Light side to East Gippsland cutover

The blinking stand-offish customer pictured above was among a couple of hundred subscribers to benefit recently when a modern microwave automatic telephone system was cut over at Mallacoota (Vic.). The customer of course was the strikingly handsome pink granite Gabo Island lighthouse erected in the 1860's to protect Sydney-Melbourne shipping from the hazards of Victoria's rockbound eastern extremity. The photo shows the savage rocks which were tombstones of many vessels and from which the 48 metre high light and the staff accommodation was made. The wreck of the 768-ton SS Monumental City on May 15, 1853 was the prime influence in having a light on the 357 hectare Gabo Island, lying some 15 km off Mallacoota. Thirty-three people died in that disaster and they are remembered in a memorial on the island. The radio link between the lighthouse and the new Mallacoota automatic exchange replaces an early model radio system and before that a temperamental submarine cable and magneto equipment. Read about the Mallacoota cutover in pages 10-11.

TELECOM CREW'S BUSH FIRE SAVE

Swift action by Telecom crews working on the Ceduna-Brisbane outback co-axial cable link helped contain what could have been a major bushfire near Dubbo NSW in mid-January.

$200,000, worth of D9 tractor was thrown into a race against time with a fire in the Goonoo State Forest about 25 miles east of Dubbo.

Foresty officials said that without the assistance of the Telecom crews the fire could have become a major conflagration, destroying thousands of acres of forest.

The fire, which burned out about 300 acres of forest, could have threatened an area of 150,000 acres.

Senior Lines Officer for Telecom (Mr. Dennis Pollard) said his crew spotted the fire while laying cable about three miles from the centre of the blaze.

"We immediatelv

● **Continued on Page 2**

Telecom's powerful D9 tractor ploughs its way through typically dense scrub of the Goonoo State Forest. Our co-axial cable is routed through the centre of the forest.

Telecom

No. 38 February 1979

Correspondence to the Editor "Telecom"
Telecom Australia 199 William St Melbourne
Vic 3000 Telephone 630 6505

Automobile mobile telephones in two years

Telecom has firmed up on its plans to introduce a fully automatic mobile telephone service for local, STD and ISD telephone calls and the service is now planned to be introduced in Melbourne in the first half of 1981 and in Sydney later in that year.

TASSIE FIRST

TASMANIA has become the first State in Australia to provide total 000 emergency telephone number hookup.

The Minister for Emergency Services, Mr Miller said the number could now be used throughout the State, including Flinders and King Islands.

He said the 000 service, in addition to the regular emergency numbers, would greatly assist in dealing with emergency situations.

The State-wide hookup followed the request of Mr Miller that officers of the State Emergency Service, and representatives of the urban and rural fire authorities, Tasmania Police, ambulance service and Telecom, work to overcome problems associated with extending the service to all country subscribers.

In each case there will be a capacity to connect up to 4000 customers. It will be extended progressively to other capitals.

The introduction follows a world-wide investigation of the latest technology in mobile telephony and a growing demand by people on the move for access to the telephone network while travelling by car.

Similar systems have been introduced overseas. Australia at present has a limited mobile telephone system which is manually connected to the national network. Despite its limitations there is a waiting list of hundreds of people who wish to be connected to it.

The system chosen for Australia has been designed in Japan for NEC Australia Pty. Ltd. It will feature a push-button telephone, the design of which will incorporate features suggested by potential customers during a recent market survey made by Telecom.

Among the contractual details now being finalised is the requirement to manufacture as much of the system in Australia as is practicable. This is expected to be about 50%.

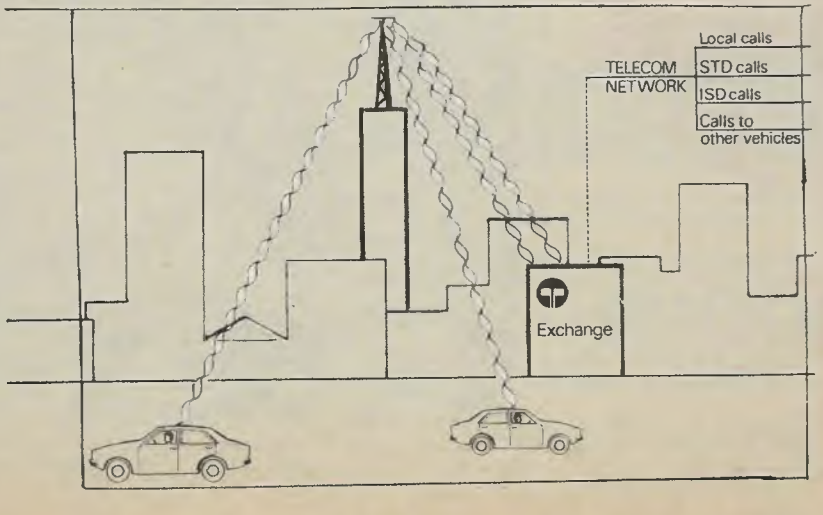
Telecom plans to handle the installation and maintenance of the system and associated equipment.

"This together with the local manufacture illustrates the way in which new technologies can provide new services and new job opportunities," Managing Director Jack Curtis said.

Charges for customers on the new system will be announced some months prior to the system's introduction. It will be a special service, Mr Curtis said, and as such it will be self-supporting.

Its introduction will not affect Telecom's capacity to meet the demand for other telephone services nor adversely affect the charges for such services.

Below is a simple schematic illustration of how the new system will work.



Senior UN man talks to Rotary

DICK BUTLER

Deputy Secretary-General ITU Dick Butler, most senior ranking Australian in the United Nations system of specialised agencies, snapped recently addressing Melbourne Rotay Club.

Dick is also an ITU representative in various co-ordinating bodies of the United Nations System, including Development Programme, Management in the International Civil Service, Information Systems and Chairman of the ITU (tripartite) Joint Staff Pension Committee.

Prior to his election in 1968 he occupied various managerial posts in the APO, including industrial relations, evolution of communication policies, domestic legislation, bilateral and multilateral agreements, international partnership investments and related telecommunication service issues.

BUSHFIRE SAVE

● Continued from Page 1

notified the foresty people and then moved the big D9 tractor off the job to help cut a break into the centre of the threatened area," he said.

At one stage the tractor had to be pulled back when a wind change brought the flames leaping towards the crew.

Dennis said the wind then changed and blew the flames back on the already burning part of the forest.

"Apart from $1 million worth of plant that was lying in the path of the fire we also have very expensive co-axial cable that is susceptible to very high temperatures," he said.

Acting Manager at Telecom, Dubbo (Mr Harold Downey) said Telecom crews were very concious of fire danger in the bush.

"They are constantly on the lookout for this type of thing and there are standing orders that all huts and equipment must have cleared areas around them. We have too much at stake" he said.

Forestry fire crews from Gilgandra and Goonoo State Forest eventually brought the blaze under control after Telecom equipment had cut a firebreak around the entire area.

The tractors had to battle through dense scrub in place to do this.

NSW State Manager Bill Schmidt has written to Dennis Pollard and his staff of the Construction Branch (Primary Works) commending them for their action.

We are indebted to the Dubbo Daily Liberal for details of Telecom's part in the Goonoo forest fire and for the photograph which appears on Page 1.

'OUR PRICES STAY PUT FOR 1979': CHAIRMAN

Telecom Australia planned to make important amendments to the zoning plan this year to provide greater access by country subscribers to a reasonable service centre at local call rates. Details are now being worked out.

Chairman Bob Somervaille said this in a New Year statement outlining Telecom's four-point plan for 1979:

- To continue its three year freeze on basic telephone charges right through 1979 at least. This means no increase in rental for a standard telephone service, connection fee, local call charge or telex rental. STD rates and telex call rates will be held at recently reduced levels.
- To further improve the availability and standards of service.
- To step up efforts to improve rural telephone services.
- To make use of increased efficiency through new technology and growth in business to absorb increases in wages and costs of goods and services which Telecom must buy.

MR SOMERVAILLE

Mr Somervaille said there would be few other goods or services available to the community on the basis of such long term stable prices.

In 1978 Telecom had initiated a program of cuts in telex call charges and STD charges including shorter distance day rates but with particular emphasis on low cost off-peak rates. These reduced rates are also available to people who have not yet got STD.

The off-peak cuts had been designed to obtain better network usage and thus greater economy in the use of Australia's large telecommunications system while giving Australians the advantage of lower priced services.

"It will take the best part of 12 months, to determine the full effect of these reductions, but I am hopeful it will then be possible to consider further reductions," Mr Somervaille said.

"We plan to speed up the connections of new telephone services although we will be faced with putting up 2000 new services a working day to meet customer demand.

"Telecom will push ahead with its program to give people in country areas full access to the national and international telephone networks as early as is practicable. This will include further installations of VHF concentrator radio equipment which is a modern and cost-effective method of connecting people in the outback to the network."

Mr W. L. (Len) Caudle (above) has been appointed Manager for Western Australia to succeed Mr H. G. Shaw, OBE, who retires this month.

Len Caudle is new WA head

Mr Caudle, who is 56, is at present Chief Operations Manager in WA, and has had a broad experience in telecommunications. After initial service as telegraph messenger and junior mechanic-in-training in NSW he was an engineer in Sydney and a divisional engineer at Newcastle.

In 1953 he was appointed to Western Australia as Divisional Engineer Central. He became Divisional Engineer North West Project in 1958 and then, in turn, Supervising Engineer, Planning; Supervising Engineer, Country Regional; Supervising Engineer, Metro Districts and Primary Works and, in 1965, Superintending Engineer, Plant Branch.

From 1966 until the establishment of the Commission in 1975 he was Assistant Director in charge of all engineering activities, and has many significant achievements to his credit.

He has been associated with most of the major projects designed to meet this State's communication requirements in the commerical, industrial and mining areas, and some years ago undertook a telecommunications feasibility study in Indonesia.

Mr Caudle, who has an Arts degree from the University of Sydney and is a Member of the Institution of Engineers (Australia) has had 40 years' service in three States with the APO and Telecom Australia, including 4 years with the RAAF in World War II. He is married with a son and a daughter.

He has served the Postal Institute as Divisional Councillor and as Postmaster - General's representative on Council and he was for a number of years an office bearer in the Professional Officers' Association.

He is an active member of the Perth Rifle Club and gained early experience in the Postal Institute Rifle Club in Adelaide. At Postal Institute interstate carnivals at Perth (1957), Hobart (1961) and Adelaide (1976) he was a member of WA's rifle team.

RETIRING MANAGER'S OBE

Harold George Shaw, Telecom Australia manager for WA since 1975 and previously WA Director Posts and Telegraphs 1973-75 was awarded the OBE for public service in the New Year Honors.

Mr Shaw was earlier in his career an educationist specialising in modern languages before he entered the public service in 1954 as an inspector of Postal legislation.

In 1955, he was appointed Superintendent, Postal Planning and in 1956 became Assistant Director P & T NSW, a post he held for the next 17 years before his transfer to WA.

At time of going to press, several functions were being planned to mark Mr Shaw's retirement.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS – BENTLEY

DISTRICT OPERATIONS HEADQUART

WA's 1979 LEAP FORWARD HAS BIG BUILDING PLANS

Telecom WA has announced plans to commence construction of three major buildings in this year's busy capital works program. Total cost of the buildings will be about $19m.

The buildings are the new Telecom State Head Office building and District Operations Headquarters for Perth North at Hamersley and Perth South at Bentley.

For many years the need has been recognised in Western Australia to centralise Head Office Administration for both functional and economic reasons. Prior to the establishment of separate Telecommunications and Postal Commissions, properties owned by the then Australian Post Office in the immediate vicinity of the G.P.O. in Forrest Place were reserved for the development of postal and administrative facilities.

Initially, a scheme to build on one of these properties, known as the Padbury Building site was considered, but this was rejected as the site area was poorly dimensioned and unsuited to the type of building proposed.

A proposal was developed to build over the northern end of Forrest Place; however, following the establishment of the Commissions, the Forrest Place plan was not proceeded with.

The proposal is to erect a multi storey administrative building in Stirling Street, Perth, at an estimated cost about $16 m. It has evolved from the need to centralise from the present scattered leased accommodation, for both operational and economic reasons.

The proposed building which comprises a ground and seven upper office floors and a rooftop plant area, will provide accommodation for the State Head Office staff which is estimated to number 1840 by 1997.

Over the past two decades increased demands for Telecommunications services have led to a dramatic increase in operational facilities and a corresponding increase in technical and administrative support staff. This, combined with the more recent decision to progressively vacate Postal Commission premises in the General Post Office has led to a number of leasing arrangements for Telecom administrative accommodation.

FRAGMENTATION

The location of suitable office space has been determined by the premises available for rental at the time of need. Accordingly, fragmentation of staff groups has occurred and staff of the State Head Office are now dispersed at eight separate locations in the city. This includes one Commission owned property at 99 Wellington Street.

Some of the leased accommodation is below accepted Commission standard and others are functionally unsatisfactory having floor space areas which necessitate Sections being spaced over different levels of a building thus destroying the required close working interrelationship.

The constant movement of personnel, files, and documents between dispersed buildings is inefficient and creates managerial and economic problems.

Consideration has been given to the transfer of staff to accommodation in one centrally located leased building, or alternatively to closely situated leased buildings. This has proved impracticable as there is no building available for lease or under construction which would cater for the area presently required, or cope with the growth factor. And there is no known proposal for a commercially owned building which would meet the required criteria.

In early discussions with the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority it was indicated that the only acceptable locations for an office building of the size proposed would be within the Perth Central Area bounded by the proposed ring roads, or alternatively at one of the growth centres of Joondalup, Fremantle, Rockingham, Armadale or Midland.

UNACCEPTABLE

Growth Centre options were considered to be unacceptable from both an administrative and staff viewpoint. In all cases, these locations are twenty or more kilometres from Perth city.

A factor which further supported the location of the site in the Central Business Area was the distribution pattern of Telecom Head Office staff residences which favored a city site.

General planning envisages a two stage building development to meet growth requirements. The initial building will meet needs for 15 years and be sited predominantly east/west between Stirling and Pier Streets. It will occupy approximately two thirds of the total site.

This is how the new state head office will look.

WA BUILDING PLANS — CTD

S – HAMERSLEY

The balance of the site would be reserved for the next stage of development in approximately 25 years.

When the initial building is completed and ready for occupancy early in 1982, the Head Office staff is expected to number approximately 1600, rising to the building's capacity of 1,840 by 1997.

Groups to be accommodated will include the following:

- **State Manager and personal Staff**
- **Engineering Department**
- **Finance and Accounting Department**
- **Supply Branch**
- **Personnel Department**
- **Customer Services Department**
- **Operations Department**
- **Information Systems Branch**

The building has been designed to incorporate staff amenities that will include a cafeteria with seating for 300, a functions room and recreation facilities.

HANDICAPPED

Provision will be made for handicapped staff in respect to access and amentities.

The target date for completion of the contract documents is May 1979. It is proposed to invite tenders in June 1979 and let the building contract in October 1979.

The construction of the building will require a minimum contract period of 24 months, and allowing for over-run in construction, completion should be achieved by April 1982.

DISTRICTS UPLIFT

Telecom Australia will spend an additional $2.9m on buildings at Hammersley and Bentley over the next 3 years as part of its continuing policy to provide efficient service to customers. As District Operations Headquarters, they will serve the telephone districts of Perth North and Perth South respectively.

The building of headquarters within operational districts with the provision of customer reception facilities, is an extension of the Telecom Business Office program. In each case they will house the District Telecom Manager and administrative staff together with customer services, sales, advisory, accounting, engineering and fault despatch personnel.

Siteworks have already begun on the Hamersley building which will be located in Balcatta Road, Hamersley, near Bendsten Place. To be known as the Hamersley Operations Headquarters and Operations Depot, the $1.8m construction contract will be let in early 1979.

6 HECTARES

The six hectare site will be developed in accordance with telecommunication requirements for the existing and developing areas in the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority North West Corridor.

The initial development comprising a complex of three integrated separate areas — an administration area with public access, a stores area with associated offices and an amenities area, will be single storey with provision for future extension of all areas.

The building will occupy an area of amost 4,000 square metres and on completion in early 1980, will accommodate approximately 360 staff.

On site parking for approximately 150 Commission vehicles will be provided in addition to suitable provision for the parking of staff private vehicles.

HQ BUILDING

Construction of a new headquarters building, which will serve Telecom's Southern Metropolitan Region, will commence in 1979. Costing $1.1m, the contract is also expected to be let early in the new year with completion by early 1980.

It will be constructed on Telecom property and will incorporate existing buildings. Of single storey design, it will house approximately 180 staff.

Proximity of the Ewing Street site to major commerical development in Victoria Park and adjoining suburbs, the Kewdale industrial area and ready access to the major arterial road, Leach Highway, makes it an ideal location for the district administration.

FAREWELL, RON McKAY

Ron McKay flanked by old friends John Elliott, left, and Jim Carroll. John is possibly the longest serving member of the API — 56 years membership. Jim and Ron have been great mates for more than 30 years.

More than 150 people representing all areas of both Telecom and Postal Commissions attended a farewell to Ron McKay who retired as General Manager of API Victorian Division recently due to ill-health.

Telecom Vic. State Manager Max Smith and Australia Post State Manager Ron Page described the work of Ron McKay as one of the main factors in the API phenomenal success story over the past decade.

Jim Carroll, Past President of the API, told of Ron's contribution, dedication and the inspiration he generated to those around him.

Ron McKay's foresight, application and devotion to establishing new API member services was responsible for the rapid growth of the Institute.

During his career with the API he introduced and nurtured such innovative services as API Travel and VPI Trading.

Developed in parallel with PICCOL he brought the API in Victoria from a social club status to a multi-million dollar organisation.

Ron's service was previously acknowledged when he was elected a life member of the API in 1977.

All Telecom staff wish to extend to Ron a very long and prosperous retirement.

Crowds at Mall Show

It's old news now but we didn't have space before for a most successful Telecom promotion held during the first week in November in Melbourne's Bourke Street Mall. Each day over 6,000 people visited the special Telecom caravans and domes which were fitted out with Telecom products and services.

The promotion concluded on Melbourne Cup Eve with the drawing of prizes for a competition based on the Melbourne Cup.

Ansett Airlines and Federal Pacific Hotels kindly donated a week's holiday at Tasmania's Wrest Point Casino as the major prize.

Prizes were drawn by leading Victorian jockeys Gary Willetts and Robert Heffernan, and the presentation was compered by Linda Kerridge, brought out to Melbourne from the USA by Channel 0 for the Cup Carnival.

The picture tells the success story — part of the huge lunchtime crowd who watched Linda Kerridge present the prizes.

Qantas Airways telephone booking and information service has been revolutionised with the recent cut-in of an automatic call distribution system at its Sydney reservation centre.

Telecom skills played a significant part in the evolution of the Australian designed and developed electronic stored program control system which has abolished customer hassle in even the heaviest volume of calls.

Telecom skills polished new Qantas reservation system

The system with its ordered distribution of calls to specific operational areas will greatly facilitate the rush of business anticipated with the dramatically lower overseas fares recently announced.

TO1 Peter Novy inserts a printed circuit board into the central magazine group watched by T02 Graham Stokes, left and Senior Engineer Ern Blamires.

The ASDP 162 ACD System as it is known was introduced to the Australian market by L.M. Ericsson who have been successful in securing substantial overseas orders for it in Sweden, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.

Telecom Australia has been involved over the past couple of years and have been able to suggest many improvements and changes.

Customer Networks Branch Senior Engineer Ivan Pasco was project controller and chairman of the Project Committee (Telecom and LME) and Working Party Committee (Telecom and Qantas.). Ivan was assisted by ST02 David Richardson.

Design Branch carried out exhaustive evaluation tests in the Melbourne Switching Laboratory and this work was led by Senior Engineer Dennis Bowdern assisted by ST02 Brian Hodge. Kevin Cody, Network Performance and Operations, established Telecom's maintenance responsibility.

Here are some closer details of the system and its operation:

The digital switch is congestionless and provides full availability for up to 500 operators and 500 trunks. Involved are 150 lines and 95 answering positions with 10 monitors and a system supervisor. The 150 lines are divided into 16 groups according to their origin or destination, the main group being 55 indial exchange lines.

The operators are divided into 10 functional groups with 57 operators allocated in two general reservation groups.

Incoming calls are received from the Telecom telephone network, Qantas House, Mascot and on distant exchange lines from Canberra, Newcastle and Wollongong. The ASDP 162 receives indial signals on all these lines to determine the required operator functional group based upon the number dialled by the caller.

Outgoing calls may be made to the local Telecom network and via the distant exchange services lines to Canberra, Newcastle and Wollongong. Calls may also be made to other Qantas areas, using tie lines to the Qantas House and Mascot PABX's.

The system is designed to allocate incoming calls to operators in strict order of arrival, subject to any requirement that priority be given to specific calls. Even distribution of operator work load is achieved by arranging for calls to be handled by the longest waiting operator.

In most cases no manual operation is required to accept or terminate an incoming Queue Call.

Overflow of traffic can be arranged from a busy primary operator group to up to three other groups with free operators where this is practical in operational terms.

Allocation of operator positions to functional groups is under the control of the system supervisor.

Status and statistics on total system performance, trunk groups, operator groups, individual trunks, individual operators, overflow configuration, operator to operator group allocations and other management information may be called up at any time. Hard copy of any reports may be initiated by the supervisor.

In addition the master supervisor has control of system configuration and system performance level by commands from the VDU keyboard. Only one master supervisor position may be provided in any system.

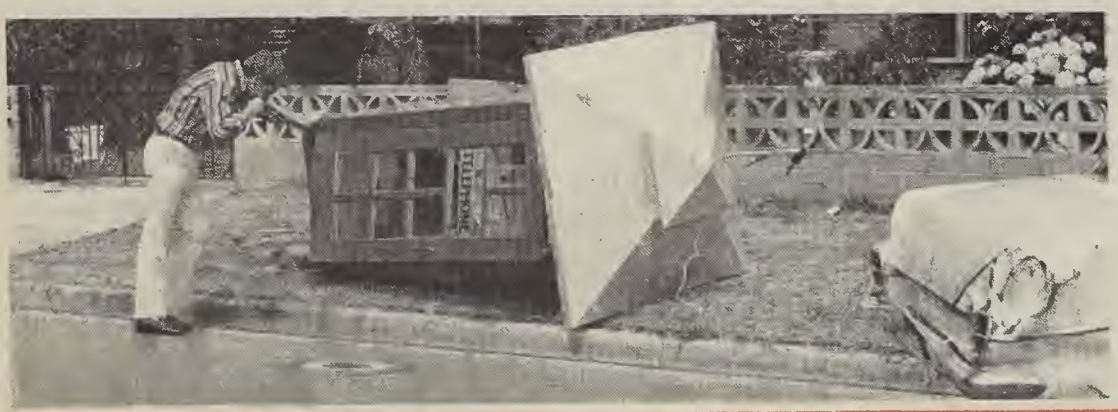
Maintenance is carried out by specially trained Telecom staff with L. M. Ericsson providing a substantial back up service.

Commissioner sees exchange

Commissioner Quartermaine showed great interest in the operations of the Melbourne International Exchange during his recent visit to Victoria. Here OIC International Mary Finnegan (Left) and Asst Manager MTX May Clapham describe the actions of Operator Kerry Glasson in getting an overseas number.

THERE'S A MESSAGE IN THEIR MADNESS

Above: Senior Constable Lawrie Harcus shows his displeasure with the result of a phone call by ripping the receiver from the instrument and hurling it into the box. Below: After an erratic course from a nearby hotel Senior Constable James-Martin "crashes" into the booth and "supports" himself as he surveys the scene afterwards.



As the accompanying photographs show, Telecom and the South Australian Police Force had a "smashing" time recently. But it was not a game and there was a serious message which hopefully will penetrate through the police force to the community.

The exercise, in a neat suburban street in Seaton in December, will finish up in the form of a visual academic challenge to police cadets in training at Fort Largs.

They will view a visual presentation of "law-breakers" and the results of their rampage and will detail the content as an exercise in observation and communication.

Telecom, mindful of the incidence and prevention of vandalism, co-operated by providing and positioning an old type public telephone booth and instrument and cleaning up and removing it afterwards.

The enactment by members of the force of acts of vandalism was realistic in all aspects and reflected situations more prevalent than most citizens realise.

Senior Constable, First Grade Bruce James - Martin, Instructor in the Service Training Branch, directed operations while the Telecom involvement was organised by A/g STO 1 Dennis Graney, Telecom No. 2 Workshops, Kidman Park.

First SA service awards presented

Forty-seven retired staff members representing a broad area of Telecom Australia activities were recipients of the first Service Awards presented in Adelaide in December.

Four of the 47 recipients of Telecom Australia Service Awards — the first presentation in South Australia to employees who completed 25 or more years service and who retired in the three years since Telecom began operating in 1975. Each of the above former employees had 50 years service. (L to R): Messrs. D. A. J. Eastaughffe, C. E. Geyer, H. A. R. Chaplin and M. W. Brown.

The presentations, made by the State Manager (Mr D. M. Coleman) at an afternoon social function in the BP House cafeteria, put into effect an endorsement by the Australian Telecommunications Commission of a submission by Telecom, agreed to by the Consultative Council that a Service Award be introduced.

He explained that only employees who retired in the period since the Commission began operation in July 1975 and who had 25 or more years satisfactory service with the Postmaster-General's Department and/or Telecom, were eligible for the Award.

Mr Coleman said recognition of long service was appreciated by employees, but there was a feeling that delaying tangible appreciation of a member's service until he retired lessened the significance of the award.

He congratulated the recipients at the initial Adelaide function and made special reference to four guests with 50 years service, Messrs. D. A. J. Eastaughffe, C. E. Geyer, H. A. R. Chaplin and M. W. Brown.

BARBECUE IN B AND W

Use of colored newspapers to light barbecues and indoor fires is advised against by some medical authorities because of the release of significant quantities of lead into the atmosphere. Ordinary black and white pages, they say, pose no health hazard. — K. HARRIS, Metro Primary Works, Sth. Melb.

Telecom shoots a line to

Telecom employees receive some very strange phone calls at times, but few stranger than that made by one Mr John Lawrie of Gidgegannup in Western Australia. Gidgegannup incidentally, is a small country town that the locals describe as being "just under 400 miles on the Perth side of Kalgoorlie." If you're still wondering where it is, it's less than 35 miles from the centre of Perth.

Mr Lawrie of that town telephoned Sandy McTaggart, the external plant manager for Perth North, asking if there was a possibility that a 108-year-old section of telegraph line might be handed over to the Town.

Said Sandy, "I thought he was pulling my leg. Who in the world would want a stretch of old telegraph line?"

John Lawrie, a Gidgegannup resident of some years standing, is used to having people questioning him. "They all think I'm a bit mad," said John. "The local Council thought I was mad when I asked them not bitumenise a section of dirt road beside the Gidgegannup showground.

"That road is part of the heritage of this State. It was used to transport convicts from Perth to the town of Newcastle as it was called then (now Toodyay), almost 150 years ago.

"To coat that road in a layer of bitumen would have been criminal, but the Council had never heard of anyone asking for a road not to be sealed."

Running beside that roadway was the telegraph line of which John wanted to save a section. John is a committee-man of the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society, but his particular interest is the history of his home town.

The old telegraph pole route had played an important role in the development of telecommunications in Western Australia. It was originally constructed by the W.A. Electromagnetic Telegraph Company in 1871 to carry telegraph messages between Perth and Newcastle.

TRANSFERRED TO COLONIAL PO

One year later, 1872, saw the transfer of the route to the Colonial Post Office. By 1882, those wires carried telegraph traffic as far north as Northampton, more than 500 kilometres from Perth, and over a 100 kilometres to the south.

By the turn of the century, telephones were becoming increasingly popular. The number of subscribers had increased from the 17 of December 1, 1887 when W.A.'s first Telephone exchange was opened, to 75 in 1889 and to 2,445 by 1900. In the following years the route was continuously upgraded to carry traffic to the State's wheatbelt towns.

During these years all telephone wires were carried by poles to the old GPO located at the corner of Barrack Street and St George's Terrace.

1930 introduced a new era to telecommunications when W.A. was at last connected by telephone to the Eastern States. The trunk line commenced in Victoria Park (suburban Perth), went through Midland, along the Perth Newcastle route through Gidgegannup and on to Northam, then to Kalgoorlie, across to Port Augusta and down to Adelaide.

FIRST PHONE CONVERSATION

On December 18, 1930, the first commercial telephone conversation over the "new" East-West telephone circuit was made.

The advent of trunk line communications saw this route also carrying circuits to all points north and east within the State. The areas served included the Kimberleys, Pilbara, Gascoyne, the north-east and eastern wheatbelts.

For almost 40 years development continued of the old pole route, running beside the convict road to Newcastle.

1968 saw the installation of the broadband microwave system to the Eastern States, but the pole route still played a vital role as a back-up system to the broadband.

DEATH KNELL OF ROUTE

1977, however, spelt the death knell of the route. In that year an underground cable was laid from Mundaring to Gidgegannup, and the old line, constructed more than a hundred years before, was of no further use.

Two years later, Telecom began uprooting the decaying poles and their unsightly wires and as the dismantling of the historic telegraph route neared its end, John Lawrie made his phone call to Sandy McTaggart.

John, speaking on behalf of the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society, wanted to see the section of route running beside the Gidgegannup Showgrounds, preserved for posterity. His society, under President John Lockwood, was prepared to accept responsibility for and maintain the line.

State Manager, Harold Shaw, agreed to the transfer of ownership and the transfer was prepared. It read: "The ownership of the 239 metre length of Aerial Telephone Line adjoining the Southern Boundary of the Gidgegannup Showground previously the property of Telecom Australia is herewith transferred to the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society." It was signed: "By the authority vested in me, H. G. Shaw, Manager for Western Australia."

It was decided to hand over the line to the society in a special presentation ceremony at Gidgegannup.

Lines instructor Len Dancer up a pole of the Gidgegannup route connects a field telephone for the last call over the historic line.

WA Manager Harold Shaw (R) officially hands over the 239 metres of line to Gidgegannup Agricultural Society President John Lockwood.

COMMISSIONER VISITS VIC.

Recently appointed Commissioner Clive Quartermaine late last year made his first official visit to Victorian administration. Here, he is being welcomed by Victorian Manager Max Smith. Mr Quartermaine inspected several Telecom installations in Melbourne including the MTX and International Exchanges. (See photo P.6.).

Gidgegannup with fun and GAMES

Lineman Bob Armstrong of Perth North's Midland Depot helps John Lockwood make that last call.

A Scotsman from way back, Sandy McTaggart saw the opportunity to combine the official ceremony with his plans for a Perth North Highland Games meeting.

On Sunday, November 5, Lines Instructor Len Dancer and Lineman Bob Armstrong, before a group of more than 150 Perth North workers, their families and Gidgegannup-ites, climbed two of the five remaining poles and connected temporary field telephones.

State Manager Harold Shaw put in a call over just six metres to Gidgegannup Agricultural Society President, John Lockwood.

That telephone call was the final call to be made on the old open wire route.

At the handing over, Mr Shaw said Telecom was pleased that the society had wanted to preserve part of the State's communications heritage and the Commission was happy to be associated with such a community project.

He then unveiled a plaque that had been set into a boulder beneath the remaining section to commemorate the occasion.

HIGHLAND FESTIVITIES

Then the festivities of a "Telecom-type" Highland Games commenced. Events included tossing the cable marker ... a Perth North variation of tossing the caber ... and rolling the cable reel (unlike any competition ever seen in any Highland Games prior to November 5, 1978 — another first for Perth North!) The tug-of-war, incidentally, saw both sides disqualified.

The winner of the Games had still not been determined at the time of publication.

Bill McGowan of Perth North Dianella TID tosses the cable marker. Some purists thought the thongs slightly out of keeping with the kilts.

Bottom right: Len Dancer, a busy figure at the line hand-over, Technical Instructor at Telecom Perth's Lines Training School, joined in 1948 as a telegram boy.

He later trained as a lineman and served in two country postings, at Carnamagh as a lineman and at Geraldton as an estimating foreman, before being appointed a Technical Instructor.

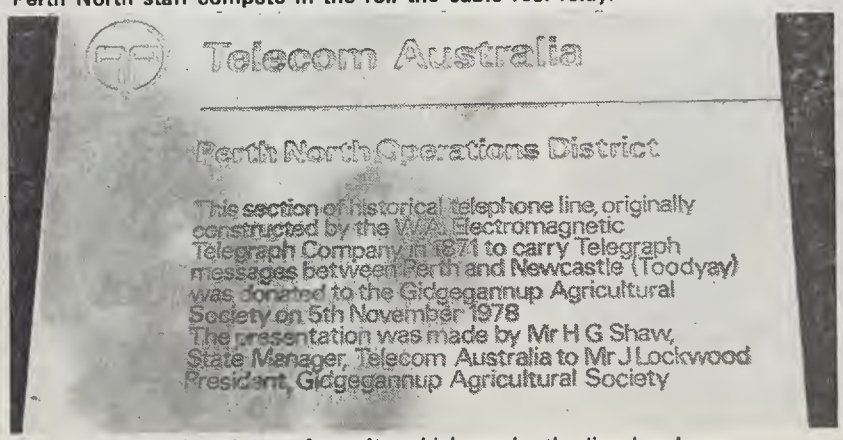
In 1969, Len left to join private enterprise but after 12 months he rejoined the PMG and it was a case of climbing through the ranks again from lineman to his old posting as a Technical Instructor.

Len's spare time is taken up with instructing in first aid with the St. John Ambulance Association and with fishing. He has an 18 foot in-board cabin cruiser that he has painstakingly rebuilt from a wreck that cost him $100 to a boat that is today worth several thousand dollars. He uses the boat for two purposes ... in Len's own words: "For cruising up the Swan to the vineyards and for fishing."

In the photo: Len tests the circuit before the last call.

Perth North staff compete in the roll the cable reel relay.

Perth North's Admin. Manager Peter Jackson plays a new role as master of ceremonies at the inaugural Highland games.



The plaque set in a lump of granite which marks the line hand-over.

Automation comes to paradise:

The Adams and Eves of that tranquil Garden of Eden known as Mallacoota, Vic. welcomed the automatic telephones and the microwave radio trunk system which came to them officially on December 6 last, but . . .

. . . they were very mindful that the serpent of progress had cost them a big penalty — loss of their friendly operators and the wonderful free information service provided by the old 230 line magneto exchange.

The 205 subscribers connected to the new 300 line ARK automatic exchange well know that it will provide them with an upgraded, surer and securer service, cut the cost of their business calls, put them in touch with all Australia through STD, even the world with ISD, BUT

It can't tell them where the district nurse is to be found at the moment, who's out diving for abalone (and who's not), where Plumbob's working (he's the plumber, of course) where's Cap'n Bumpover's workboat right now and like vital information.

The 700 citizens of the lake and bushland paradise which attracts 5000 visitors in season however are well alert to the major advantage of the telecommunications progress that has come to them . . . no longer will the tiny settlement be isolated, sometimes for days through bushfire ravaged aerial trunks or wires brought down in dozens of places by storm felled tree branches.

Now their words wing through the ether via repeaters on Maramingo Hill, Donald's Knob and Mt. Raymond to Orbost and continuity of service is practically absolute as there are two radio systems.

One of the more important beneficiaries of the upgraded service is the Gabo Island lighthouse, a key weather station. Here the radio system replaces an earlier radio system and before that a temperamental submarine cable running the eight miles from Mallacoota and Lightkeeper Graham Campbell's three-hourly weather reports to Meteorological headquarters in Melbourne are now a comparative pleasure instead of a sometimes frustrating chore.

It is hard to believe but it's true that the automatic telephone is the first experience of automation for many outlying Mallacoota and district residents and that dozens of our customers had never ever seen an automatic telephone let alone used one.

Some of them live on remote reaches of the lakes accessible only by boat, perhaps a 30 minute journey in a fast motorboat, or several hours through rugged forest tracks by four wheel drive. It can be necessary to loop into and out of NSW to get to some subscribers.

In these out of the way places, people live as they did 60 years ago. If they have electricity it is from their own generators, television is something "they" have down in the city . . . but now they have an automatic phone.

Sale District Customer Adviser Kath Foley and Travelling Supervisor Pam Whelan had the job of ensuring each subscriber's complete familiarity and satisfaction with their new equipment.

They contacted all 205 customers demonstrating the various tones and were mildly surprised to find that some elderly people were at first terrified of the automatic instrument and had considerable difficulty in mastering even the simple dialling technique. These folk received personal visits.

Now all are dialling away happily and the system has proved an enormous success. As one oldtimer said "It's got to be some improvement on the party line I used to share with six others."

Some of the main contributors to the successful cut-over were Radio Section people who provided the radio links to Gabo Island and into the trunk system, Engineering staff in Sale who designed the conduit and cabling, Construction Branch staff responsible for the new automatic exchange, ST01 Keith Murray of Orbost Exchange, Tech. Leo Morrissey who handled equipment testing, tradesman Dennis Luff who made all the instrument changeovers, line staff under David Scott who provided the new external cable network and of course Kath Foley and Pam Whelan.

Telecom acknowledges the assistance of the Department of Transport in making possible our visit to Gabo Is.

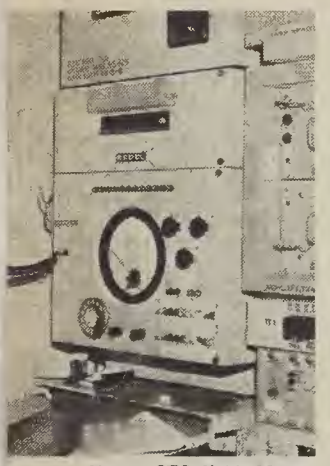
Pictures by Telecom photographer Les Smith.

Slatted antennae of the radio systems which connect to Orbost via Maramingo Hill, Donald's Knob and Mt Raymond. The new Mallacoota automatic exchange is bottom left.

Tech. Leo Morrissey testing new Mallacoota automatic exchange prior to cutover.

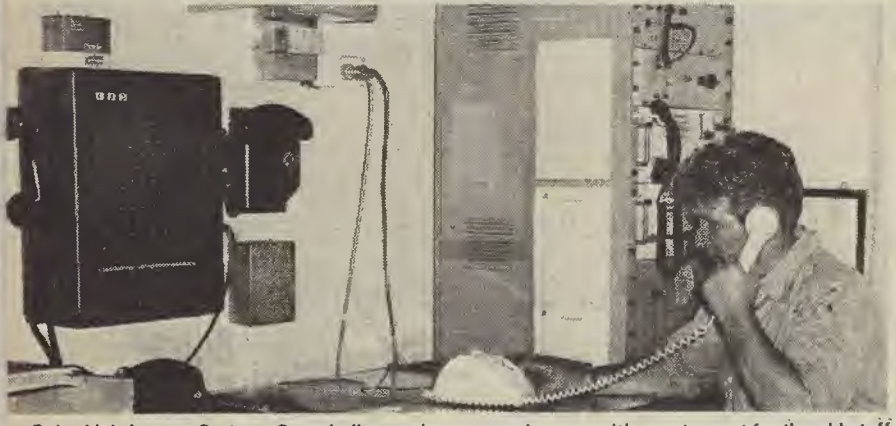
Sale District Service Adviser Kath Foley at a test console makes a round-up of all subs, checking on their new automatic equipment and how they are handling it. One of the best known Telecom personalities in East Gippsland, Kath is now a Sale City councillor having won the East Ward by the biggest majority ever recorded in Sale's municipal history. She began as a telephonist in Traralgon in 1950.

Mallacoota's dual upgrade



Above: STO Keith Murray of Orbost testing at the new Mallacoota automatic exchange. Keith thinks the Gabo Island lighthouse would make a great phone book cover. Right. In the dying hours of a highly personalised service, Ann Temme (nearest camera) and Denise Thorne man the old 230 line magneto switchboard in Mallacoota Post Office.

One of the Mallacoota system's far-flung subs — Mrs E. Hansen of Fairhaven welcomes installation of the automatic phone in the 100 year old home she has lived in for the past 31 years. Below the home and its creepered arch which is the jawbone of a whale.



Gabo Lightkeeper Graham Campbell uses the new equipment with scant regret for the old stuff on left. On his right is the emergency radio and mayday automatic alarm triggered by distress messages from ships. The equipment is so sensitive that a ship mishap near Hamburg, Germany got him out of bed in the early hours one morning. Now a dasansitising device restricts the siren warning to incidents in Australian waters.

As always a vital part in any such operation — the lineys. Here LS2 David Scott and linemen Gary Dorward and Glenn Bell work on a 100-pair openable joint in Mallacoota township. Those OJ's are pretty mod gear, the boys were quick to say.

One of the best known popular Telecom men in East Gippsland, Dennis Luff carried out all the instrument changeovers.

LEOPARD — Local Engineering and Operations Processing Analysing and Recording of Data — will be the first major application within Telecom where the power of the computer will be available on demand at the workface, to aid in day-to-day operations and to streamline and improve the standard of the repair service provided for customers.

LEOPARD SPOT-ON IN FAST FAULT REPAIR

This year the LEOPARD project becomes operational on a trial basis, firstly at Footscray Fault Despatch Centre (FDC) in Victoria and six months later at Bankstown Subscribers District Centre (SDC) in New South Wales. Comprehensive training has begun to ensure that all staff in relevant areas will be completely familiar with the system by their cutover date.

Stage 1 of LEOPARD will affect staff at Service Assistance Centres (1100) Fault Despatch Centres (FDC's) Subscribers District Centres (SDC) as well as those responsible for the field maintenance of customer telephones, public telephones, PABX's, Non-Exchange Services (NEX's) and External Plant. Later stages will cover the other areas of operations work such as lines records and provisioning.

LEOPARD will use the two computer centres of Telecom Australia's TACONET Computer Network, one in Melbourne serving Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, the other in Sydney serving New South Wales and Queensland.

Subscriber master cards will be replaced by a centralised computer file which will be kept up-to-date by input from Service Centres and Fault Despatch Centres. The system has been designed from the workface upwards to ensure that basic field requirements are catered for.

LEOPARD will assist all FDC staff including faultmen who visit customers' premises. They will be confident that they have up-to-date and accurate details of the customer's line and equipment and a complete picture of any individual customer's experience with their service.

Field recording and manual sorting of dockets for fault statistics will be eliminated. OIC's will have on tap, the information they need to balance work load, and minimise repair service delays.

Telecom Australia's ADP establishment has grown from a single computer to assist its Research activities in 1963, to the current establishment of an advanced general purpose computer network now called TACONET.

Our experience in developing large processing applications is evidenced by complex systems such as those established for Telephone Accounting and Directory Compilation.

Until now these developments have in the main employed batch processing techniques. However, with the establishment of the computer network, and the powerful and varied facilities it will provide, it is possible to introduce systems such as LEOPARD which allow direct access to information files at the workface.

ACCURACY, SECURITY

The accuracy and security of the input data will be the responsibility of the Service Order Cell at the FDC. The files will be updated from completed telephone orders, cable alteration sheets or transfer information in connection with service restoration work.

Once computer access is provided to the Service Centre (1100) the fault teleprinter will be replaced by a VDU. This VDU will then enable the keyboard operator to enter details of the subscribers' service difficulty together with any additional information related to the fault.

This information is then associated by the processor with essential details of the service and previous fault history and is then immediately available to the testers at the FDC serving the area.

On completion of the repair the subsidiary information related to the fault would be stored on the file.

One of the additional features is to record technical assistance reports as well as technical repair requests in order to provide FDC staff with a complete picture of the subscriber's experience with the service.

Possibly the most noticeable aspect at first glance will be the elimination of master cards and associated cabinets or large rotating files. In the card room these will be replaced by a Visual Display Unit (VDU) which will be in the main be used to initiate new records from completed telephone orders, update those already held and to enable the operator to answer queries from locations not provided with access.

The second significant point would be the absence of conveyor belt systems, and paper records, which will certainly contribute to a much better office layout than at present.

With the introduction of LEOPARD the procedures in the FDC or SDC will be as follows:

- **Services awaiting attention are entered on a testing queue within the computer in an order depending on priority classification and the time of arrival.**
- **The trouble report at the head of the queue is called for and the service is tested. During the testing the essential particulars of the service, the fault history and the current service difficulty plus additional information being reported are displayed on the VDU in front of the testing officer. If the fault history is worse than an acceptable limit a flag is displayed to indicate that a special inspection may be needed.**
- **The test result is recorded.**
- **A command key is operated which transfers the fault to the programmer for plotting.**

One of the basic aims of LEOPARD is to reduce to the absolute minimum the need for manual recording by field staff and the counting and sorting of dockets necessary to provide the FDC OIC and higher levels of management with the essential data for day-to-day control, and to assessing service standards and equipment reliability, etc.

The system will automatically arrange for the required data to be assembled at the time the despatcher enters the fault clearance details into the system. No further recording is required.

One of the aims of the LEOPARD project is to develop the management system so that it will be effectively a two-way communication system between the workface and management and to ensure that at district level in particular the OIC is provided with the data to enable him to fully exercise his responsibilities as a first line manager and supervisor.

ELIMINATES HANDLING

The benefits of the LEOPARD system will be derived by eliminating much of the unproductive manual handling of records and preparation of information, and by directing attention of management to areas of poor plant performance and also to individual subscribers receiving poor service.

Here is a summary of advantages of LEOPARD for Service Assistance Centres:

- **Speed — Immediate access to the Customer's Service Record and trouble report details, without waiting for an answer from FDC/SDC.**
- **Ease of input.**
- **Statistics of cross office delays calculated automatically — to supervisor for staff loading, etc.**

For Fault Despatch Centres Testing Areas:

- **Indication of number of services waiting to be tested.**
- **Easy access to trouble reports.**
- **Ease of changing trouble report from one service to another.**
- **Legible information at all times including fault history.**
- **Information regarding associated lines.**
- **Information on type of equipment and its wired configuration.**
- **Information regarding the number of TA's within the fault history period.**
- **Automatic indication of Special Inspection TR's.**
- **Automatic removal of first report BY-000 — DA Faulty reports — thus reducing testing load.**
- **Information regarding customers status, i.e. CRP machine, etc.**

Programmers (Plotters):

- **No chasing of cards or TR's.**
- **No magnets to count or stick on.**
- **No jumping up and down to map, does all plotting sitting down.**
- **All information legible.**
- **Ability to see total workload within a work discipline.**
- **Ability to see the faults assigned and despatched to a repairman plus dates and times received.**
- **Ability to see all appointments and services waiting parts.**

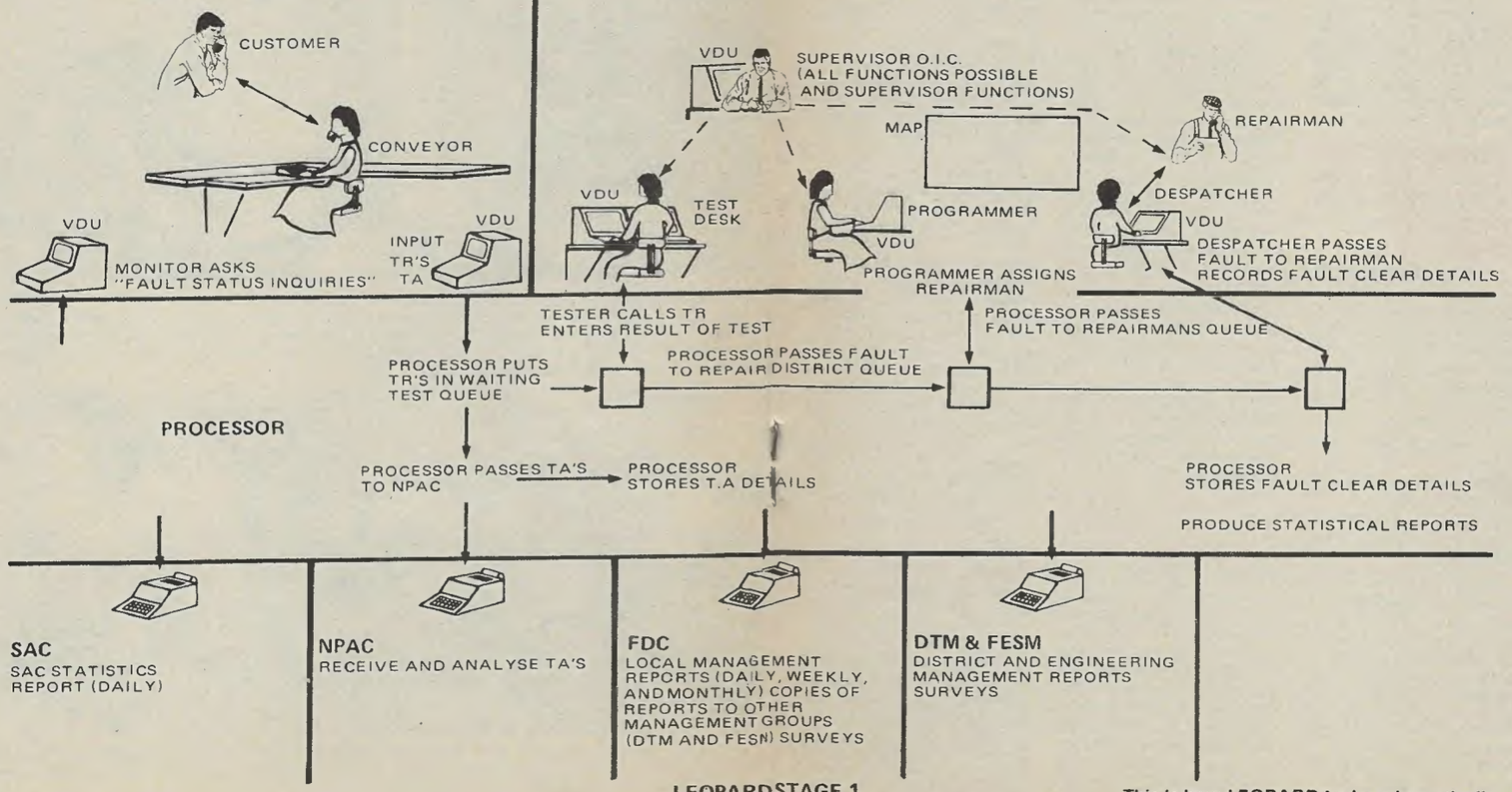
Despatchers:

- **Assigned faults for a repairman presented one at a time according to predetermined priority.**
- **No lost cards or trouble reports.**
- **All details relevant to the despatching of a fault legible.**
- **Clearance procedures simplified — no need to bring to the attention of the Supervisor services requiring special inspections.**

Because the computer eliminates the conveyor belt and the card room we gain:

- **More usable area.**
- **More pleasant surroundings.**
- **Quieter, greater separation between staff speaking to customer/faultmen.**
- **More accurate master card information available without delay.**
- **Less Ambient Noise.**

The first LEOPARD training class before their VDU's as instructor PHIL FRANKLIN gives them the gen on the new system. Phil developed and ran this first course.



This is how LEOPARD looks schematically.

LEOPARD has been discussed with the staff at several Fault Despatch Centres in every State during investigations by the project team conducting a feasibility study. It has also been discussed with all Staff Associations whose members will in some way be influenced by the LEOPARD system.

Staff Associations have also been involved in the evaluation and selection of the VDU (Visual Display Unit) for use with the system.

DIRECTORY COVER HOOKED HOOK-UP

New Years Eve celebrations at Sydney Opera House were broadcast by satellite direct to 91 stations in Japan as part of TV Asahi's three-day spectacular showing the end of the old year and the beginning of the new around the world.

The television company used five satellites in a complex book-up which also featured Peking but with the Sydney celebrations as the main event.

How did the Japanese come to pick Sydney ... well, believe it or not they got the inspiration from the cover of the 1977 Sydney telephone directory which showed a massive crowd at a fireworks display at the Opera House.

Telecom NSW ... take a bow.

Don't be a dead loss

MAKE A WILL

DAVID DENTON, Manager, Expenditure Branch, Telecom NSW sometimes gets involved with the estates of deceased Telecom employees and finds that widows and dependants can be further distressed at a time of great grief by financial embarrassment caused by lack of a will. As a service to Telecom staff, David has compiled this practical, easy to understand guide to preventing problems of intestacy.

The importance of a will is often underestimated. Unfortunately, many people believe that joint ownership is a good substitute, or that a will is only for the person who owns a substantial amount of property. Both assumptions are incorrect. If you do not have a will, read these ten points carefully, then determine your needs:

1. MAKING A WILL GIVES YOU CONTROL OVER THE ECONOMICAL HANDLING OF YOUR ESTATE.

The laws controlling the handling of your estate might automatically divide your property in a manner which you would approve, even if you left no will. But your will may make it possible to do this with reduced administration costs, reduced death duties and will save some considerable time.

In a will, you can specify who should be a beneficiary, and the proportions and method of settlement which will be of greatest help to him. It also permits the selection of beneficiaries. Important, too, you can select an executor and, usually, a guardian for your children, who will carry out your wishes in a practical, economical and sympathetic manner.

2. IT IS WISE TO MAKE A WILL IF YOU OWN ANY REAL PROPERTY (REAL ESTATE) OR ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY OF VALUE.

You should make a will if you own any real property (real estate) or any personal property of value, e.g. a car, jewellery, furniture, stocks, bonds, and savings accounts. This is true whether you are the sole owner, or whether you own it jointly with someone else. The privilege of making a will is granted to all persons of sound mind who meet the legal age requirements.

3. IF YOU DON'T LEAVE A WILL YOU FAIL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR RIGHT TO DECIDE WHO

DAVID DENTON

WILL GET YOUR PROPERTY WHEN YOU DIE.

If you die without a will, your property will be distributed according to the laws of intestacy. Part of your property will go to your children — not all to wife or husband as is commonly believed. It's also possible that part of your property may go to relatives who would definitely not be mentioned in any will that you would write.

Laws covering descent and distribution vary but, generally speaking, statutes provide that:

When a wife (or husband) and children are left by the deceased and there is no will, the surviving spouse gets a portion set by law, and the children usually get the balance. Such an arrangement sometimes makes it difficult for the widow to sell the house without costly and time-consuming court action.

When a wife (or husband), but no children, are left, the surviving spouse may get the entire estate under some laws, but others specify that the deceased's parents, brothers and sisters receive their share.

When no will is left, an estate is left open to unwarranted claims by relatives, that a court may decide to allow. When there are no heirs, what is left goes to the State.

4. IF YOU DON'T LEAVE A WILL, YOUR ESTATE WILL BE HANDLED BY AN ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED BY THE COURT.

The court-appointed administrator may or may not be the person you would personally select if you carefully considered all details.

Still another possible disadvantage is that legal procedures may require the administrator to sell and distribute the estate or convert it to "legal investments" (government bonds, etc.) in accordance with required legal procedures. This could necessitate a poorly timed sale of valuable property.

Without the protection of a will, your estate could be reduced substantially by heavy costs and taxes. This would mean a far lower net estate value than you had anticipated.

5. JOINT OWNERSHIP HAS ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES.

A will controls only the property that you own individually. Most real or personal property that you own jointly will probably pass directly to the co-owner or the beneficiary. These are examples of this type of property:

- A savings bond with another individual registered as co-owner, or as beneficiary;
- A bank account held jointly with another person.

While joint ownership can be a convenience, it can also introduce problems at time of death; for example, contrary to popular belief, joint ownership does not always save taxes. The property which you hold jointly will normally be included in your estate for the determination of death duties. And it's possible that it may be subject to gift duties.

6. YOUR ESTATE MAY BE LARGER THAN YOU THINK.

Chances are you will be quite surprised if you make a list of all the property (real and personal) that you own. If you are planning to make a will, this information will be necessary, so consider each of these items carefully:

Real property — house; investment property (lots, apartment building, etc); business property (office building, etc.).

Personal property: car(s), boat, household furnishings, tools, jewellery, sports equipment, and other personal items; employee benefits (retirement and pension funds; group life insurance); credit union accounts and other savings; notes (secured and unsecured); stocks and bonds; life insurance.

This is a partial list. Some of these items, such as life insurance and jointly held property, may not be controlled by your will, but it is important to consider them. To determine your net estate, add up the total estimated value of your real and personal property, then deduct the estimated costs of your last illness and burial; the fees for the administration of your estate; and your outstanding debts.

Your estate may be much enlarged from an insurance settlement, in the event of your sudden death in an accident. For this reason, too, you should, if possible, avoid the simplest will; it may not be adequate — or flexible enough — in such an eventuality.

7. YOUR WILL HAS NO EFFECT UNTIL YOU DIE.

Prior to death, a will does not have to be filed or recorded anywhere. It may be rewritten — or revoked — at any time. But any changes made in the will must be handled as carefully as the original document. Changes may be added in the form of a codicil, but if changes are extensive, it may be advisable to write a new will.

8. KEEP YOUR WILL IN A SAFE PLACE.

Your signed will should be kept in a sealed envelope in a safe place where it can easily be found. Your solicitor's safe is a good place; or with a Public Trustee, if you have named him as an executor, or possibly with your local bank.

9. REVIEW YOUR WILL PERIODICALLY.

Under ordinary circumstances, only you can revoke your will — by destroying it or by writing a new one with a revocation clause in it. If you die leaving an outdated will, it will probably be considered binding. Your will should keep pace with important developments that can affect your estate and the manner in which it will be divided.

For example, failure to include the name of a child born after the writing of the original will could disinherit him; and failure to consider new tax law revisions could mean a loss of funds that might otherwise be kept as part of the estate. One way to avoid frequent changes of a will that causes difficulties in administration is not to be unnecessarily specific.

For example, rather than name your children, have them referred to simply as "surviving children"; this covers those born after the will is written and the eventuality of any dying before you, or at the same time.

Review your will regularly. Make certain that it will accomplish exactly what you want it to. This is the essence of a well-made will; it allows your estate to be administered as nearly as possible as you could and would handle it yourself.

10. IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE OUT YOUR WILL:

You can either: (A) Arrange for a solicitor to prepare your will. (b) Contact the Public Trustee in your State who can assist you in the preparation of your will and will act as Executor. (c) Obtain one of the new pro forma wills from a recognised stationery supplier and prepare your own will.

IAN TRAINS TOP CADETS

Perth's Media Liaison Officer, Ian Teasdale, combines his interest in the military with community work amongst a group of schoolboys in his spare time.

Ian is a former Channel 7 Perth journalist and children's show host, having been the compere/producer of the community affairs children's program "What In The World", seen in every Australian state except the Northern Territory.

"What In The World" was judged Australia's top children's program at the inaugural Film and Television Awards.

Prior to moving into television, Ian had been involved in his spare time in the Army Reserve for the better part of a decade.

Today he combines his love of children with his former military training and is the officer-in-charge of the Scarborough Senior High School Cadet Unit.

Ian became involved in the unit when it was inaugurated early in 1978 and his son Todd joined the ranks.

Ian's wife Barbara claims to have become a "Cadet Widow" but says she doesn't mind too much because the 30 to 40 hours of spare time that Ian devotes a week is well spent.

Just recently the unit was named the top Cadet Unit in Western Australia.

Ian is pictured with his son Todd (left) and senior cadet Michael Taylor holding the trophy, the A.M.P. Efficiency Shield.

API MEMBERSHIP AT RECORD 29,757

The 60th annual meeting of the Victorian Division API late last year heard that an intensive recruitment campaign had increased membership to a new record level of 29,757.

Telecom State Manager Max Smith, who spoke on behalf of both Commissions commented on the busy and productive year which the API had and in particular the continued success of the API Bourke St. trading complex.

A highlight was the presentation of life membership to Mr Frank Tilley, API Councillor and long time stalwart of API Central Office Branch.

Financial support to the 63 branches and 11 sub-branches — in Victoria rose to $188,257. This was used at the discretion of the branches for members of both commissions.

HOLIDAYS FOR 189

In the holiday homes area, the acquisition of five modern two bedroom units at Anglesea brough the daily accommodation of holiday homes in Victoria to 189 persons.

Other services which had remarkable growth were the legal advisory service which increased 5% over last year and the insurance/assurance service.

Premiums increased to $241,799 of which estimated savings to members were $48,360.

Yet again, record years were returned by the API Commercial Organisations — API Travel, VPI Trading and PICCOL.

VPI Trading increased sales from $5.4 million to $6.8 million in its first full year of operation at API 580. VPI continued to introduce new departments and provide an increased range of products at considerable savings to members.

Shareholding membership of PICCOL continued to rise by a further 1213 members which was a growth rate of 13.4% and, brought the total PICCOL shareholding membership to 10,814.

Savings rose to $15.4 million — a staggering growth of 51% while loans to the value of $7.3 million were made to members.

This brings the total of loans issued to members since PICCOL was established in 1971 to $24.6 million.

● Below: Vic. State Manager, Max Smith, pins life membership badge on Frank Tilley.

FOGARTY FAREWELLED

Bill Fogarty, B.Sc, M.I.E. (Aust.), A.F.A.I.M., Superintending Engineer, Country Branch has retired after more than 41 years with the PMG and Telecom.

Bill commenced as a Cadet Engineer in 1937 and served as an engineer in Melbourne, 1941-42 and at Benalla 1942-50. When a new Division was established at Ballarat in 1950, he was the first Divisional Engineer, continuing there till 1970. Then he was Supervising Engineer, Regional Works West, till 1972, Area Manager — Ballarat, 1972, and Superintending Engineer, Country Branch 1975.

At a retirement function held in his honour at Russell Exchange, Melbourne, Mr C. H. Hosking, Chief State Engineer, made a presentation to Bill of a "3 in 1" stereo music centre. Bill is seen above at the function with wife Doreen.

Telecom float tops Mardi

Telecom staff of the Gosford District, N.S.W., are very proud of their effort in decorating a float entered in the Central Coast Mardi Gras. Despite a record entry of 100 floats Telecom were successful in winning the "Commercial Section" of the contest.

Using the slogan "Telecom Provides the Link" the float, built on a low loader vehicle depicted Telecom's role in TV and radio sporting broadcasts.

Cameramen with TV cameras from NBN channel 3 Newcastle and a popular announcer from radio 2GO Gosford occupied the rear of the float. This section was linked across the 60 foot length of float by a chain of lights to a radio transmitter mast at the front of the truck. The lights were operated to simulate a visible transmitting signal from the TV and radio position to the transmitter. This was so effective that many spectators thought that an actual TV broadcast was in progress from the float.

The centre of the float accommodated 20 specially selected children from various sporting groups complete with uniforms and Telecom balloons. Two attractive girls Clerical Assistants Lindy Nicholls and Chris Randell dressed in evening gowns and wearing Telecom sashes and carrying Touchfones were seated on the high section of the float.

Responsible for the float were Technical Officer Barry Jones, Phil Booth, Jimmy Higgins, Lineman Bob Fowler, and Fred Pavell, Motor Driver.

At left: Clerical Assistants Lindsay Nicholls (left) and Chris Randell adding glamor to the float.

CHALLENGING TRIO FROM SA PR.

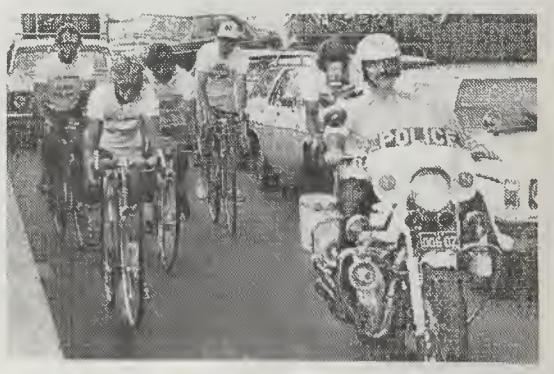
This very fetchin' photo of three lasses in Telecom's Public Relations Office in Adelaide accompanied a letter from them strongly disagreeing with the ACOA Section Committee's charge of sexism in the cover photo of our August issue. Point and counter point of view having been published, the correspondence is closed but no editor outside his dotage could waste such a charming picture which shows Mrs G. Olsen, Mrs S. Chancellor and Miss S. Tiernan. By the way, they challenge any ladies of the Section Committee to be pictured in Telecom.

ROMA LADS RODE FOR OTHERS' LIVES

Five members of Telecom's line staff at Roma recently cycled 516 kilometres to Brisbane to raise money for the Queensland Cancer Fund. They were scheduled to take 34 hours for the trip — their T-shirts bear testimony to this — but they made it in about 24 hours over three days.

The "Ride for Life" raised $2070 for the cancer fund. A Telecom back-up vehicle accompanied them throughout and a Police escort was provided as they approached the inner city.

The five cyclists were Jeff Richardson, Jim Robinson, John Stedman, Dennis O'Connor and Neville Brindle.



Roma to Brisbane cyclists — John Stedman, Jeff Richardson, Jim Robinson, Dennis O'Connor and Neville Brindle — in King George Square after their 516-kilometre "Ride for Life". Above right: triumphal end to a gruelling ride.

They were roundly applauded when they rode up the ramp at King George Square to be greeted by the Lord Mayor (Ald. Frank Sleeman), Telecom State Manager (Paul Dubois), Australian Postal and Telecommunications Union State President Len Code and other Telecom, Union and Post-Tel Institute officials.

The "Ride for Life" safari followed a decision by the Roma staffers to buy bicycles to ride to work. Only one — Neville Brindle — had done much cycling before the team went into practice for the Brisbane ride.

Ald Sleeman told the riders he was confident their effort would literally help save a life in the future.

Mr Dubois said that as State Manager, and previously as an engineer in the field, he had known of many occasions when Telecom staff had been involved in community service beyond their normal duty. He referred to service in times of flood, fire and cyclone.

Len Code said the APTU was happy to be associated with Telecom in welcoming the cyclists to Brisbane. Numerous union and Telecom staff had contributed to the success of the ride and the API had provided accommodation in Brisbane, Mr Code said.

Accidents that never should have happened

Here, in summary, are some recent accidents which happened to Telecom staff but which were avoidable had safety awareness and safe working methods been observed. Defects in Commission plant were also contributing factors in some mishaps.

1. **Incorrect and Unsafe Work Method.**
   Sawing metal cable rack with a hacksaw. The rack was supported in an unstable manner on a stool. A vice provided for this type of work was only one metre away on a workbench.
   Result — Hacksaw jumped out of sawcut and cut across hand.
2. **Poor Safety Awareness — Failure to realise need for personal protective equipment.**
   Removing broken glass from P.T. cabinet. While taking glass out, back of finger came in contact with sharp glass edge. No protective gloves were being worn.
   Result — lacerated finger.
3. **Failure to recognise potential hazard and need for personal protective equipment.**
   Unloading tip truck. Attempting to free load using hands. Tailgate flapped jamming hand. No protective gloves were being worn.
4. **Act and omission of another person — Failure to recognise possible hazard.**
   Performing cleaning duties after hours. Came in contact with soldering iron left on.
   Result — Burn to thumb and forefinger of hand.
5. **Deficiency or Defect in Commission Plant — Failure to regularly check and inspect plant.**
   Driving earth rods with jackhammer. Driving head flew out hitting operator's knee.
   Result — Bruised right knee.
6. **Poor safety awareness. Failure to recognise need for personal protective equipment.**
   Running cable under floor of building. Walked into concrete reinforcing pier under floor. No safety helmet was being worn.
   Result — Cut to top of scalp.
7. **Incorrect work method — Poor safety awareness.**
   Operating jack hammer in trench. Finger became jammed between shaft and hammer after hand slipped.
   Result — Lacerated finger.
8. **Poor safety awareness — Deficiency in Commission plant — Failure to follow instructions.**
   Adjusting blind cords from metal step ladder. Bracing strip unhooked causing ladder to open out. Ladder fitted with unstandard bolt.
   Result — sprains and abrasions.
9. **Unsafe condition. Poor safety awareness. Incorrect work method.**
   Burning blackberry bushes. Lit bush which exploded.
   Result — Burned hand.
10. **Incorrect work method — poor familiarization training.**
    Lifting steering brakes out of a bulldozer by incorrect method.
    Result — Strained back.

Qld manager greets Brains

Queensland State Manager Paul Dubois recently welcomed what he called "an infusion of new and varied talents". Mr Dubois was speaking at a morning tea at which he greeted staff who had gained first degrees and diplomas and post-graduate degrees in the past 12 months. "Every year Telecom is becoming more sophisticated in its technology and in its business processes," Mr Dubois said. "We look to the skills of those who study from within, and those who join us after studies outside, to assist us with the task of extending, upgrading and maintaining telecommunications across Australia." About 50 attended and met departmental heads. Above pictured are Ron Angell (Manager MTX/CTO Office, Brisbane), Dawn Leo, B.A. and Lawrence Paratz, B.E. Electrical (hons) and (B.Sc.).

INDUSTRIAL MANAGER ON OVERSEAS TOUR

Telecom's General Manager, Industrial Relations, Barry O'Sullivan (above) who is now overseas on a five week study tour.

In the course of his tour originally planned for last October but postponed because of the industrial situation at the time he will visit Canada, USA, UK and Sweden principally to discuss the ways in which technological and organisational changes are handled by telecommunications and other large organisations in those countries.

His other interests will be employment conditions with emphasis on remote work locations, worker participation and management/-worker communication.

In Sweden he will be joined by Harvey Parker, (I) Manager, Organisation, Personnel Department, whose overseas studies include developments in manpower planning, (including consideration of social issues) organisation structures and patterns, job evaluation and executive and managerial development. Harvey (I) will also visit ILO in Geneva and the French Telecommunications organisation.

EMERGENCIES & what to do

Emergency 7: Your Bonnet Flies Up

Action 1 Look to see if there is enough gap under the hinge of the bonnet to glimpse the road ahead or you can probably see well enough out of the side window to retain directional control.
Action 2 Brake smoothly to a stop, pulling off the road if possible.

It didn't orta happen — BUT IT DID!

"That business about Victoria being the Garden State's OK, but this is taking it a bit too far," said South Yarra line party leader John Liberis (pictured) as he indicated a three metre long, 100 mm diameter tree root taken from a duct in Punt Rd., Richmond.

What started out as a routine rodding and hauling job turned out to be an hours long struggle to remove the powerful and stubborn root which entered the duct through a cable pit after making its way under a brick wall from a private garden.

The line party with every man-jack heaving on a rope eventually won the tug-o-war but as the boys said not before some tears, blood and sweat had been spilled.

Below, in the large circle is another example of Murphy's Law at work. This dart whistled through the air and penetrated an integral bearer cable in Willumba Crescent, Forestville NSW.

According to Faultman J. F. Charles who supplied the unusual picture, the steel shaft of the dart created considerable temporary havoc, cutting some wires and short-circuiting others.

In the smaller circle, is another case of Mother Nature's pranks in the Garden State — a subscriber's dropwire firmly embedded in a tree fork.

Ah, 'tis Murphy himself who laid it down that if anything can go wrong — IT WILL.

State Manager Bill Schmidt, Mr E.P. (Ted) Sim MBE, State Manager Postal Milton Stevens and Mr R.E. (Ralph) Page.

State Manager, Bill Schmidt, congratulates Mr C.C. (Clive) Smith O.B.E. on receiving his service award.

NSW ex-branch heads whoop it up

Retired ex-Branch Heads of the NSW APO and Telecom administrations were recently guests at a function hosted by NSW State Manager Bill Schmidt. Opportunity was taken to present Telecom Service Awards to seven and this was done by Commission Chairman Bob Somervaille. Among distinguished recipients was former (and last) Director-General APO Eber Lane who retired in 1975 on the eve of Vesting Day. The boys had a barrel of fun. As a septuagenarian wag present said of a nonagenarian enjoying himself: "He's starting to show his age a bit."

Mr Somervaille congratulates Mr E. F. (Eber) Lane on presentation of his service award.

Service Award recipients pictured with the chairman (back) Bill Kennedy, Bert James, Commission Chairman Bob Somervaille, Keith Fraser. Front: Laurie Mitchell, Fred O'Brien, Eber Lane, Maurie Hartigan.

BUILDINGS BRANCH ACCIDENT RATE SPURS SEMINAR

At the Buildings Branch Safety Seminar (L-R): Trevor Mayhew, Chairman Buildings Branch Safety Committee; Charles Walker, Chief Accident Prevention Officer; Len Carter, Senior Fire Safety Officer.

"The hard fact learnt at the seminar was that the accident rate in the NSW Building Branch had doubled in the last twelve months."

That was the last paragraph of a report on a recent NSW Buildings Branch safety seminar involving all members of the Branch.

But, we thought it should be the first — to emphasise the gravity of the situation.

The importance of the seminar was expressed by the Manager, Buildings Branch, Mr J.F. McCarthy in his opening address when he stated that the incidence of accidents in the Branch was increasing and that the wide dependence of other sections of the Commission on the functions of the Buildings Branch stressed the necessity for everyone to be accident conscious.

The seminar was organised by the Safety Section, Operations Department in conjunction with the Safety Committee of the Buildings Branch.

The subjects presented and discussed were Fire Safety, Driving Safety (presented by the N.S.W. Police Department), Work Safety and Office Safety.

The strong emphasis was on the personal attitude of people in all these work areas where a minor incident could become a major loss in productivity and, of course, life.

Films shown at the seminar clearly indicated how a poor safety attitude could disrupt a section or organisation, even though the incident was not a major one and so affect productivity by time off for sickness or damage to property.

The seminar was held over two full morning sessions to enable all staff to participate.

Said the organisers: the 1979 Telecom Accident Prevention Calendar reminds us that it is the policy of Telecom that every employee shall be provided with a safe and healthy place in which to work and this means that every member of our workforce, of over 87,000, is part of the safety team.

TELECOM'S TUBBIER

This first issue of Telecom for 1979 is 50 per cent bigger than normal — 24 pages instead of 16 — because you, in increasing numbers, are supporting it with news and photos of your work, social and sporting activities.

Nobody sends a reasonable item of reasonable interest in vain — that's editorial policy. Since Christmas, there's been an avalanche of good material — so we've enlarged the paper to keep faith with our contributors. Please keep up the good work.

Contributions, inquiries: Editor Telecom 199 William St., Melb. 3000 Tel: (03) 630 6505.

TELECOM ENGINEER TRAINS FIJIANS

Senior Engineer, Brian Crutcher (left) was seconded by Telecom to the International Telecommunications Union at the end of 1972 to survey telecommunications systems in the Pacific Islands. He stayed to take charge of a training centre at Fiji, which recently graduated 20 students through a three-year technical officer class and 30 through a two-year technical course. Following leave he returns to Fiji to supervise the building of a new training centre to cost $2.4 million. Brian arrived back in Brisbane in time for Queensland State Manager Paul Dubois' Christmas party for senior officers. It was an opportunity for him to meet many of his former colleagues. Picture shows Brian with Paul Dubois.

Grateful Client says it with flowers

It's far from the best photo ever, but it's one that tells a story and editorially, we'll give it a go. Telecom's female staff often receive messages of thanks and appreciation in their dealings with the public but for Judy Flynn, (above) counter receptionist at Mackay (Q), a satisfied customer said it with flowers. The gesture shocked the Mackay Daily Mercury which reported the event saying Judy had received "a large floral arrangement of roses and carnations from an anonymous customer in appreciation for her assistance with a phone problem". The customer said it was refreshing to see someone smile.

At a time like this, who keeps score? Margaret

Recording the cricket scores for 1187 in Brisbane has given Margaret Flynn a fine appreciation of the game. She is one of a Telecom team of 11 who are rostered to keep the public informed of the scores in Test and other big cricket matches.

Margaret's interest in cricket has blossomed with her new experience as scorer and recorder. She still hasn't been to a cricket match, but now she watches the cricket on television in her home, something she had never done before.

Margaret was recently interviewed by the media who were interested to learn that calls to 1187 in Brisbane had increased from an average of 25,000 a month to 250,000 a month because of the cricket.

SA Workshops say stick it — with adhesive labels

Mrs Mary Davies and Mr Brian Turner of Adelaide Drafting, preparing art work for the labels.

The South Australian Telecom Engineering Workshops now offer to OIC's of telephone exchanges a quick, low cost method of designating terminal equipment mounted on main distributing frames.

A self adhesive backed white sheet with fifteen identical sets of numbers printed on the face in vertical form has been introduced.

Thirteen number combinations to suit all MDF situations in telephone exchanges have been included in the drawing detail of SB 11681 Sheets 1 to 4, available from South Australian Drafting Section.

The printing of the black numbers on white PVC sheet is done very economically using a silk screen process. Use of this product for number designation has three distinct advantages:

- **A quantity of prepared sheets can be held by the telephone exchange OIC for immediate use.**
- **A strip of numbers can be stuck to the terminal block or link mounting within seconds.**
- **Instant visual identification of cable pairs by the technical staff.**

For further information on supply and cost refer to the Production Superintendent Telecom, Engineering Workshops Adelaide, Phone (08) 225 6575.

Stewart Sanders of Franklin Exchange Adelaide affixes designation strips.

NEW QLD RADIO SYSTEM

A new radio system of 1800 channel capacity in the 4 GHz band from Roma to Hughenden via Charleville, Barcaldine and Longreach is to be built to provide relief for the coastal and Townsville - Mt Isa routes. The new system is expected to be in service in late 1982.

This route is designed to serve these functions:-

- **Provide relief to the coastal route by transferring Northern Territory traffic from the coastal route to the Roma - Hughenden route.**
- **Provide a normal standard broadband bearer to connect trunk circuits from the terminal exchanges at Winton, Longreach, Barcaldine, Blackall, Tambo, Augathella, Charleville and Mitchell to their minor switching centre at Roma.**
- **Provide base stations at repeater sites for subscriber group radio equipment to serve rural subscribers.**
- **Provide junctions by using the subbaseband at those repeater sites which are used as subscriber group radio equipment base stations.**

The Roma-Hughenden system will provide real benefits associated with automation of Western Queensland and diversity for interstate and intrastate routes.

CHESTER'S DAH-DIT LOW KEY

Morse telegraphy which served Australia so well for nearly a century is practically history today but a history studded with geniuses and characters. Here, unearthed by Telecom Australia's Tasmanian Historical Officer Alan Tulip is a prime example — one Chester Richardson who flourished in the 1930's. Chester, about whom practically nothing is known owes his honorary oddballship to a key he made from rubbish and used to send official telegraphic messages through a telephone. It's a star exhibit in the Hobart post-tel museum.

Even a casual glance at the intricate circuitry behind those fascinating buttons on Touchfone 10 is sufficient to remind us of the tremendous steps which have been taken since the days when the morse key and code were a revolutionary concept in the field of telecommunications.

I suppose it is just possible that some of our younger readers may not even have seen a morse key and I would venture to suggest that many of my contemporaries will never have had the opportunity of using one.

If that be so, pay a visit to a Post Office Museum where many different types are available for inspection and you can tap away quite happily to the delight of our many visitors.

Some of these instruments are beautifully designed; many are of solid brass, others are plated, and some are even mounted on a marble base. But the undoubted show-piece is the home-made key and sounder shown here, that many years ago helped in the despatch of official business.

The key was built by an old-timer, Chester Richardson, and was used to transmit traffic from Naracoopa, King Island, to the local radio station. The contraption is probably more crude than the "rattler" originally used by Morse, but, despite its looks, it was extremely efficient and easy to handle.

To build his set, Chester evidently scoured the local beaches for materials. The base board once served as the end of a kerosene case, (printing still legible), and several unorthodox patterns have been carved into it by worms and wood-borers.

The "key" lever is an old table knife, now well rusted, but still retaining its original spring. The knife is stuck into boards built on to the base-board. For a back stop, Chester used an old bit of pine nailed into the top of the boards into which the knife is stuck. Sticking through this bit of pine is an old wood screw, well rusted, but still efficient. Chester was, therefore, able to limit the play of his key and also to adjust the tension by the manipulation of the screw.

To make the knob, plasticine or hard mud was plastered on the end of the knife handle and shaped into a small mound; this had the effect of giving the exact touch of a morse key. So much for the key.

Evidently in those days there was a shortage of magnets, etc. so to overcome this, Chester dug up an old tin from somewhere or other — by its label it once contained an egg preservative — and requisitioned it into the making of his set.

The old tin has several bullet holes through it (visible in picture), a few larger holes and several dents thrown in for good measure. The sound is produced by a lever playing up and down between the two sides of an opening in the tin.

The top side of the opening is just pure tin; the lower side is padded with a few pieces of old lead. This had the effect of slightly muffling the sound to represent the back-kick.

Acoustics was a science well understood by Chester. In a bullet hole in the side of the tin, he suspended a four-inch nail. Without this nail, the sound produced was rather tinny, but with the nail in position the sound was exactly the same as that of a precision built instrument.

To connect key and sounder, Chester had no use for coils of wire and all other paraphernalia; all he used was an old hacksaw blade.

It worked on the lever principle; when the key was depressed, the opposite end of the hacksaw blade was forced to hit against the top side of the hole in the tin, thus giving the down stroke of an ordinary sounder.

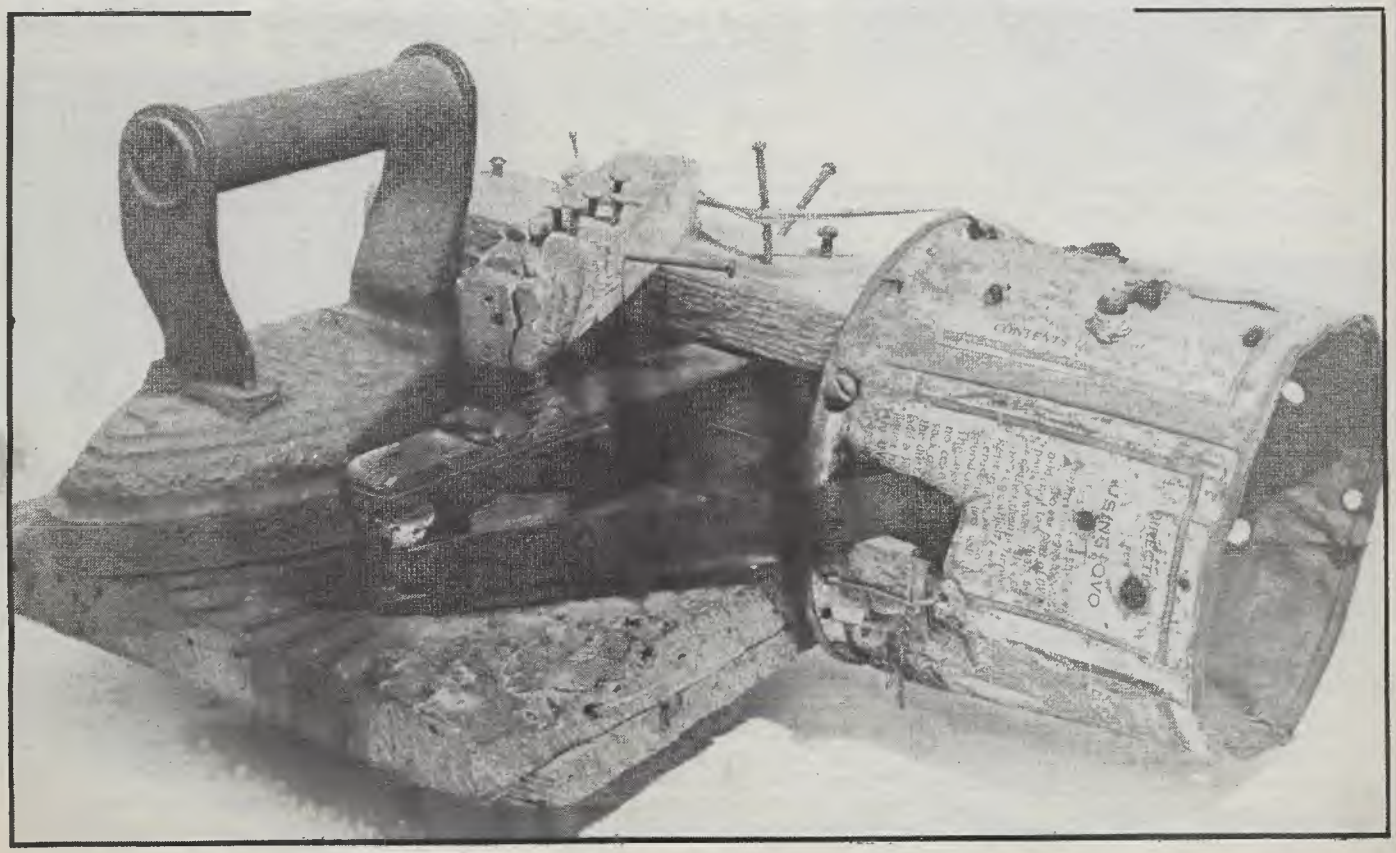
When the key was released, the weight of the blade caused it to drop on to the lead-padded lower edge of the hole, giving the slightly less audible sound of the back-stop.

This key, with odd and sundry nails and tacks still sticking into the old wood, was probably the roughest contraption that ever bore the name of a morse set, but it was apparently quite easy to send and receive with it. The method of its use was probably as crude as the set itself.

It was used at Naracoopa, King Island, in the days when the only means of communication between that place and the outer world was by radio telegraph between the island and Hobart Radio.

Whether Chester was tongue-tied and didn't speak through the phone or whether he was just another morse crank is not known, but to dispose of his traffic, he used to place the telephone receiver up near his old tin sounder and thump away to his heart's content on his jack-knife key. Those who knew Chester say he was a first-class Telegraphist. Of his official history little is known. He first came under notice when he was with the Eastern Extension Cable Co. For a time he served as Telegraphist at Launceston, but, tiring of that city, he moved west and finished his career as Postmaster at Naracoopa.

The flat iron shown in the illustration is actually not part of the key; its only function was to keep the set firm and steady.



This 'uncle' was second father to 1600 trainee techs

THE LATE FRANK McCARTER

"If I had to define the real meaning of love, I would point to the late Frank McCarter," said a senior engineer and former pupil of the man universally called "Uncle" but regarded more as a second father by some 1600 young men whose telecommunications careers he did so much to mould.

Francis Irvine McCarter ISM who died in December last at the age of 96, was foundation principal of the Technicians School in Victoria established in 1929.

But he was more than a schoolmaster . . . he made the career of every single lad of close personal interest while they were at the school, followed their careers later with keen, often practical interest, so much so that hundreds of them maintained firm personal friendships with him until the day of his death.

As a former serviceman himself, Frank McCarter showed a special interest in his trainees who enlisted in the Second World War. He kept up a regular correspondence with all he could contact — not just a sporadic letter or two but a fortnightly, sometimes weekly service. It was later found that this tremendous labor of love involved more than 100 servicemen.

Frank was blessed with a phenomenal memory and could recall with accuracy, names and personal details of each and every young man for whose training he had been responsible. The story is told that on meeting one of them, 30 years on, a man laboring under the weight of seven Christian names, he spat them off faultlessly.

Frank McCarter commenced duty with the Commonwealth Public Service in 1910. He was employed as a junior instrument fitter, later changed to junior telephone mechanic, at the Postal Workshops. Between 1910-1912 he assisted in installation work at the Hawthorn, Brighton and Daylesford Exchanges. He transferred to the Windsor area which was essentially CB working. He passed the examination for telephone mechanic and went to Brighton Exchange which by then was automatic.

In 1916 he joined the Australian Flying Corps and saw service in France and Germany. He worked for some time in English automatic exchanges and returning home conducted classes aboard ship on automatic telephones for anyone interested.

After the war, Frank resumed duty at the Brighton Exchange, then went to the telephone workshops at Spencer St. In 1922 he was appointed to the Echuca district after some installation experience at Central and Collingwood Exchanges.

In 1926, he returned to Melbourne and assisted in the cutover of the new exchange at Elsternwick then returned to Workshops.

Here he was selected with other officers from the Telegraph Maintenance and Carpenters Shop to set up a Training School at 59 Little Collins St., now occupied by Research. In 1930 the school was moved to the new Postal Workshops in South Melbourne but was soon abandoned because of the economic depression.

Frank moved to the Patents Office as an examiner then back to the PMG, where in 1931 he was promoted to foreman mechanic and transferred to the Geelong area.

In 1935 the training school was re-established and his time was divided between supervisory duties in the Telephone Shop and the Mechanics School. This arrangement was of short duration and Frank devoted his full time to the School from thereon.

By 1939 the school was established adjacent to the Workshops in Dodds St. and the officer in charge was called "Supervisor of Training". Frank's chequered career took another turn, another War, another job, this time he was seconded for two years (1941-1943) to the Material and Production Section of the Postal Workshops.

In 1943 he resumed as Supervisor of Training in which capacity he remained until his retirement on July 23rd, 1952. Frank's services to the community totalled 42 years.

In all his outstanding work for telecommunications in Australia for which he received the ISM in 1954, Frank McCarter had the support of a wife, Winifred, who shared his interest in his work and his students. She predeceased him by only a few years.

Lifelong friend and former pupil Bill Mullins who retired six years ago as Supervisor, Telecom Workshops and who had himself also been a Technicians School instructor summed up Frank's career:

"His was a life of complete dedication . . . dedication to his family, to his work and above all to his Creator. An era has ended with his passing."

Almost to the last Frank McCarter maintained close links with former colleagues and attended reunions regularly. Here at one such get-together a few years ago he is seen with from left Bill Mullins, Bill Pollock (former pupil and now Chief General Manager) and Tom Martin (former instructor).

PUBLIC CAME IN ON STAFF XMAS GESTURE

Major Jim Lucas, of the Salvation Army, (left) inspects some of the gifts donated by staff of the Central and Edison telephone exchanges in Brisbane. Seven Christmas trees had been placed at strategic points in the exchanges in Elizabeth Street for collection of goods to help needy Brisbane families. Gifts were taken to a central point for handing over to the Salvation Army before Christmas. Exchange staffs had donated toys and an assortment of non-perishable goods such as plum puddings, cakes, candy and tinned fruit. Following media publicity, members of the public arrived at the exchanges with parcels to add to those donated by the exchange staffs. Brisbane's three commercial television stations covered the handover of the presents to the Salvation Army.

New Accident Forms must now be used

The new issue (4/1978) of the Accident Report Form, P400 is now available. The new form has been designed as an aid to proper field investigation of all accidents which is an essential component in Telecom's programme to reduce the incidence of lost time on duty accidents to 50% of the 1975/76 rate by 1980/81. The form places the onus on the injured officer's supervisor for completion and to initiate or recommend any appropriate remedial action. In an effort to speed up the submission of accident reports so that any action to avoid a similar accident can be taken as soon as possible the signature of the injured officer is not necessary. The new issue of these forms is now available from State Supply Branches and must be used for all future accidents. Stocks of the old P400 should be destroyed.

speakers celebrate

The 21st Anniversary Dinner of Perth, (WA) Post-Tel Institute Speakers' Club was celebrated recently with State Manager Telecom, Mr H.G. Shaw and his wife, guests and a large number of members and their partners present.

Mr B.C. Davey acted as chairman with prepared speeches being presented by Messrs R.A. Russell-Brown, R. Thorn and L.S. Eddington.

The Club's inaugural meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 1957, in the Training Room, 7th Floor, GPO Perth, was convened as a result of Mr Bob Kirkman attending a Rostrum Club while on a visit to Central Office.

He felt there was a need for a Speakers' Club to be established in Perth and arranged the first meeting with approximately 12 members of the Postal Institute.

It was formally proposed to continue with the venture, and Mr J.A. Farrell was elected President, Mr R.A. Kirkman Vice President and Mr G.J. Sayer as Secretary/Treasurer.

Today meetings are held in the Special Amenities Area, 7th Floor, Cable House, corner Victoria Avenue and Hay Street, Perth, between 12.45 p.m. an 1.45 p.m. on Wednesday of pay week. Visitors and potential members are made very welcome.

Those interested can contact the President, Miss Helen Birch in Perth — South District, 7th Floor, CAGA Centre (Telephone 323 6317), Vice President, Mr Owen Oliver, Drafting Section, 4th Floor, Cable House (Telephone 326 6596) or Secretary/Treasurer Mr Ron McCorkill, Metro Operations No. 2 Section, 6th Floor, CAGA Centre (Telephone 326 6608).

CHAIRMAN BRIAN DAVEY opens anniversary proceedings

NORC was a RORT for Engineers

Engineers, DTM's and Operations Dept managers were recently ordered to attend a NORC, which all sounded pretty official until convenors Dick Corin and Roger Bamber explained that a NORC was a no-reason conference and the locale was to be at Burwood RSL Club. Sydney.

The NORC turned out to be a RORT to which retired engineers were also invited and the success of the idea was well proven when more than 100 norcers turned up.

Opportunity was taken to present Tom Brophy with a memento of his 70th birthday and here the honors were done by CSE Mick Power.

In the line-up of retired Olds and Bolds above we see Back row: Arthur Horner (S'vising Engineer), Ron Kanaley (Supt. Eng.), Tom Brophy (Deputy Supt. Eng.), John Newland (Div. Eng.), Clem Hurst (Sen. Eng.). Centre: Andy Hyde (Div. Eng.), Ted Sim (Asst. Dir. Eng.), Fred Hailstone (S'vising Eng.), George Gibson (S'vising Eng.), George Spencer (Sen. Eng.), Tom Cramsie (Div. Eng.), Cyril Heathes (Div. Eng.). Front: Reg Boyle , Peter Pierotti, Oscar Connolly, Alf Harvey, Bill Pedder (Sup. Engs.). Eric Watt (Sup. Eng.) was present but had gone for a Tosca. Titles indicate designation at retirement.

'Bye to customers man

Some 120 people from industry, retired officers and Telecom staff bade farewell to Jack Warren, Engineer Class 4 of the Customer Equipment Branch, Headquarters, who was retiring in is 50th year of service.

In 1929 Jack commenced as a junior mechanic-in-training. In 1930, the training scheme he was appointed to was set aside due to the Depression and he was transferred to a position as telephonist.

Jack worked as a telephonist from 1931 to 1934, then reverted to being a mechanic. In 1945 (after studying in his own time and at his own expense), he was appointed as engineer. From then until 1954 he worked in Victoria, mainly in installation work. In 1954 he took up duty with Headquarters and was there until his retirement, working primarily on customer equipment.

Pictured with Jack Warren (second from left) are Kevin Sharp, Superintending Engineer, Alec Craig, Engineer Class 3 and Norm Cameron, Engineer Class 5, all from Customer Equipment Branch.

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