Telecom

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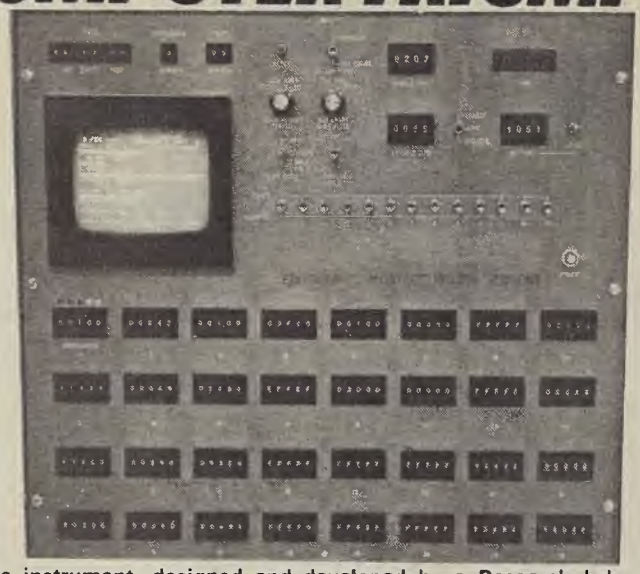
COMPUTER TRIUMPH



This instrument, designed and developed by a Research Laboratories team is of great significance to the computer industry and for Telecom Australia will help maximise traffic through electronic exchanges. Read about it in pages 2-3.

SAGGING CO-AX GAVE LINES TICKLISH TASK

At 3.50 p.m. on Friday, February 9 a concrete wall collapsed into an excavation at a Melbourne building site, where extensions were taking place to the St. Andrew's Hospital in Lansdowne St., East Melbourne. This presented Telecom engineers, lines and technical staff with a nerve wracking problem that took frenetic round the clock activity for almost all the week-end to solve.

The fall created a situation of extreme delicacy — it left 35 metres of the Melbourne - Sydney co-axial cable hanging precariously, supported only by the unstable rubble.

Without extreme care, a further fall was threatened, snapping or kinking the cable and cutting the main inter - capital link. Six junction cables connecting Russell and Collingwood Exchanges were also endangered in the fall.

Main burden of the early salvage work fell to the 40-man Abbotsford Depot of the Lines Practices and Protection Section, which is part of Regional Operations, Victorian Engineering — they included Don Rice (SLO), John McNamara, Tom Boland, Terry Davis (LO's), Dennis (Nobby) Hall, Tony Johnston, Phil Molineux, Mick Chapman and Dennis Petherbridge (Line Servicemen).

Lines Practices and Protection Engineers Ian Edlin and John Jageurs and STO Ron Paterson said that, amazingly, their assessment found no damage to the co-axial cable tubes and there was no interruption to the Melbourne-Sydney service at that stage. However, the junction cables had suffered some damage and all had lost pressurisation.

Working until midnight, the Section repressurised the cables to exclude water and moisture from the pairs and at 7 a.m. on Saturday were ready to support the cable by three cranes supplied by the builder while rubble was removed from the cables.

They explained that the situation was additionally precarious because all the cable slack in manholes north and south of the fall had been taken up and any further subsidence would mean certain damage.

Dangerously sagging cables pictured just after the wall collapse. The main Melb.-Syd. co-ax is seen second from the bottom.

ARGY-BARGY

The builder's men didn't quite appreciate the fragility of the situation and it was left to the diplomacy of Supervising Engineer, Len Jenkins to end a great deal of argy-bargy and settle on the way Telecom wanted cable support in both short and long term.

Despite extreme care, damage occurred to all tubes of the co-axial cable as it was lifted in slings by the cranes and some 6000 circuits were lost. About 1000 of these were smartly patched across to another route by Line Control staff Charlie Hardingham, Michael Douthwaite and Greg O'Toole.

Service to most of the other circuits was restored by patching in the cable.

Meanwhile Country Primary Works men (George Egizzi, Ray Richards, Brian Clohens, and Brian Gould) winched out some of the slack and Lines Practices and Protection staff had run semi-flex interruption tubes around the trouble area and working without a break, except for a few minutes to grab a meal, had all in readiness for reconnection of all systems on Sunday morning.

By Monday afternoon, a series of RSJ girders counterweighted by one tonne blocks of concrete had been put in position by the contractor and on Tuesday our cables were suspended from them.

In this work, Supervising Engineer, City Operations, Jim Gallagher, Senior Engineer Ted Kuriata, Rob Martindale, External Plant Manager Don Graham and SLO Bob Cousins were particularly involved.

For the Lines Practices and Protection Section it was a hectically busy time as staff had to be stretched to cover three other routine but round the clock excavations that endangered co-axial cables on the same weekend.

Design and development of a little black box which spies on lazy computers and announces when and by how much they are slacking is an achievement of far-reaching significance by a group of Telecom Australia engineers and technicians.

Research men's instrument lifts electronic exchange efficiency

Processor Monitoring Instrument (PMI) as it is called has universal application because it can measure the effective occupancy of any computer — that is, how much time the computer spends doing useful work. It can even measure its own occupancy because it includes a microprocessor in its design.

And it simultaneously monitors and displays up to 13 different components of the computer's workload, so the operator can see at a glance what kinds of jobs, calls or activities are contributing to the computer's occupancy.

For Telecom Australia it has a vital role — helping to maximise traffic capacity of our growing range of electronic exchanges.

This it does by tracking down and indicating system bottlenecks without interfering with normal exchange operation, and it has a further valuable function as a tool for traffic engineers and planners.

SCREEN OR PRINT

It can supply data on its screen or on a miniature printer which can be used for getting the measurements of processing time that are needed as the raw input information for capacity studies.

Until now, there had been no efficient way of getting these time measurements nor of independently monitoring the processing occupancy on our trunk exchanges.

Another use for PMI will be in counting the different types of calls passing through an exchange — for example international, trunk, nuisance calls and calls to operators.

WORKED FROM SCRATCH

The PMI project began when Telecom's Engineering Department passed the problem of monitoring central processor performance in trunk exchanges to Research for investigation.

Working from scratch in 1977 the PMI was designed and built by members of the Signalling and Control Section and Technical Services Section in the Switching and Signalling Branch, Research, with valued assistance from the Microelectronics Section, the Model Shop and the outposted Drafting Group (General Services Division) at Research and from members of the Switching Design Branch, HQ.

The instrument is housed in a steel box 50cm cubed; it weighs about 30 kg, is normally mounted on a trolley, and can be lifted by one strong person.

SUITS ALL SYSTEMS

A great deal of design effort went into ensuring that it can be used for any of the SPC systems to be installed in the Australian network, without the need for any software or hardware modification of the SPC system to be monitored, and without any undesirable electrical interference with the system being monitored.

The PMI is a versatile and complex instrument; its "eyes" are up to 30 electrical probes, 20 of which are connected to the memory address bus of a central processor.

TRIGGER ACTION

Its job is to look simultaneously for up to 32 user-defined addresses; whenever one of these addresses is used by the processor, the PMI is triggered, and this triggering action can be used to perform measurements such as counting or timing either simple or complex events.

It displays up to 14 of its measurements on a 12.5 cm screen, and can also print out its measurements on a miniature line printer which sits beside the PMI.

The PMI can be used to perform measurements automatically, even when its operator has gone home, by presetting the desired starting and stopping times for the measurement session.

The PMI will be based in the Model Exchange (National Support Centre) in Melbourne. Being light, compact and self-contained it has high mobility for employment at a few hours notice at any exchange throughout Australia.

DUPLICATE FOR LABS.

Research Dept. is now building a duplicate PMI for use in their own research projects.

Key participants in the design and development of PMI were Section Head, Signalling and Control Peter

Peter Gerrand demonstrates PMI's data logging capability with miniature line printer.

Paul Kirton and Wayne Cameron carry out system testing of the PMI in the Research Department's processor laboratory.

Nationally important Telecom Australia cables under Newcastle (NSW) Harbor recently had to be relocated to allow for harbor deepening work.

VITAL UNDERSEA CABLES SHIFTED TO $M TRENCH

First of the new relocated cables comes ashore.

The cables included not only links to the northern portion of the Newcastle network but part of the major coaxial cable route which carries intrastate and interstate TV programmes and telephone circuits as well as overseas circuits.

The trench for the cables was provided by the Maritime Services Board at a cost of approximately one million dollars. It is 6 metres wide and 3.3 metres deep below the finished level of the channel and extends from Queen Street Stockton on the northern side of the harbor to a point approximately 250 metres north of the Pilot station on the Newcastle side of the harbor.

The planning and design of the project was carried out by the Engineering Section of Telecom at Newcastle in conjunction with the Maritime Services Board.

MOSTLY ROCK

Most of the trench is in rock and before the cables were installed .9 metres of sand was placed on the floor of the trench.

Six cables were installed in the trench and one cable was placed in the trench each day until the project was completed. Each cable was winched across the harbour from the Stockton side towards the Newcastle side.

To minimise the hauling tension a number of 44 gallon drums was attached to the cable to provide some buoyancy. When the cable was in position divers released it from the drums allowing it to settle in the trench.

Whilst this operation was in progress the harbour was closed to Shipping for approximately 1½ hours each day.

When the laying of the cable was completed, all cables were tested and the Maritime Services Board arranged for backfilling the trench. On the Newcastle side foreshore the cables were encased in concrete using cement bags, then covered with slag skulls and finally the large protective rocks on the foreshore were replaced.

On the Stockton side foreshore which is of a sandy nature the cables were embedded in 1.5 metres of sand. Finally after the new cables were in service the old cables were recovered by the Maritime Services Board enabling deepening of the harbour to proceed.

Local District Lines Staff were used on the project with expertise provided by a river crossing team from Sydney. The Local Engineering Section from Newcastle provided engineering oversight.

Gerrand, Project leader Jim Park, Design engineer Paul Kirton, STO

Howard Fegent, TO2 Wayne Cameron and TO1 Phil Jackson.

Howard Fegent, Jim Park and Phil Jackson display the PMI's mysterious innards. Actually, they are doing a checkout of the microprocessor section.

Half-year sees strong growth

Telecom experienced strong business growth in the six months to 31 December 1978. Turnover was up 9% from $908m to $991m compared with the same period in 1977) despite unchanged prices for most services and cuts in telex call charges (July) and STD charges (November).

Announcing this Telecom's Chairman, Mr R.D. Somervaille, said that a programme of product promotion and cost containment together with productivity gains from technology had offset much of the business lost during the industrial troubles in August.

Net income for the period was $84.5m and a similar result is expected for the second half of the year. This trading result was after $202m had been set aside for depreciation and $167m paid to the Government and Telecom bond holders as interest on past borrowings. Telecom doesn't pay tax.

ACCOUNTS CHANGE

The result could not be compared directly with previous years as accounting procedures were being updated. As forecast last August in Telecom's Service & Business Outlook, a number of overhead charges previously capitalised were being expensed as is done widely by the business community and overseas telecommunications authorities.

The capital works programme for 1978/79 involves an expenditure of $950m of which 66% will come from internal resources. The half-yearly results and Telecom's successful public borrowings have enabled Telecom to maintain employment levels and to continue its programme at a high tempo with record numbers of new services being connected again this year.

BIG DEMAND IN NSW

Mr Somervaille said that demand was high for a wide range of telephone services, as well as for telex and data services. Demand was particularly buoyant in New South Wales and Queensland.

Telephone demand for the full year is expected to reach 470,000, up 47,000 on the record of last year. Telex was up 17%, data services 43% and miscellaneous services such as additional extensions up 16% on the same period in 1977.

Generally connections were up with demand but in some high growth areas connection times had lengthened a little. The capital works programme is finely balanced in accord with the Government's general call for restraint and some redeployment of resources is in hand to help the high growth areas.

REDUCTIONS WELCOMED

He said that early indications suggested a good acceptance of the STD charge reductions made last November. The economy rate (9pm-8am) was popular, generating new traffic and shifting some daytime calls to the late evening.

Mr Somervaille stressed that all surplus earnings were being ploughed into new telephone exchanges and buildings, trunk systems and cable reticulations to match the demand for service. They are neither paid to the Government nor held as a form of long-term reserve, he said. Using our money this way has been an important factor in our continuing freeze of basic charges.

TELECOM'S ACADEMIC AWARDS FOR 1979

General Manager Personnel Jack Ahern has announced that 16 scholarships/development training programme awards have been granted to staff members. One postgraduate scholarship was awarded, five received development training programme awards and 10 undergraduate scholarships.

Development training programme awards have been offered for the first time this year to enable officers to undertake in Australia or overseas full time work experience for a period of up to two years or short, work-related full-time academic studies.

Programmes may be awarded in two sub-categories:

- **Work experience programmes may consist of, observation, discussions and general experience or specific investigation. The general aim is for officers to keep abreast of developments in fields of research, techniques and practices or the like which are of particular relevance to the Commission.**
- **Academic study programmes may consist of formal courses or other studies at universities or other recognised academic institutions.**

Applications for these awards were invited in the Australian Government Gazette of August 24 last year. Here are recipients with brief details:

POST-GRAD

JILL FISCHER, Personnel, HQ
Postgraduate Scholarship to undertake a degree in Social Work at the University of Melbourne for 1 1/3 years.

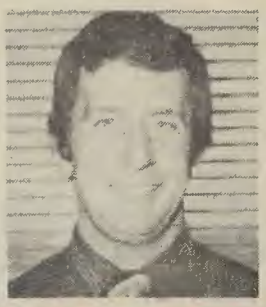
DEVELOPMENT

EVELYN SWENSON, Research HQ.
Development Training Programme Award for seven months at the British Post Office to gain further knowledge of, and experience in, future developments in techniques of SPC software design.

ROSS KELSO, Engineering HQ.
Development Training Programme Award to study effects upon network topology, new circuit provisioning and transmission economics of integrating digital switching with digital transmission systems into an existing telecommunications network in the ITT laboratory at Madrid, Spain for 1½ years.

JOHN MURPHY, Research HQ.
Development Training Programme Award for approximately 2 months to work at the microwave division of Thomson-CSF in France in the areas of research and development, planning, system engineering and production techniques.

DESMOND CARROLL, Engineering HQ.
Development Training Programme Award for 1½ years with French PTT to develop expertise in matters affecting optimum development of the transmission network, and in particular, decision making concerning introduction of digital technology; also to study further application of computer techniques to facilitate future systems evaluation.



ROBERT DAVIDSON, Engineering HQ.
Development Training Programme Award for approximately 6 to 9 months with the BPO to obtain information for, and to study means of improving the utilisation efficiency of the Maidstone Experimental complex including new laboratory building.

UNDERGRADUATE

THOMAS LANGENHEIM, Engineer Class 1 in the Communication Systems and Performance Section, Engineering Department, Tasmania scholarship for four months to upgrade his engineering qualifications to Degree standard at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education.

ANTHONY MARTIN, Clerk Class 6 on the Staff Pay Project in the General Accounting Section, Accounting and Supply Department at Headquarters scholarship for one and a half years to complete a Bachelor of Business Studies (Accounting) at Swinburne Institute of Technology. In addition to accounting, Mr Martin is specialising in Electronic Data Processing.

CHARLES MIFSUD, Technical Officer Grade 2 acting Senior Technical Officer Grade 1 in the Switching and Facilities (Country) Section, Planning and Programming Branch, Engineering Department, NSW for most of the time since graduating as a Technical Officer. One year Scholarship to complete a Bachelor of Science (Electrical Engineering) Degree at the University of NSW.

CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL, Technical Instructor, Grade 2 at the Internal Plant Technical Training Centre, Engineering Department, WA — a scholarship for two years to complete a Bachelor of Engineering (Communications) Degree at the WA Institute of Technology.

LEO WELLSPRING, Senior Technical Officer Grade 2, Transmission and Line planning (Country) Section, Planning and Programming Branch, — Engineering Department, NSW. A two year scholarship to complete a Bachelor Of Business (Accounting Major) Degree at the NSW Institute of Technology.

RICHARD BAKER, Assistant Manager (Class 7), Marketing Planning

PRESS SAFETY IDEA EARNS AWARD FOR BRISBANE TRADESMAN

Telecom Australia Staff Suggestions Board has made a $50 award to a tradesman at Bulimba Workshops (Qld) for a device which enhances the safety of power press operation.

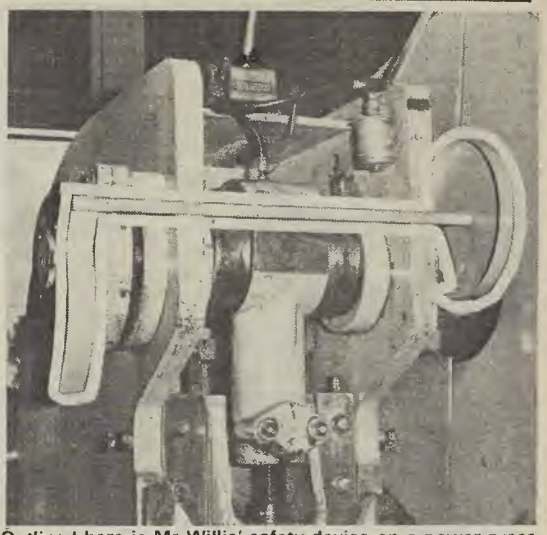
Submitting his suggestion, Mr L.J. Willis said: "I have worked at Bulimba workshop's press department for many years and have always been concerned with workmen forgetting to remove steel setting bars at the top of presses after setting. I have seen this on three occasions with the bar being thrown out.

"This could be a real safety hazard, so I have come up with a suggestion and have made a prototype safety device. I am using it with success.

"I have made a disc with an opening in it to allow the press to operate when in position; To gain this position there is a cover over the holes at the left of the press. This cover must be open to install the bar.

"When the cover is open the clutch is locked out and cannot be engaged to operate the press. The bar must be removed and the cover closed to allow the opening in the disc to line up with the clutch control.

"This device is of two parts only and is of welded construction and cannot get out of alignment or be dismantled by any operator."



Outlined here is Mr Willis' safety device on a power press

An engineering report on Mr Willis' device described it as simple, effective and efficient and readily adaptable to crank presses which employ a mechanical dog clutch on the main shaft. The report added:

"Presses of this type would probably be slowly rotated by the tool setter whilst adjusting the stroke. For this purpose he would probably employ a steel tommy bar thrust into one of the holes provided in the end of the main crank shaft (opposite to the clutch/flywheel end).

"Should this bar be forgotten when the press is operated under power it usually flies out and may hit someone which has in fact happened in Brisbane Workshops."

In making its award, the Staff Suggestions Board said Mr Willis' idea as a safety feature was of value to Telecom Australia and was considered superior to commercially supplied devices.

Several units had been operating in Brisbane Workshops and other State workshops were being advised of the device and its features.

As well as the $50 award, the Board directed that a suitable notation be made in Mr Willis' official history record.

Send your idea to Freepost 13, Executive Officer, Staff Suggestion Board, Telecom Aust. 19th Fl. 199 William St., Melb. 3000.

SCHOLARSHIPS

from Page 4.

Section, Marketing Branch, Customer Services Department, Queensland — one year to study full time at the University of Queensland to complete Bachelor of Economics (marketing) degree.

RODERICH BRYANT, Technical Officer Grade 1 in the Special Services Design Group, Customer Networks and Equipment Section, Regional Operations Branch, Engineering Department South Australia. A two years full time study at University of Adelaide to complete Bachelor of Engineering (elec.) degree.

BRUCE EYRE, Clerk Class 4, Redfern District, operations, NSW one year scholarship to complete a Bachelor of Applied Science (mathematics) Degree at NSW Institute of Technology.

TERENCE GAITSKELL, Senior Technical Officer Grade 1 in the Traffic Engineering Section of the Planning and Programming Branch, Engineering Department Western Australia — scholarship to complete Bachelor of Business (Information Processing) degree at the WA Institute of Technology.

CLIFFORD GIBSON, Technical Officer, Grade 1 in City Operations, Perth Central District, awarded a scholarship to study full time for the year 1979 to obtain Bachelor of Applied Science (Engineering) degree at the WA Institute of Technology.

SANDY EXITS (AS OUR PIC COMMANDS)

Ill health has forced the retirement of a very popular and knowledgeable officer of the Chief Telegraph Office, Sydney — Mr R. D. "Sandy" Corr, Assistant Manager.

"Sandy" as he is known throughout the service was responsible for much of the planning and preparatory work prior to the commencement of the Tress network and the introduction of transit switching and special urgent channels for Interstate Telegraph Traffic. He was well known and highly regarded for his knowledge and skill in all matters connected with telegraph technical and traffic procedures.

He commenced duty as a Telegraph Messenger at Barmera, South Australia in 1937 and was permanently appointed to Renmark six months later. In 1939 with the spirit of youthful adventure, "Sandy" transferred to Darwin and remained there for three years before passing the Telegraphist-in-Training Course in Adelaide.

The Royal Australian Navy was his preference during the war years after which he transferred to Sydney. He passed the Telegraph Traffic Officers Examination in 1957 and subsequent promotions saw him as Traffic Officer Grade 6, Works and Equipment, Service Branch in 1967.

"Sandy" returned to the Telegraph Branch in 1969 as Assistant Superintendent and then Assistant Manager till his retirment. In our photo (l-r) Bill Brady, Kevin McGrath and "Sandy" Corr share a drink at the farewell.

The Deputy Chief General Manager (Mr J.R. Smith), right, enjoys an afternoon tea break chat with two country representatives at the Operations Department seminar in Adelaide in February. At left is Vic Payne (Customer Services Manager at Whyalla) and Maurie Williams (Admin. Manager, Murray Bridge).

DEPUTY CGM PRAISES MORALE, EFFICIENCY

Service and efficiency in the local area are the fundamental objectives of Telecom's District Organisation, said Deputy Chief General Manager Jim Smith at the closing session of the SA Operations Department seminar attended by all DTMs and District functional managers in Adelaide last month.

Here are some points emphasised by Mr Smith in his address:

- Our service is good by previous standards at a time when tremendous demand and growth have taken place. In almost every category of service this year our outputs are up very considerably. Demand for service was greater than forecast and better service is no doubt stimulating that demand.
- We have achieved excellent results in efficiency in the past 3½ years. While technology has helped, better availability of the things that help men and women do their work and better management and organisation of work have been of great importance.
- This has enabled Telecom to hold its basic charges and make some important reductions.
- We are moving as far as efficiency is concerned on to a new tack — the new tack is materials management. One reason we cannot do all we want to in Telecom is lack of a good old fashioned commodity — money. We must free up some capital through better stock management to help us do what we want to in our engineering and building programmes.

INSTALLATION SPEED-UP

- We intend to make some further improvements in speed of installation in the coming 12 months just as we have done over the past couple of years, but this cannot be done unless we free up some of the money tied up in existing stock. We will do this by better materials management, not by causing material shortages. Management knows that better supplies have helped the drive for service, but there are major items where lower stock can be carried safely.

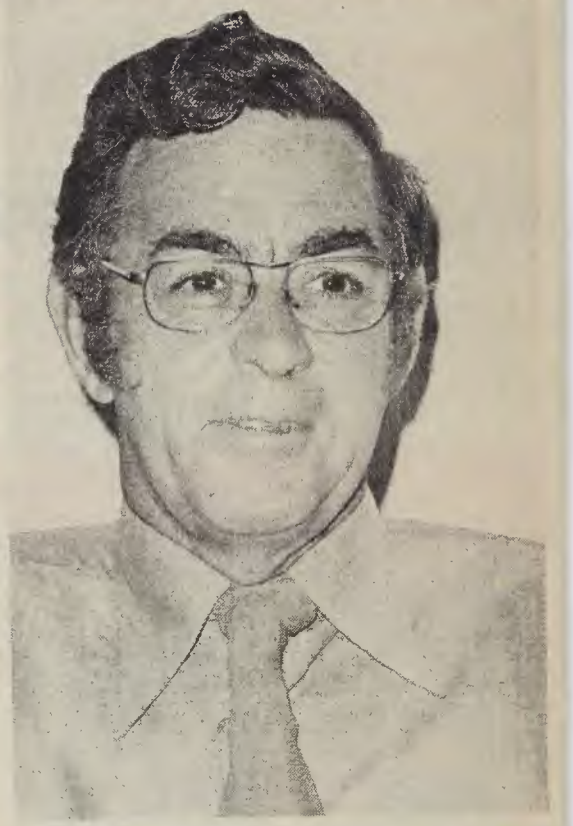
Directing his remarks to the District Organisation, Mr Smith said that within the Districts one of the fine things was the way morale had been maintained in the past couple of years. This was a tribute to State and District management. "The inevitable problems and difficulties, frustrating as they may be, do not change the positive outlook of the Districts to give service." Posing the question "How is the District Organisation Going?", Mr Smith said "Results speak for themselves. Top management in Telecom regard them as very good. Many customers I have come in contact with have told me results are noticeably good.

"Influential people in Canberra recently told me that in those circles, Telecom Australia also has won a first-class reputation. You are the people helping to get these results — by hard work and by maintaining morale."

State Manager Murray Coleman said he was proud of the efforts of the Districts and the functional departments. "As a team, I think you are good. I have a healthy regard for people in Operations and none more so than for people in the field."

In lighter vein at the opening dinner preceding the operations department seminar Messrs. D. Cock (Accident Prevention Officer) E.K. McCann (Chief Manager Operations), D.M. Coleman (State Manager) & N. McKenzie (Adelaide North District Manager).

'Mac' is new SA OPS chief



New Chief Manager Operations for South Australia and the Northern Territory Eugene McCann (above) subscribes to the philosophy of having faith in the capacity of people to deliver and treating people as people.

Like many other senior Telecom people he joined the then PMG as a messenger, after schooling at Seaton Park and Adelaide Technical High School.

Eugene, who took up his new position in mid-February, replaced Mr R.E. Baldock who has retired.

"Mac", as he is widely known, began his career, spanning 38 years, in the Unley-Adelaide area.

Before his appointment as Manager, Admin. Engineering Department in 1964, he was Costing Officer, Executive Officer Country Branch and Senior Clerk, Admin. He participated in the Glare, Dagg and McCann working party developing the Finance, Costing and Admin. functions and later was leader of the Commission Task Unit 21 (Delegations). He was also a member of the Realph Impact Study Group and the District Costing and District Information Systems Working Parties (HQ) and travelled widely throughout Australia.

As an Area Manager (unattached), he teamed with Ken Gunn (CM, C.S. Victoria), in a Telecom Customer Interface Study in South Australia, but when Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin in 1974 he was seconded as Director's Co-ordinator to assist.

On Vesting Day in 1975 he was appointed Co-ordinator to the State Manager, Telecom Australia.

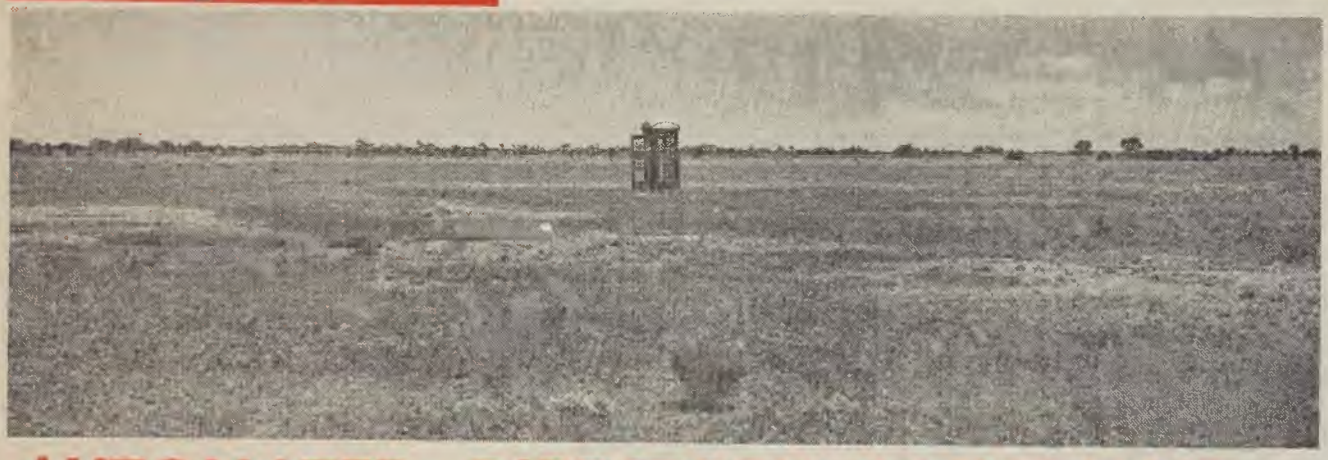
About two years later he was appointed District Telecom Manager, Adelaide South — one of the three Adelaide Metropolitan Districts included in the first eight "trial" Districts in Australia.

"Mac" is a qualified Accountant and names his interests as fishing and gardening.

In earlier days he played "A" grade football in Canberra and Whyalla. He has been an operational member of the SA Sea Rescue Squadron since its inception in 1960, past Treasurer of the Australian Post-Tel Institute for 11 years, past Auditor and Trustee of the ACOA and Administrative Chairman of his local Church for 11 years.

But where's the public?

During the construction of the Moomba Pipe Line this public telephone was installed near the pipe line between Tibooburra and Wanaaring in the north west corner of New South Wales. As the construction party moved southwards the P.T. was of no further use so the equipment was removed and the cabinet shell remains like a sentinel in the wilderness. Surprisingly, it has not been damaged and is still in good condition.



AUTOMATED DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE IN SYDNEY TRIAL

A six months trial of a new Automated Directory Assistance Service Data Retrieval System commenced in Sydney on ten operating positions last month. The system has been in operation in the USA for about 18 months.

The operators each have a console with a Visual Display Unit and a Keyboard, and directory information is sorted in the system under three headings: Residential — Business — Government.

Unlike the conventional directory assistance systems, this system stores the information on a phonetic basis. Thus it isn't necessary for the caller or operator to know the exact spelling of the wanted person's name.

The search function for a wanted listing is accomplished by the operator keying in parts of the name and address information furnished by the caller.

On depression of the appropriate search key, the central computer will display on the VDU in an average time of generally less than one second, those listings which match the keyed-in information.

Should this be unsuccessful, further searches can be made even to information listings which are phonetically similar to that keyed.

On an average day in Sydney, operators on 013 answer about 26,000 queries, while at peak periods, about 55 operators handle about 2,500 calls an hour.

Christine Hindmarch (telephonist), Joan Bullivant (telephonist), Rosemary Kilborn (Supervisor), and Chris Linsner (Computer Console Inc., USA) at the introduction of the new Directory Assistance V.D.U. units in Sydney.

Telephonist Doreen Moore operates one of the new Directory Assistance Service VDU's in Sydney.

The DAS/C Automated Directory Assistance Service Data Retrieval System was introduced in Sydney on a trial basis on 7.2.79.

An interested group at the introduction were (l — r) Beris Forrester (NSW President, ATPOA), Charles Dougal (Project Manager, Directory Assistance Service Project, H.O.), Ken Ward (Industrial Relations), Bill Bellshaw (Senior Project Officer, NSW), Marilyn Brown (NSW Secretary, ATPOA), Ron Leis (Manager, M.T.X.) and the operetor.

Blanche pulls the plug

Well known telephone supervisor and golfer Blanche Otto retired in Maryborough (Qld) recently because of ill health. Blanche was first employed as a telephonist at Pialba in 1951 before moving to Maryborough.

From 1966 until her retirement she was responsible for inspecting country exchanges and training telephonists throughout the Maryborough District.

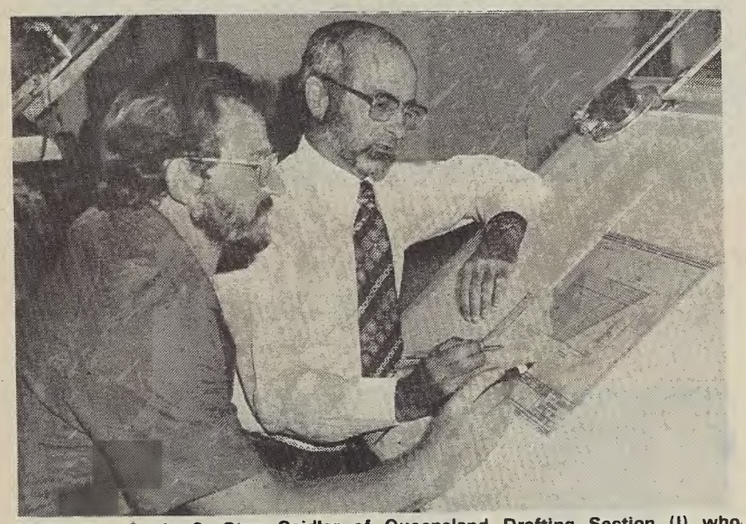
She is also well known in golfing circles and was a member of the Queensland State women's team in 1954, 1955 and 1959.

Blanche was the Queensland women's golf champion in 1957 and won the Wide Bay Association championship on three occasions.

About 50 Telecom employees joined district manager Noel Ryan in farewelling her at a dinner in Maryborough.

For Watt Watchers

QLD. CHART SHOWS YEARLY POWER COST AT A GLANCE



Draftsman Grade 2, Stan Cajdler of Queensland Drafting Section (l) who developed the chart from the initial idea, discusses progress with Lloyd Woods, Energy Manager Queensland.

Queensland draftsman Stan Cajdler has developed a chart which can be used at home or at work to give quick calculations of annual costs of running any electrical device or appliance.

Mr L.M. Woods, State Energy Manager for Queensland, believes that the chart is a valuable adjunct to Telecom's Watt Watcher energy savings campaign and it has been distributed throughout the State. We reproduce the chart in these pages. This is how it is used.

It is first necessary to know the marginal rate of your area's electricity tariff, e.g. a typical domestic tariff might be — First 30 Kilowatt-hours at 10 cents/kilowatt hour, Next 150 Kilowatt-hours at 5 cents/kilowatt hour, Remaining Kilowatt-hours at 4 cents/kilowatt hour.

In this case the marginal rate is 4 cents per kilowatt-hour (KWH).

MARGINAL TARIFFS

Marginal domestic tariffs for a few areas are — Brisbane, Toowoomba 3.28 cents, Townsville, Charters Towers, Ayr, Bowen 4.06 cents, Cairns, Mackay 4.06 cents, Maryborough 3.79 cents, Winton, Cloncurry, Rockhampton, Gladstone 4.7 cents, Mt Isa 4.5 cents, Boulia, Burke, Longreach, Barcaldine, Birdsville 5.8 cents, Dalby, Roma 4.2 cents.

It is assumed all of the higher cost KWH's are used for essential purposes and the appliance or device being considered is operating at the marginal rate.

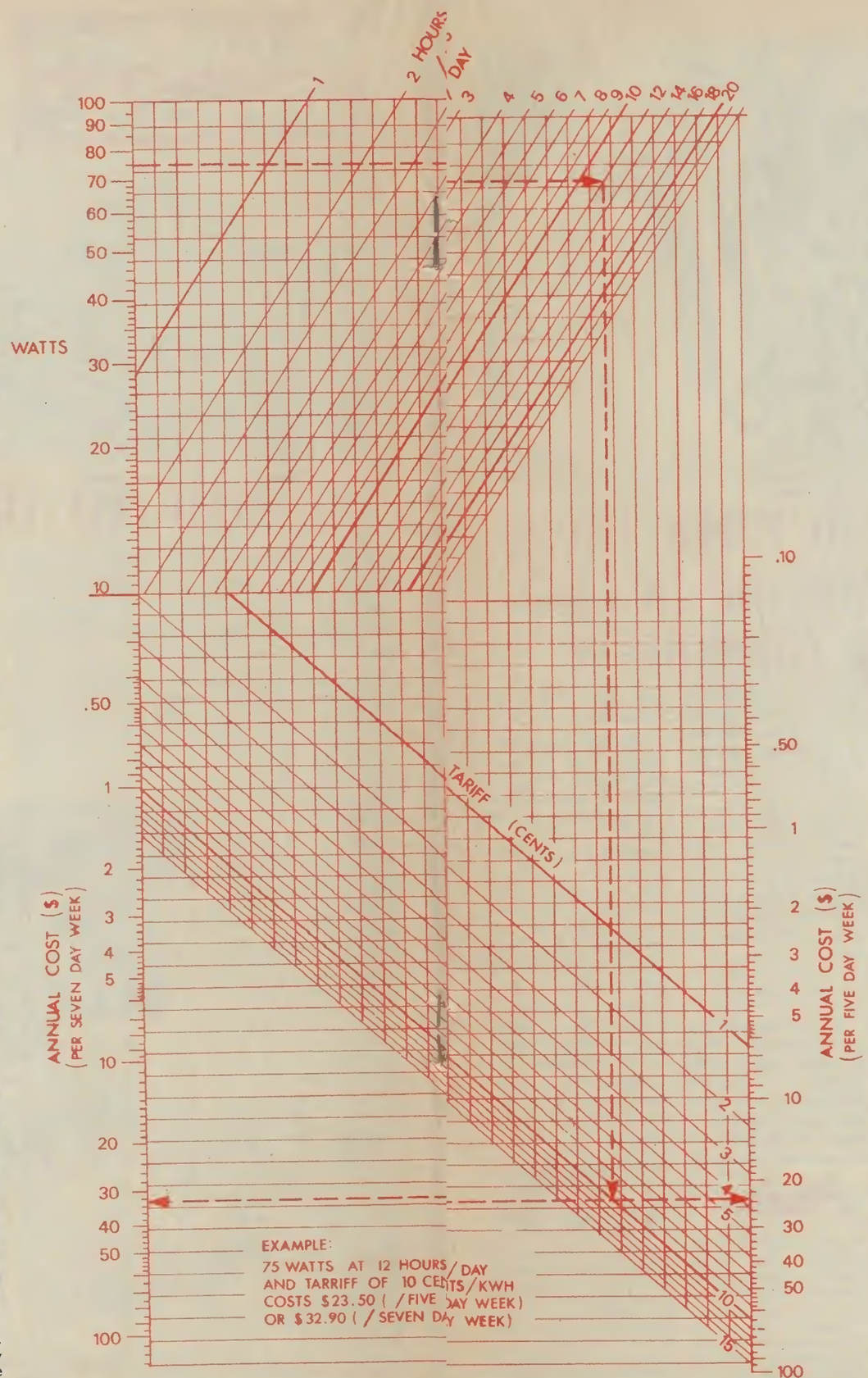
The chart can be used for —

- Any wattage — provided the user divides by 10; 100; 1000 — before using and multiplies the answer by the same number after using.
- Any tariff up to 15 cents/kilowatt-hour
- Any number of hours usage per day (must be the same each day)
- Either a 5 or a 7 day week

An example of the method of use is shown dotted on the chart. This could be the cost of running a 75 watt security light from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. when the marginal tariff rate is 10 cents/KWH.

Start from the 75 watt point at the top left hand margin. Proceed horizontally to the right to an intersection with the 12 hours/day line. From this intersection drop vertically to the 10cent/KWH line.

From this second intersection proceed horizontally to the margin to get the annual cost in dollars. The left hand margin is for seven days per week operation and the right hand side for five days per week.



READY RECKONER OF ANNUAL ELECTRICITY COSTS

RON'S THANKS

I would like to thank everyone in the Burwood Division NSW for their generosity and thoughtfulness toward my family and myself while I was recuperating from a bad fall which prevented me from working for three and a half months. During this time I was not entitled to pay or compensation.

Ron Fountain
Lidcombe Subs Installation

SOLAR POWER FOR NEW ROMA SYSTEM

Telecom will use solar power to energise a new communications system in the Roma (Qld) District, according to Telecom District Manager, Bryce Plummer who said a six channel radio system from Glendonnel (about 100 km N.N.E. of Roma) to Womblebank would be powered by a solar energy unit based at Glendonnel.

"Conventional electrical power is not available and a feasibility study showed solar energy is the most efficient and most economical means of energising the system.

"A back-up system of heavy duty batteries will ensure availability of power to keep the system operational despite weather conditions" Mr Plummer said.

This will be the second solar energy unit to be commissioned by Telecom in the Roma District. The first powers a repeater station near Wiseby for transmission of telephone traffic to the Carnarvon Ranges.

BRYCE PLUMMER

Mr Plummer said the new Glendonnel-Womblebank telecommunications system is being provided to ensure a more reliable service for Glendonnel customers, at a total cost of $30,000.

"To upgrade Glendonnel services, Telecom is spending more than $3000 per connected telephone service and this is an example of Telecom's attitude to improving country services throughout Australia" Mr Plummer said.

Coinphones over top

With a two week intensive training course behind them, Victoria's coin phone shock troops have moved into the Melbourne metropolitan field with a two-tiered territorial objective:

- **Make the public coin telephone service a conspicuous success through implementation of COTERP (Coin Telephone Replacement Plan).**
- **Materially increase penetration of the leased coin telephone market.**

OIC Coin Telphones, Vic. Customer Services John Boyd who with Training Officer Anne Cox psyched up the troops in the training course said that eight Telecom districts would be covered under supervision of the Advisory Services Manager. Each district would have three staff — OIC Coin Telephones — Operations, Coin Telephones Sales Consultant and Coin Telephones Inspections Officer.

Sales targets have been set for each district and it is hoped will be achieved with advertising and promotional help, such as mail and other campaigns. Below: Before the battle.

(Back row — l to r) Rick Eustace, Frank Jarvis, (COTERP Overseers), Bob Perry, Marisa Rogneda (City), Tony Xavier, Tom McLean (Ringwood), Lou Chaung, Front: Chris Wheeler, Tas Maniatakis (Ivanhoe), Frank Bourke, Diann McDonough, Sue Auld (Clayton).

John Boyd (OIC Coin Telephones Vic.), Cheryl Morgan, Robin Nuss, Steve Thornton (Cheltenham), Nick Yiangou, Tony Polifiore, Gary Whiteman (Coburg), Front: Mick Gleeson, Bev Gauci (Camberwell), Lyn Miller, Graham Cunningham (Footscray), Annie Cox (Training Officer CSD Vic.).

Gordon Poulter dies, aged 55

Gordon James Poulter, Public Relations Officer for the Postmaster-General's Department in Queensland for 15 years, died recently in Brisbane after a 10-month illness.

Aged 55, Gordon Poulter had been deeply involved in the Australian Post-Tel Institute and the Postal Telecommunications Historical Society.

Gordon began his career as a telegraph messenger at Dubbo (N.S.W.) in June, 1938. He became a Postal Assistant at the same office after his return from service with the RAAF in 1946.

Gordon transferred to Brisbane in 1950 and served with the Telegraph Branch and the Public Relations Office. From 1960 until the formation of the two Commissions in 1975 he was Public Relations Officer.

In December, 1975 he was promoted Manager of Marketing and Service, Australia Post. Ill health forced his early retirement in March, 1978.

Gordon was State President of the Australian Post-Tel Institute from 1973 to 1979. In 1977 he was elected Inaugural Deputy National President of the API at the National Board meeting in Perth.

He was President of the Post Office Historical Society of Queensland — now the Postal Telecommunications Historical Society — from March, 1967 to July, 1977 and was made a life member in November, 1978.

Gordon is survived by his widow Muriel and daughters Narelle (Mrs Callanan) and Jennifer.

Australia Post Queensland Manager Ray Brown said Gordon Poulter had given 40 years of very loyal, dedicated and efficient service to the Postmaster-General's Department and to Australia Post and he would be sorely missed.

"He was a highly-valued member of the Queensland management team", Ray Brown added.

Sue Boyer displaying her winning entry in the vandalism poster competition to Queensland's Deputy Police Commissioner (Mr Vern MacDonald) and Telecom's Chief State Engineer (Mr Doug Baker).

VANDALISED PUBLIC PHONE THEME WINS QUEENSLAND POSTER COMPETITION

The winning entry in a poster competition among schools is being distributed through Queensland to help combat telephone vandalism.

The competition was conducted by the 4C movement — Community Crime Check Campaign — to increase community concern and community involvement in preventing vandalism.

The winner of the competition was Miss Sue Boyer, then of Aspley High School, whose entry featured vandalism of public telephones.

Telecom reprinted copies of Miss Boyer's winning entry for 4C and they are now being displayed around the State.

Chief State Engineer (Doug Baker), then Acting State Manager, was present for the launching of the posters and presented Sue, now an art student, with a book on art.

8 TECHS FULL TIME

At the presentation Mr Baker said Brisbane had about 2200 public telephones and eight Telecom technicians were employed full time restoring vandalised equipment.

Australia-wide vandalism cost Telecom $4.5 million each year, about $1 per head on all of our telephone bills.

Mr Baker said Miss Boyer's poster showed graphically that telephones were a lifesaving utility and should be protected by every member of the community.

Queensland Deputy Police Commissioner (Mr Vern MacDonald), who attended the ceremony, congratulated Miss Boyer, the 4C movement and Telecom.

Dan was the man on the Plains

DTM-ROMA
Dear Sir:

I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the manner in which the recent change over for Cecil Plains was carried out.

Your staff could not have been more co-operative and helpful and carried out their various functions in such a splendid way.

The STD exchange is greatly appreciated and the only sorrow I have is losing the personal attention of Dan Garraby — he has been fantastic.

John R. Bligh
'Kurrowah' —
Brookstead.
4352.

[Mr Dan Garrahy is the non-official Postmaster at Cecil Plains, and rendered excellent service to our customers under manual exchange conditions for fourteen years.

The Cecil Plains manual exchange was replaced by an automatic exchange in December with access to the National STD grid. Cost of the conversion was $427,000 and 173 telephone services were connected. This means Telecom spent about $2,600 per customer — to provide a higher standard of service. The project involved employment of 18 Telecom staff from Dalby and Brisbane at Cecil Plains over a period of about 12 months.

— Editor]

TELEPHONE HEROINE DIES

The death occurred last month of Miss Ivy Robins (72) who heroically refused to leave her switchboard at Erica Post Office during Victoria's most disastrous bushfires of Black Friday, January 13, 1939. Only a handful of newspaper reporters and Miss Robins remained in the tiny Gippsland town which was completely ringed by fires, but she continued to operate and thereby contributed to the saving of at least 17 lives.

Telecom Australia has almost completed a major reorganisation of its Headquarters and State Public Relations offices. In a series of articles commencing this month, Telecom will outline the modernised State set-ups and will record the separation of the public relations and information and publicity functions at Headquarters. We begin with NSW, the Senior State.

Who's Who in NSW PR

The Public Relations Section in New South Wales has undergone considerable reorganization over the past six months to enable it better to fulfill the fundamental task of public relations — telling Telecom Australia's story simply and truthfully.

The failure of Telecom to present its story through all the channels available is likely to have the effect so succinctly expressed by the latest Parkinson Law.

This latest creation by Dr C. Northcote Parkinson, who has provided us with such gems as: "Work expands to fill the time available" is a bit more cynical. It states: "The vacuum created by a failure to communicate will quickly be filled with rumour, misrepresentation, drivel and poison".

Telecom's reputation depends on the service it gives and how ably it explains what it is doing and why it is doing it, what it plans to do or what it hasn't been able to do.

The mass media is an important avenue for telling the Telecom story, answering critics and questions, overcoming misunderstandings and showing sensitivity to customer needs.

In New South Wales the Public Relations Section comprises a staff of nine. Manager of the section is Willie Millard, who is assisted by two media officers, Jim Guild and Peter St Clare-Hobbs, and a public relations officer, Miss Toni McLennan.

The other five members of the staff are: Charlie Stoddart (clerk), Barbara Neil (historical officer), Paul Faulds (projectionist) and Lorraine Polock and Reba Smith (both clerical assistants).

Willie, Jim and Peter are concerned mainly with seeking information on Telecom which will interest the media and preparing news releases, responding to media queries and answering specific criticisms.

The manager's additional responsibilities include providing effective support to the State Manager and other key State executives in matters involving contact with representatives from government, commercial, media and domestic circles.

PR MANAGER NSW ... experienced international journalist WILLIE MILLARD

He also has to ensure that attention is directed towards developing new initiatives to improve internal communications with staff at all levels.

Jim Guild (57) who has been in the Public Relations Section for 15 years joined the then PMG Department in 1936 as a messenger.

Peter St Clare-Hobbs (57) was a broadcaster and TV interviewer before joining the Australian Post Office as a journalist in 1970.

Toni McLennan, who joined the PMG Department in 1954, was secretary to both Mr Jack Curtis and Mr Bill Schmidt in Queensland, before joining Public Relations, initially as Historical Officer.

In her present position as Public Relations Officer she is responsible for supervising the general services in the office, dealing with complaints from the public which have been received by the State Manager, and assisting with the reception of visitors and the organizing of special functions.

While Barbara Neil is involved in arranging displays and exhibitions of historical material, researching and compiling histories of the Commission and developing and maintaining a catalogue of historical material and equipment, Paul Faulds has a full programme of screening films about Telecom's activities to schools, social clubs and service clubs. His audience on some days is as high as 500.

Liaising with the advertising agency, dealing with correspondence and oversighting the despatch of publicity material to schools and businesses is the responsibility of Charlie Stoddart assisted by Lorraine Polock while Reba Smith looks after the switchboard and assists with other clerical duties.

Willie Millard (40) has spent most of his working life as a newspaper journalist. After arriving in Australia eight years ago from South Africa as a migrant he worked on both the Sydney Morning Herald and The Australian as a senior finance writer before joining Telecom as New South Wales Public Relations Manager in September 1978.

Before embarking on a career as a journalist in South Africa he qualified as a laboratory technician and subsequently gained an economics degree. He worked for the major newspaper group in South Africa, initially as a general news reporter before specialising in financial journalism.

NEXT MONTH: Our Public Relations organisation in South Australia and Tasmania.

Panros II at Penrith

The Second PANROS Dinner will be held on Thursday, March 29, 1979 at Penrith. PANROS stands for "Penrith and Nepean Reunion of Staff". The function is open to any member of staff — past or present — who at some time worked in the old Nepean Division (now the Outer Sydney Section) or the old Penrith District Telephone Office. Last year the First Dinner was held on the eve of the establishment of the new District organisation in Penrith and over 160 people attended. This year an even bigger roll up is expected. Anyone interested in attending is invited to contact Dick Corin or Barry Langdon on (047) 31 4444.

Phones for Sydney bulls and bears was big Telecom job

This photo courtesy of the Australian captures some first day excitement at the new Sydney Stock Exchange.

When the Sydney Stock Exchange completed its move into its new premises on January 15 without any hitch in its telecommunications links with the rest of the financial centres in Australia, there was a collective sigh of relief from the staff at the Sydney City District Telecommunications Office.

Staff from the D.T.O. had been liaising with the Sydney Stock Exchange, their architects and engineers since mid-1977.

In the final four months before the move occurred technical and administrative staff from Sydney City were involved in detailed planning and installation work to ensure that all work was completed and the whole system operating before the move took place.

A feature of the operation is that it was split into two sections to enable the Stock Exchange to continue functioning without a break in trading, despite the size of the move.

The initial cutover was on Saturday, January 6 which allowed the new 176 extension line PABX at the new Bond Street premises to receive incoming calls from Monday, January 8 and route them back through the existing PABX in O'Connell Street to the various extensions where trading continued.

The following Saturday all other equipment in the new Stock Exchange was commissioned in advance of the official opening of the trading floor on Monday January 15 by the Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Cutler.

The move to Bond Street is the sixth since the Sydney Stock Exchange was formed in 1871. After first operating from Greville's Commercial Rooms next to the GPO in George Street for a year, the Exchange moved to the corner of Bridge and Pitt Streets in 1872 before another move in 1896 to the corner of Martin Place and Pitt Street.

In 1901 it acquired its own building at 113 Pitt Street, which was its home for 59 years until the move in 1960 to O'Connell Street.

In the new Exchange Centre complex, which comprises two buildings, a 31 storey tower and an 8-storey building linked by a plaza, the Stock Exchange has a long term lease over three basement levels which have been designed to meet its particular requirements such as a double-height trading floor.

On the trading floor the familiar system of chalk boys stationed on a catwalk marking the big board has been continued. The brokers booths, containing their telephones and computer terminal facilities, are on a tiered floor facing the main trading boards.

All telephones in the brokers booths — totalling 150 of which 50 are direct exchange lines and the remaining either private or external extensions from brokers' offices — are modified wallfones with light emitting diodes on each side which work in unison with a light above the trading floor when the number is called.

A special printed circuit board was designed and built by Telecom staff to enable a constant rather than intermittent light to be emitted by the diodes when a call is received.

The move also involved relocating the Exchange's public address system through which messages can be relayed to the trading floor and via the telephone network to brokers' offices throughout the city.

The recorded voice information service on share prices, which is updated hourly during trading hours by Stock Exchange personnel, also had to be moved to the new premises and be operational when trading started on the Monday morning.

Sydney City staff were also responsible for the cabling for an innovation in information services for stock exchanges in Australia.

This is the North American type "Ticker" display on the trading floor and also over the entrance to the Exchange Centre to provide continuous market and trading information, not only to brokers but to the public.

Supplier wins US award

Australian management and workmanship recently received acclaim when major Telecom supplier STC Pty. Ltd. won the General Electric Company of America award for distinguished sub-contractor performance . . . an honor attained by only one per cent of some 4000 firms concerned. The citation applauded STC's superior management controls which enabled the company to be competitive, conscientious employees who take pride in their work and ability to deliver a quality product on time. In the photo, General Electric's General Manager Lindsay McAllister presents the award to STC Managing Director A. T. Deegan (left).

Phone thieves 'parasites'—SM

SOUTHPORT (Qld) magistrate, Mr Jock Rutherford, called two men who broke into phone booth coin boxes and cost Telecom more than $4000 'parasites on the community'.

The two men appeared in the Southport Court on three joint charges and one of them on seven charges involving damage to phone equipment and stealing coin boxes and money.

This man also appeared on three charges for offences committed in N.S.W.

Police prosecutor for the Queensland offences, Sgt Mick Cahill, said the two men were arrested after an investigation by Telecom.

"On January 14 and 15 seven Telecom investigators kept phone boxes around the Coast under observation," said Sgt Cahill.

"On the Gold Coast Highway at Palm Beach they saw the defendants in action — they had taken a large screw driver into the phone box and were trying to force open the coin safe door."

Mr J. Rutherford, SM, said the person who paid the bill for damage to public property was the everyday citizen who 'does everything right'.

"He has a right to be protected from men like you who could be called parasites on the community," Mr Rutherford said.

He ordered the two men to pay a total of $287.71 costs each on the three joint charges, in default six weeks in jail.

On the seven other Queensland charges involving damage to phones and theft, one man was ordered to pay a total of $3967.23, in default 12 months jail.

This man's defence counsel said his parents had 'gone into hock' to pay the $3967 restitution ordered and that their son intended to pay them back.

Mr Rutherford ordered the man to pay a total of $599.37 restitution in default one month in jail for the NSW offences.

Sobers scores

World famous Windies cricketer Sir Garfield Sobers proved the usual big drawcard at Horsham (Vic) recently but in the commercial and not the cricketing arena. He was a special guest at the official opening of Telecom's first Wimmera Business Office, the twelfth of its kind to be opened in Victoria. A very large crowd attended the opening which was covered live by local radio station 3WM. Scores of kids came to hero-worship Sir Garfield who kindly dispensed cricketing wisdom to many of the youngsters. He also presented an autographed cricket bat to Horsham's Denise Boehm (12) winner of a competition held at the opening. The new Business Office has a wide range of Telecom equipment on permanent display. In our photo, Sir Garfield gives Denise a few hints on handling her new bat while Ararat District Telecom. Manager Cyril Jones listens in.

Jewel shines in courtesy

Mrs Jewel Thompson, a supervisor at the Cowra (NSW) Telephone Exchange, has been selected as a winner of the Cowra Courtesy Award. The award is made each week over six months, and ends with a luncheon during the town's Festival of the Lachlan Valley in March when a yearly winner is announced. The awards are sponsored by the Cowra Tourist and Development Corporation to promote courtesy when dealing with the public. Mrs. Thompson was chosen as the weekly winner because of her polite and friendly manner when dealing with subscribers. She was also praised for her helpful attitude. Photo courtesy Cowra Guardian.

Free calls promote ISD

A Telecom promotion at Burnie for prospective international subscriber dialling customers met an enthusiastic response. About 40 local businessmen and women and regular overseas callers were invited to make a free call through ISD to the country of their choice. ISD was introduced to subscribers connected to the Devonport, Ulverstone and Burnie exchanges late last year. In the Burnie Advocate photo above State Manager for OTC, Mr Barry Mottram (left) and Mr Laurie Dean (DTM), right, are pictured assisting Mr John Licandro, one of the first subscribers in Burnie to be connected to the ISD service, make a call to his home in Italy.

Telecom gives equal opportunity to handicapped

Special efforts are being made by Telecom to employ more handicapped people under a new policy of equality for all people employed or seeking employment. As a major employer, we have a social responsibility to employ more handicapped people, and through correct placement this is being done.

Typical of Telecom's policy in assisting the handicapped is Ken Telfer employed as a Clerical Assistant on the emergency switchboard of the Building Emergency Section at Pitt Telephone Exchange, Sydney.

Ken is 46 years of age, a Bachelor of Arts (Canada), and is married with one child. As the result of an accident Ken now has only 6% vision in one eye and none in the other. Despite this he is a very happy person with a wonderful personality and is an excellent operator.

Ken originally had difficulty distinguishing the lights of the various sections of the switchboard, but with the assistance of the technical staff at the Exchange this was overcome.

The technicians changed the one type lights to various colours and now Ken is doing a first class job.

His board handles all general enquiries for the Pitt Exchange but more particularly receives all calls for urgent building services such as failure of lifts in buildings occupied by Telecom in the Sydney Metropolitan Area, fire alarms in all buildings, failure of pumps in cable tunnels throughout Sydney, breakdown in power, fire in public telephones and all after-hours emergencies in buildings.

Ken has proved that given the opportunity, handicapped persons have many skills to offer in the work situation, enhanced perhaps by their desire, or perhaps even need, to participate in open employment.

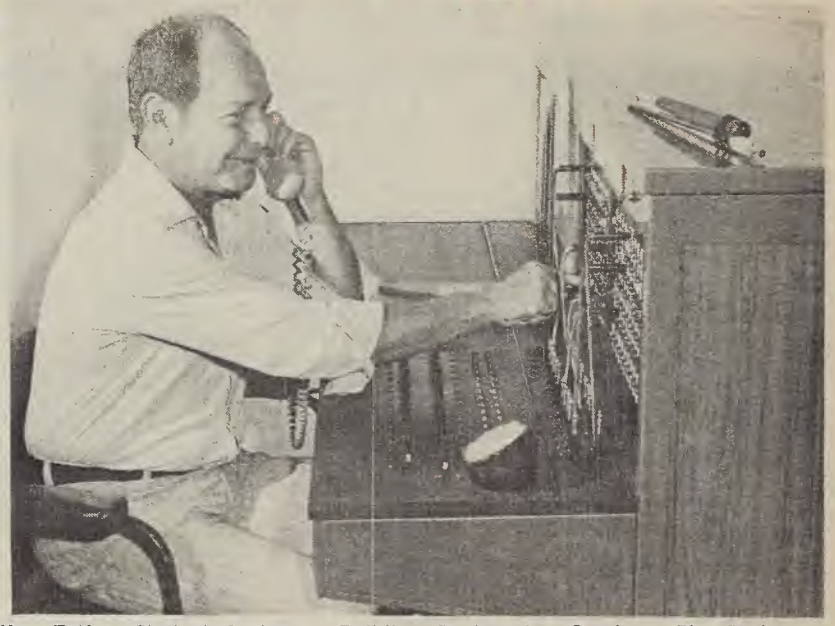
With this employment potential they are probably more conscious of the benefits of having a job in terms of both personal and financial independence.

Managerial staff, supervisors and workers in general should endeavour to instil confidence into the handicapped within the work situation and given that confidence, the individual will do the rest.

Special Placement Officers have been appointed who are responsible for the placement of all disadvantaged groups, and conditions of employment are continually under review to ensure they are flexible enough to enable these special groups to be considered.

Within the Commission also is the Discrimination Review Committee of the Telecommunications Consultative Council which considers protests from employees against any considered breach of the policy on equality.

Telecom's involvement with the handicapped is not confined to internal assistance as many contracts are approved to sheltered workshops employing handicapped people. The major one is Central Industries in Sydney.



Ken Telfer, Clerical Assistant, Building Engineering Services, Pitt Exchange, Sydney. Ken is blind and is one of many handicapped people employed by Telecom.

Child safety wins

The Telecom District entry in this year's Australia Day Parade through Frankston scooped the award for the best overall float. A perpetual trophy was presented to our District representatives by the Mayor of Frankston, Cr Don Stone.

The inscribed silver cup may be viewed at the Telecom Business Office, Wells Street, Frankston, along with the trophy for the best commercial float gained by the District in the 1978 parade.

The theme chosen this year was "Safety & Accident Prevention", and with 1979 being the International Year of The Child, the co-ordinating committee settled on a mobile display of hazards encountered by children in their home environment.

Dangers associated with backyard pools, medicine cabinets, motor mowers and kitchen stoves and appliances were cleverly portrayed and received favorable comment from the public. Handouts of safety brochures, sweets and balloons further added to the impact of our entry.

It took two weeks to build, paint, caricature and decorate the float and Gerry Graham (Chelsea Lines), Ian (Ebby) Ebbstein (Equipment Projects Group Mornington) and John Limpens (Customer Services) undertook the major construction and liaison work.

Although the majority of the credit rests with the Frankston District Telecom team, the float would not have been successful without the assistance of Mr W. Worley, Chief Accident Prevention Officer and the co-operation and help of many other people and organisations.

A record number of 505 competitors will take part in the tenth State sporting carnival of the Australian Post-Tel Institute (Queensland) at the Gold Coast from March 26-30.

49ERS AHOY

The 1949 TECHNICIAN - IN - TRAINING — 30 YEAR REUNION will be held on Friday March 30 in the Functions Room, 1st Floor, 199 William Street, Melbourne commencing at 5.30 p.m. For details Barrie Goldsmith (630 6006), John Molloy (818 8198), Bill Smeaton (62 9285), Doug Lawrence (630 7206), Bill Mowlam (20 2411), Arthur Hodge (630 6129).

SHOW STAND

Following last year's successful display Yellow Pages will again have a stand at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The promotion will be similar to last year when over 20,000 people participated, and a putting competition will be featured with a P&O Cruise and PGF golf equipment as major prizes. A promotion has also been arranged in conjunction with radio station 2UW.

NORTHCOTE AUTO'S GOLDEN DAYS

There has been considerable rejoicing lately at Northcote exchange and rightly so because this very important Melbourne suburban exchange has just celebrated its golden jubilee as an automatic exchange.

Civic and business leaders, present and retired staff got together to mark this second big step in the history of the exchange which was originally established in Northcote Town Hall in 1876.

On December 8, 1928 when Northcote went automatic, there were some 2400 subscribers. Today there are 12,000 crossbar lines and 5000 step by step lines plus three tandem exchanges operating in the same building.

1,400 lines of the original automatic equipment, installed in 1928, is still giving good service today.

Northcote Exchange is always busy busy — for one thing it is the first repeater station on the Sydney-Melbourne coaxial route, has direct links to every exchange in the Ivanhoe and adjacent districts and to major areas of business or residential concentration as far as Frankston, Dandenong, Ferntree Gully and Croydon.

In 1964 the exchange was extended with crossbar equipment for Northcote subscribers and a new tandem switching centre was constructed in association with other major switching centres located at Windsor, Hawthorn and North Melbourne Exchanges.

The telephone links between these exchanges form the main highways for telephone traffic in the greater Melbourne area.

About 1967 the Old Northcote Post Office adjacent to the exchange (north west corner of present exchange site) was demolished and a new two storey building was constructed on the site adjacent to the original exchange building. This building provided for growth of telephone services in the Northcote area

In 1977 the exchange was further extended laterally, and raised a further storey. Today it is a dominant landmark on the skyline in the northern suburbs.

In a few years time the building, housing the original Automatic Exchange equipment, will be demolished and a multi-storey building will be constructed on site.

The man second from left in the photo alongside which shows the old Northcote magneto exchange just before cutover to auto in 1928 is Hugh (Snowy) Shearer. In the photo above, the man third from right is the durable Snowy himself but it's half a century later. And he's been retired for seven years. Pictured with Snowy at the Northcote auto golden jubilee get-together were retired men, Bob Hollingsworth and Stan Hounslow with (right) Tech Harry Snowdon representing the current generation.

The original Mac (1100) originally "4800" for the Northcote area subscribers was located at the Northcote Exchange until the centre was closed in 1961.

A new M.A.C. will be opened in the Thornbury-Preston area in the near future.

The people who run the busy Northcote Exchange today. Maintenance staff above and Installation staff below.

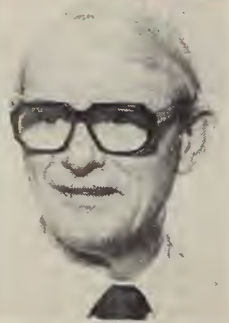
Australian honor for Queensland manager

Telecom's Qld. State Manager Paul Dubois was honored in the Australia Day awards. He was made a General Division Member of the Order of Australia (A.M.) for public service.

State Manager since vesting day, Mr Dubois joined the PMG in Brisbane in 1937 as a cadet engineer.

He held various engineering positions during which he gained an expert knowledge of all parts of Queensland and northern NSW.

From 1964-67 Mr Dubois was Project Manager of the ITU Centre in Thailand.



Safety trained lineys rescue man buried in trench cave-in

Rescued man John Lucas (centre) with from left Telecom line party George Bennett, Allan Smith, Nev. Howes, Merv. Skinner, Bruce Greentree and Mal. Garner.

Prompt action by members of two Telecom line gangs at Richmond (NSW) recently saved the life of a civilian, Mr John Lucas.

Hearing cries for help a short distance from where they were working, they raced to the spot and found a man buried in a trench under approximately 1½ tonnes of soil with only his fingers showing.

The man had been assisting his brother excavating a large trench when it collapsed on him.

SCOOPED AIRWAY

Safety emergency training enabled our men to clear the soil from around the head of Mr. Lucas, leaving his forehead resting on the soil.

They scooped a hole under his face and around his chest to enable him to breathe.

All the time it was necessary to prevent a possible further cave in.

Following arrival of other emergency services, the lines staff assisted to shore up the trench with palings taken from a nearby fence and then assisted in the rescue of Mr Lucas.

It seems certain that Mr Lucas would have suffocated had it not been for the prompt assistance given by Line Supervisor Nev. Howes, George Bennett, Malcolm Garner, Allan Smith, Bruce Greentree and Merv Skinner, and their knowledge of safety emergency training.

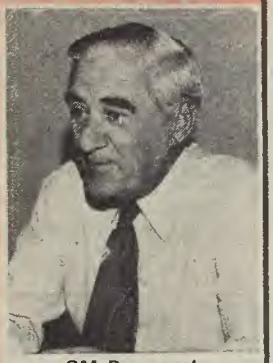
ETHNIC ROLE FOR GM PERSONNEL

Are you encountering problems in your employment with Telecom because you are a migrant? Do you know migrants who have difficulty using the services provided by Telecom? Then you will be interested in the Ethnic Liaison Officer Scheme sponsored by the Federal Government in which Telecom is participating.

Mr Jack Ahern, the General Manager Personnel, has been nominated recently as Telecom's Ethnic Liaison Officer. In this role, he pays special attention to the employment of migrants in the Telecom workforce and to the delivery of services to migrants in the community.

The Ethnic Liaison Officer Scheme is operating in Government Departments and in a number of Statutory Authorities. It is being co-ordinated by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Ethnic Liaison Officers will shortly be appointed in each State Administration



GM Personnel Jack Ahern

Re-unions of various kind

A 20 year reunion of 1959 T.I.T.'s is to be organised, hopefully for later this year. With a name-list of about 600 starters to tackle we would like to form a planning committee with members in each State to assist in locating the '59 groups. Those interested may contact:

John Laurence (03) 209 8280
Phil Franklin (03) 697 1361
Don Hawse (03) 630 5049

Storeman, Andrew Vaiciulis, S.I.D., Malabar, who found it pays to carry a Commission Identity Card. Andrew lost his wallet on Coogee Beach, Sydney, and three weeks later it was received in an envelope addressed to him, care of the State Manager. After passing through four Branches, the envelope was finally received by Mr Dave Denton, Manager, Expenditure Branch, who identified Andrew through salary records. The wallet was returned by Dave with all monies and personal papers intact. The honesty of the finder and our staff is to be commended.

ITU's September exhibition

TELECOM 79, 3rd World Telecommunication Exhibition, to be held in Geneva from 20 to 26 September 1979, will be the largest and most diverse exhibition ever held, covering all fields of communications, and will unite the representatives of ITU's 154 Member countries.

The exhibition will cover a surface of 70,000 square metres, consisting of some 600 stands.

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