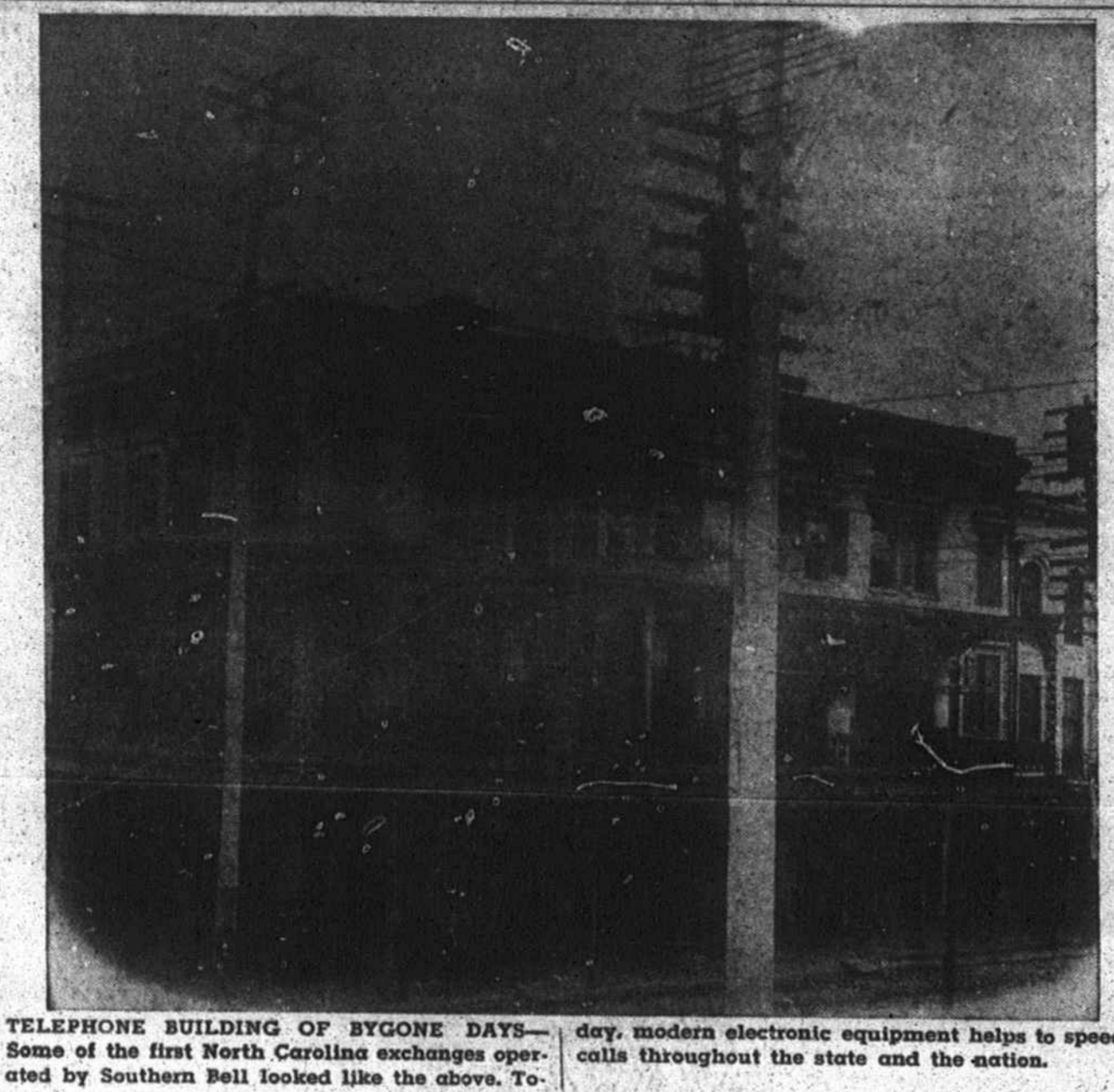




CITY AUTO & HOME SUPPLY

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TELEPHONE BUILDING OF BYGONE DAYS—Some of the first North Carolina exchanges operated by Southern Bell looked like the above. Today, modern electronic equipment helps to speed calls throughout the state and the nation.

Southern Bell Has 75th Birthday; Service Began Here Around 1900

The Southern Bell Telephone Company, which serves Kings Mountain and 1,040 other exchanges in North Carolina and eight other southern states Monday observed its 75th anniversary of service to the South. The Company was founded on December 23, 1879, three years after Alexander Graham Bell had obtained a patent for the telephone he invented.

According to the best information available, the first telephone installation in Kings Mountain was around the turn of the century. The growth in stations since that time has been gradual. In 1938, 397 telephones were in service and the growth had increased to 897 in 1947 and at the present time there are 2375 being served out of the Kings Mountain exchange.

Kings Mountain's first telephone company was a locally-owned corporation. It was acquired by Southern Bell nine or ten years after its formation and, one original stockholder reports, resulted in a profit for the stockholders.

Southern Bell President Fred J. Turner of Atlanta noted the occasion as an opportunity to express gratitude to both telephone people and the public for their part in making telephone service what it is today.

Mr. Turner said: "Southern Bell marks this milestone as a tribute to the dynamic spirit of the South and the region's magnificent growth. Through the years the South has turned to the telephone more and more as an indispensable instrument of progress and we are proud to have a part in the region's growth and development. We salute the people who pioneered telephone communications here, those who have provided and improved them over three quarters of a century, and those whose confidence in our Company and reliance upon its service have made possible the ever-widening scope of its usefulness."

Southern Bell began operations with 1,246 telephones in 11 cities, including Wilmington and Raleigh, Charleston, S. C., Augusta and Savannah, Ga., and Mobile, Ala. The other five were in Virginia, not served now by Southern Bell.

In 1926, Southern Bell acquired the properties of the Cumberland Telephone Company which served exchanges in Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee. Southern Bell now serves those four states in addition to North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

By 1929 — its 50th birthday—Southern Bell had 1,600,000 telephones in operation. This was in sharp contrast to the situation in pioneer days when some small exchanges were closed for a period of time because "the novelty of the telephone had worn off."

At the end of World War Two, Southern Bell had 1,800,000 telephones in service. To meet the

New Term Begins At Gaston Tech On January 3rd

J. I. Mason, director of Gaston Technical Institute, has announced that winter term registrations will begin January 3rd. At that time students in automotive technology, electrical technology, and radio-TV technology will begin their winter term's studies.

Mr. Mason also announced that anyone interested in entering the school for the first time should register at this time. For new students, the school is offering expanding industries of North Carolina. The demand for Technicians far exceeds the available supply, and a successful graduate will have no difficulties obtaining a position. The technician puts to work engineering principles and practices. He maintains and services the various types of equipment pertaining to his field and serves as laboratory assistant for research and test engineers. Young men who are thinking of their future should look into this promising type of training.

Gaston Tech offers a program designed to train technicians for beginning courses in automotive, electrical and radio-TV technology. These courses will offer comprehensive training in the above fields with additional work in English, math and physics. Students entering the winter term will complete their work at the end of the summer term.

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