the city, and if possible the number. She puts the call into motion. Only after she gets into motion does she ask you for your number. This movement alone saves time.

After your desired party is on the line the operator advises you of this and an electric clock stamps the time on a small card. When your call is completed the light again flashes on the board to indicate the call having been completed.

November, 1956, reckless driving and assault with a deadly weapon.

December, 1956, possession of non-tax paid whiskey, disorderly conduct, hit and run and public drunkenness.

May, 1957, assault with a deadly weapon (a knife), affray.

June, 1957, possession of non-tax paid whiskey.

September, 1957, carrying concealed weapon (pistol).

March, 1958, disorderly conduct and public drunkenness.

June, 1958, carrying a concealed weapon, public drunkenness.

August, 1958, possession of non-tax paid whiskey, public drunkenness.

Lawson told the court that he had never served any time for any of the offenses.

Local Teachers Win Farm Merit Award

S. L. Jackson and F. E. Lay, vocational agricultural teachers at Tabor High School, have been honored as recipients of a national Farm Merit Award from the Thor Research Center for Better Farm Living, non-profit agricultural research organization headquarters at Marengo, Ill.

The national Farm Merit Awards recently were established to honor persons making exceptional contributions to agriculture, including the training of the farmers of tomorrow in rural mechanics and electrification and the development of new methods and techniques for the farm.

Neil C. Hurley, Jr., founder of the Thor Research Center, said the awards will be made on a continuing basis, with the selection committee already considering other nominees in a variety of agricultural fields. Award recipients are being selected from the nation's farmers and ranchers, those active in agricultural communications media, educators, and other leaders.

Vocational agricultural teachers are chosen for the national Farm Merit Award on the basis of their students' achievement in farm youth activities and on the teachers' overall contribution to the training of future farmers.

The Thor Research Center for Better Farm Living, founded in 1956, has been active in the study of ways to improve today's farms. Working with agricultural leaders in all areas, the Center has developed new equipment and new workshop, maintenance, and repair ideas being put into effect by many farmers and educators throughout the country.

Church Of God Plans Mission Observance

The local Church of God will sell home made cakes Saturday in observance of Mission week announced the Rev. Joseph Chambers, pastor. Cakes of all kinds will be available including chocolate, pineapple and coconut. The price is set at \$2.00 per cake.

Cub Scout Pack Slates Meeting

Cub Scout Pack, Number 508 will meet at the Saint Paul Methodist Church Friday at 8 p. m. announced James Cox, cubmaster.

COMPLETES COURSE

Mrs. Elizabeth Fowler, formerly of Tabor City, has completed a Cosmetology Course at the Charles Beauty School in Newport News, Va. She is presently employed in the Charles Beauty Salon, Newport News.

Yam Market Closes; Price Average \$2.99

The Tabor City Marketing Company here closed the 1958 auction season Saturday, November 15, with a total volume of Carolina yams recorded at 94,535 bushels. Ed Walden, secretary, said today.

The marketing company paid out a total of \$282,997.60 to growers, an average price of \$2.99 per bushel.

The best price in the year was paid here in a number of years, the volume is considerably off. The local market sold 184,000 bushels in 1957 and that was a loss from previous seasons.

However, growers and brokers alike expressed the belief that the quality generally was the best in the last four or five years and that ideal weather conditions have prevailed throughout the harvesting season.

Some potatoes are still in the ground and not hurting from the summer-like weather. These will be sold by growers directly to buyers on the local market now that the auction has officially closed for the season. A considerable volume has passed from grower to buyer already this season and is not reflected in the marketing company figures.

Thanksgiving Service

Annual Thanksgiving Services will be held in the Tabor City Baptist Church on Thanksgiving morning at 8:30. All the churches in the community are to participate and choirs from other churches are now rehearsing with the Baptist choir.

The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Bob Ledbetter, pastor of the Tabor City Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. P. E. Layfield, pastor of the St. Paul Methodist Church will offer the Thanksgiving prayer. The Rev. J. P. Jones, pastor of the Emmanuel Holiness Church, will give the benediction. Prayer will also be offered by the Rev. Joseph Chambers, pastor of the Tabor City Church of God.

Lawson Found Guilty On Bus Window Breaking Charges

A Tabor City man, Keith Lawson, 26, was found guilty last week in Recorder's Court on charges of throwing a rock through the window of the Chadbourne School activity bus following the Chadbourne - Tabor City football game played here at Civitan Field.

Three youngsters, all under 12 years of age, testified that Lawson threw the rock through the bus window. The incident occurred following the game.

Judge Sankey Robinson pronounced an 18 months road sentence suspended upon payment of court cost plus \$63.86 to replace the window. He also ordered that Lawson not violate any criminal laws for a period of two years.

Policeman Ted Watts read a list of law violations filed against Lawson in the past few years.



ANOTHER TROPHY — W. Horace Carter, editor and publisher of the Tabor City Tribune and the Loris Sentinel, holds the unusual looking trophy presented to him Saturday night in Winston-Salem by the North Carolina Jaycees.

Carter Gets Trophy At State JC Meeting

Pulitzer Prize-winning editor W. Horace Carter of Tabor City was honored by North Carolina Jaycees Saturday night in Winston-Salem.

Named one of the nation's leading young men in 1953, Saturday he was honored with the presentation of a Ten Outstanding Young Men of America trophy.

The presentation was the highlight of a banquet in connection with the Second Quarter Board meeting of the state organization.

Over 700 Jaycees from North Carolina attended the two-day session which ended Saturday.

Long active in community affairs, Mr. Carter in 1952 became the first weekly newspaper editor to receive the Pulitzer Prize for meritorious public service.

His honors have been many and in 1953 he was named one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Men" of America by the United States Jaycees.

The trophy he received here is for that honor.

Among his 1952 awards were Certificate of Honor by the Eastern North Carolina Press Association, Resolution of Commendation by North Carolina Editorial Writers Association, Award of Honor by the North Carolina Press Association, first annual B'nai B'rith Award by Anti-Defamation League, and Sidney Hillman Award.

The following year, in addition to his national recognition by the Jaycees, Mr. Carter received the Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina Jaycees.

He also received the 1953-54 "Citizenship Award" from the North Carolina District of Civitan International.

In 1954, he received the "Citizenship Award" from the Albemarle Civitan Club and the President's "Award of Merit" from the National Editorial Association.

Last year the Tabor City Jaycees presented him the Distinguished Service Award.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Mr. Carter was a member of the Golden Fleece, Order of the Grail, Kappa Alpha Fraternity, and editor of the college newspaper.

Sandy Plains Gets Top Prize For Progress

Sandy Plains, a progressive community in the Tabor City section of Columbus county, five through seven were presented by Tally Eddings, executive-secretary of the Tabor City Merchants Association.

The community with the highest percentage of 4-H club members completing projects with records was won by Sandy Plains. White Marsh was second and North Whiteville third.

The community with greatest number of FFA and FHA club members completing projects with records was also won by Sandy Plains. White Marsh again took second and North Whiteville third.

The award for the community with the highest percentage of project participation was won by White Marsh. Sandy Plains was second and Bethel third.

Inducement awards number eight, nine and ten were presented by Earl Edmunds, secretary of the Chadbourne Merchants Association.

The community with the highest percentage of participation in other organizations was White Marsh. North Whiteville was second and Western Prong third.

Sandy Plains won the health, safety and sanitation first prize. White Marsh took second and Western Prong third.

Western Prong won the prize for the most 100 bushel corn club members. White Marsh was second and Sandy Plains third.

Recreation prizes were presented by County Agent Charlie Raper. The men's horseshoe tournament was won by White Marsh-Red Hill. The runner up was North Whiteville.

The women's horseshoe prize was won by Bethel and White Marsh was runner up.

North Whiteville won first place and Sandy Plains second in the quartet singing contest.

John Fox, chairman of the SENCLand Development Association's Community Development division, was the main speaker.

J. A. Glazener, program planning specialist with N. C. State College, presented the attendance prize to the White Marsh-Red Hill community. Mr. Glazener has done a great deal of the work that has resulted in the organization of the seven Columbus communities.

A picnic supper was enjoyed by some 400 people in attendance.

Yam Association Studying Program

Howard R. Corbett, president of the North Carolina Yam Association, has asked for ideas, thoughts and suggestions from fertilizer companies and the State Department of Agriculture as the organization steps up its move to promote the Carolina yam.

"We also need the help of the newspapers, radios, televisions, and merchants associations to help us do this job of promoting the Carolina yam," President Corbett said.

"In planning next year's crop, I believe the first matter of importance is seed selection and preparation of the beds. In this connection, I am going to ask the dealers of our association to offer to run any grower's seed over his grading belts without charge. This should enable the dealer to insure better seed selection and at the same time, if his seed are not good enough, try to refer the grower to better seed," Mr. Corbett said in a letter to Henry Covington, of the N. C. Dept. of Agriculture.

"I also think that we have been bedding too few seed for the desired acreage," he said. Mr. Corbett has also emphasized the need for specific insecticides, fertilizers and soil treatment for the Carolina yam growers. He has pointed out that while some sections have wonderful soil and are bothered very little with insect infestation, others have a greater problem in this respect.

Methodist Drive To Be Successful

A drive by local Methodists to raise \$12,800 for the Methodist Conference \$5 million Campaign for Higher Education is on the verge of success.

Frank Nesmith, chairman, said this morning that a total of \$9,900 had been pledged by local residents. Several pledge teams had not reported and it was hoped that their reports would push the total closer to the king-size goal.

Pledging is done over a three-year period. The fund will build two colleges, one in Fayetteville and one in Rocky Mount.

"We are confident that the goal will be reached. The response from local residents has been very gratifying and with their continued interest and cooperation we hope to report a successful campaign," said Nesmith.

The drive will be concluded on Friday.

BACK IN SCHOOL

Ila Gray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Phipps, is back in school after being out for a month on account of illness.

FAYETTEVILLE VISITOR

Alden H. Leonard of Fayetteville is returning to Fayetteville today following a visit with his mother, Mrs. Walter Leonard, and aunt, Mrs. Lillie Robinson.

Rex Stephens, student at Mars Hill College, was home for the week end.