

Fort Wayne Cuts Over to Automatic

Placing in Service Saturday Morning, May 30, of Strowger Automatic System Marks Completion of Two Years' Work of Rebuilding the System of the Home Telephone & Telegraph Co. in Fort Wayne, Ind.—Details of the Cutover

At 12:10 Saturday morning, May 30, the long-heralded automatic telephone system for Fort Wayne, Ind., became an accomplished fact, the culmination of more than two years of intensive work in planning and rebuilding the city's entire telephone system.

Nearly 25,000 telephones, served from the two telephone offices, whose new names are Anthony and Harrison, were involved in the cutover, which officials of the telephone company declared to be one of the smoothest and most successful ever accomplished.

Long before the hour set for the cutover, the outside plant and automatic equipment were ready and thoroughly tested. As the hour for the cutover drew nigh, Frank E. Bohn, vice-president and general manager of the Home Telephone & Telegraph Co., stationed himself at a magneto telephone in the new Anthony office. This telephone was connected to a circuit leading to similar telephones in both the old offices and in the new Harrison office, and was used as an order wire for giving instructions for the various necessary operations.

As the Friday evening traffic died down

automatic switches from the subscriber's lines. Others were stationed at the distributing frames in the old manual offices and equipped with cutters, ready to sever the "jumper" wires connecting the lines to the old switchboard on an instant's notice.

who dialed the telephone number of the home of Mayor William J. Hosey. When the mayor answered, Mr. Bohn said: "Mr. Mayor, this is Frank Bohn, of the telephone company, speaking. I have the pleasure of announcing to you that the



Installation Gang of the Automatic Electric Co. That Did the Fort Wayne Job.

Finally the signal was given, and the work of cutover began. In a few minutes, the connection between the subscribers' lines and the new apparatus was complete, and the operators in the old exchanges,

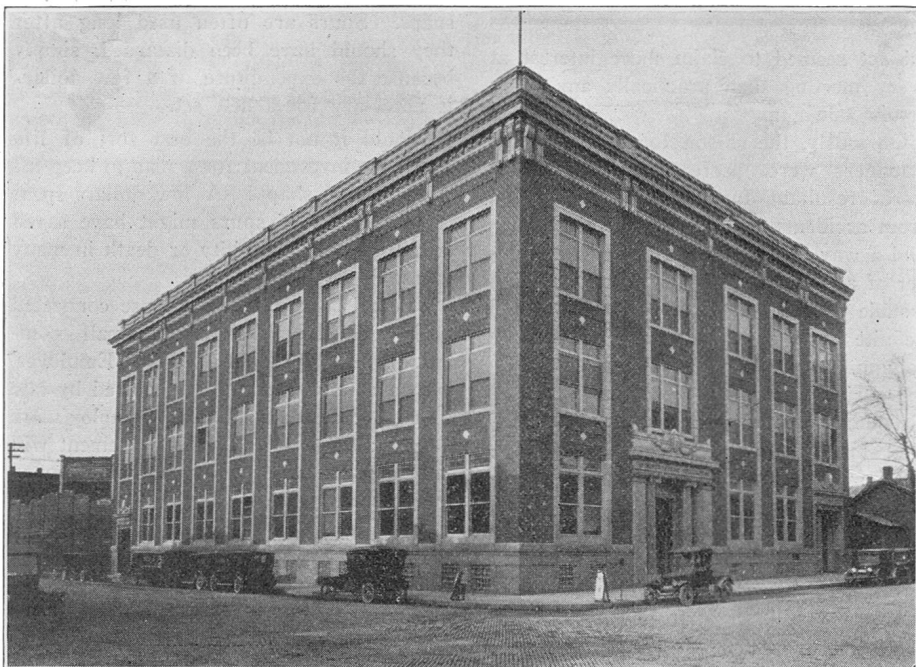
automatic telephone system for Fort Wayne is an accomplished fact, that this call I am now making to you is the first to be carried over the new system."

The mayor replied: "In the name of the people of Fort Wayne, Mr. Bohn, I congratulate you, as a representative of the telephone company, for having successfully placed this splendid new system in operation. I have no doubt that it will mark one of the most important civic improvements Fort Wayne has ever known."

A little later, Mayor Hosey confirmed this acceptance by issuing the following formal statement: "Fort Wayne has many things of which it is justly proud, but none, I believe, of greater importance to the prosperity and welfare of its people than its latest acquisition—a complete new telephone system, built with an eye to the city's future development, and embodying equipment which is known the world over as the last word in the art of telephony.

"No city can grow appreciably, no city can long prosper, except its people and its business units are provided with an efficient means of social and business communication. The Home Telephone & Telegraph Co. has just reason to be proud of the part it has played in meeting these needs.

In accepting the new automatic telephone system for the people of Fort Wayne, I take pleasure in extending my heartiest congratulations to the officials and employees of the telephone company for having planned so wisely and for providing us with what I firmly believe will be of far-reaching in-

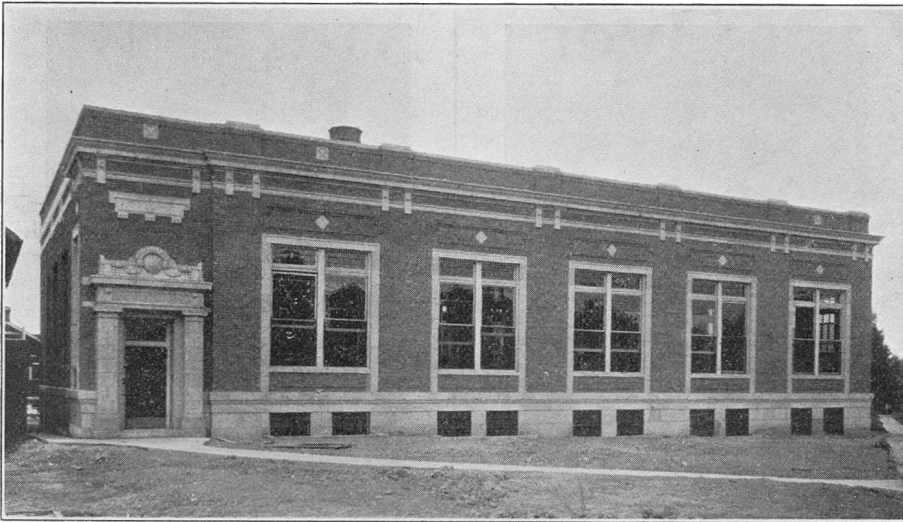


Anthony Office of the Home Telephone & Telegraph Co. of Fort Wayne.

in each of the offices, the various crews of men prepared for their tasks and stationed themselves at the places assigned them. Some were stationed at the main distributing frames in the new offices, ready to pull out the insulating strips that separated the

loyal until the last minute, left their places at the manual switchboards for the last time. The automatic telephone had become a fact in Fort Wayne.

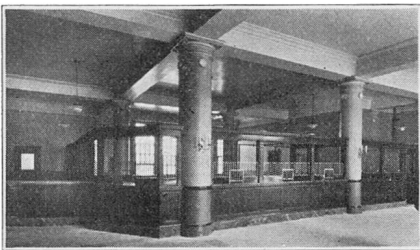
The first call to be carried over the new system was made by Vice-President Bohn,



New Harrison Office of the Home Telephone & Telegraph Co. of Fort Wayne.

fluence in making our city bigger, happier and more prosperous."

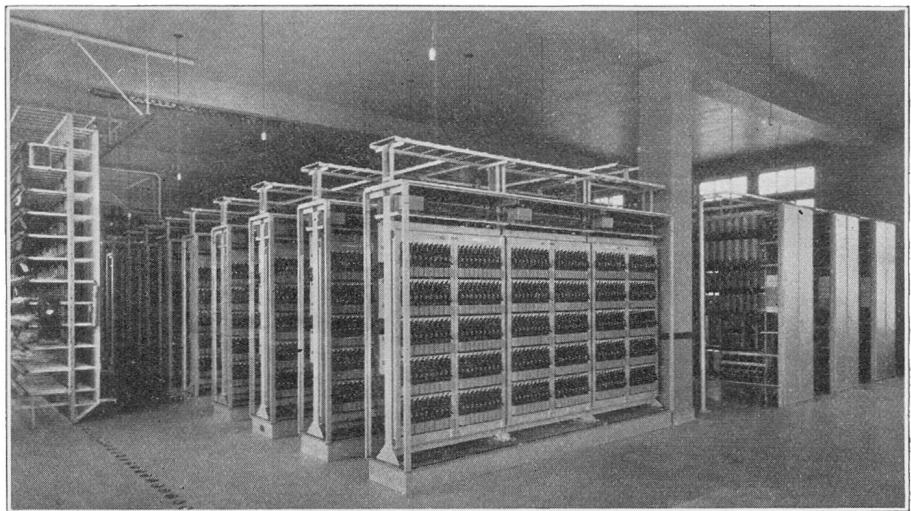
Apparently many Fort Wayne telephone users sat up to try out the service, for



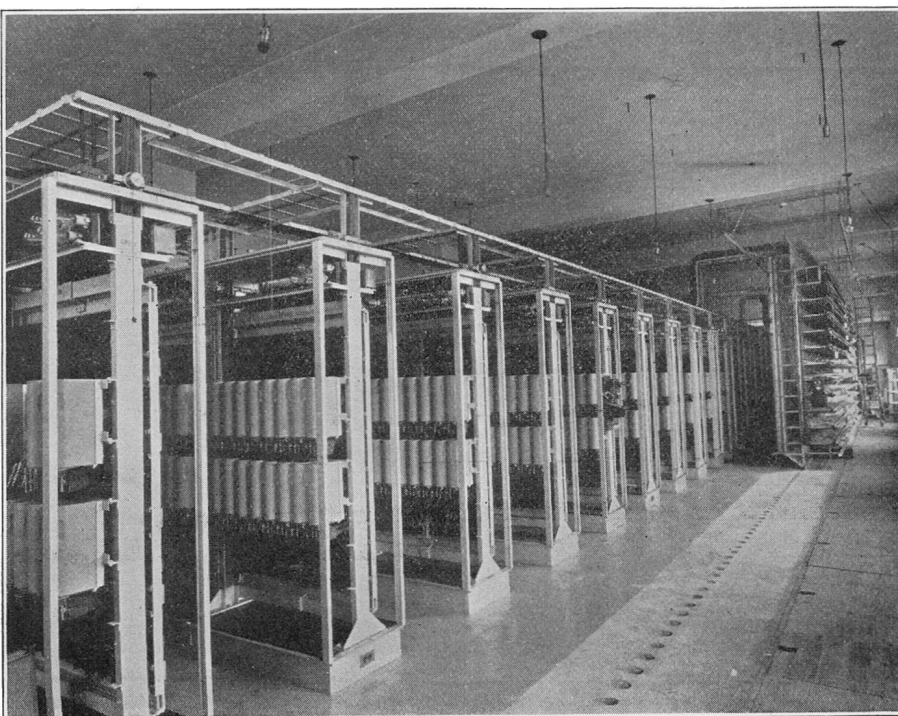
View in Anthony Office.

shortly after midnight, the automatic switches began to click the telephone calls through to completion.

As the morning wore on and the city began its regular activities, the load of

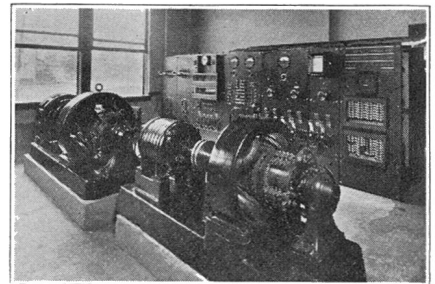


Line Switches and Main Frame Which Are Now in Service in Fort Wayne, Ind.



A View of the Connector Switches in the Fort Wayne Anthony Office.

traffic began to increase. The faint, regular click-click-click of the switches became more insistent, and the apparatus, prepared through months of careful work,



Power Equipment at Anthony Office.

received its final test—that of use. Friend called friend by means of the dial, which over night had displaced the long familiar operator, and, while a few forgot the care-



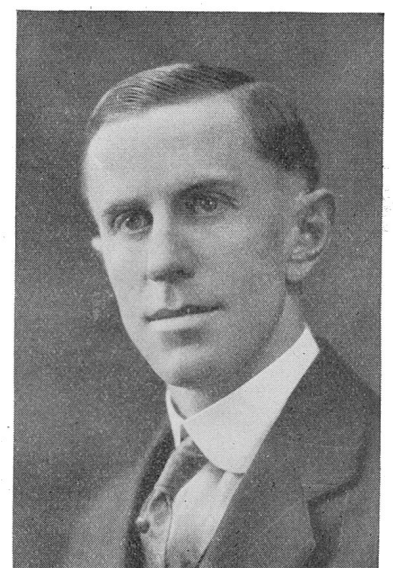
Chester M. Sells, in Charge of Installation for the Automatic Electric Co.



H. E. Gray, General Plant Superintendent.



F. X. Staub, Equipment Engineer.



C. G. Slater, Operating Department.

fully-published instructions and tried to dial the old numbers, the great majority of calls went through without the least trouble or delay.

The telephone company had set the cut-over for Friday midnight so as to take advantage of the comparatively light traffic of Memorial Day and the Sunday following for the clearing up of what few minor readjustments might be needed, but although the traffic grew heavier as the morning hours passed, very few of these developed, largely because the entire system is practically new.

The new automatic switchroom of the exchange presents an exceedingly neat and businesslike appearance. The switches themselves, intricate mechanisms apparently with brains all their own, are arranged on steel racks placed in rows, the racks

having a bright aluminum finish and the switches individually covered with gray enameled steel covers.

While the primary purpose of the new exchange is to connect automatically any subscriber in the system with any other subscriber, there is always a considerable mass of traffic incidental to this, and which must deviate from the routine prescribed for ordinary subscriber-to-subscriber calling. Of this class of calls are the in and out long distance traffic, and the special service calls which include those to the information and repair desk attendants and to the fire or police departments.

In rebuilding the telephone system, the telephone company has given especial attention to these phases of the service. In the new Anthony office, there has been in-

stalled the latest available equipment for rendering directory and other information service to subscribers, and complete new switchboards for the repair and test clerks.

The various appointments of the exchange are of the most up-to-date to be had. The business offices on the first floor are spacious and pleasingly arranged so that all necessary business with subscribers may be transacted with maximum comfort and expedition.

The basement of the building contains the boiler room and the power plant of the telephone exchange, including an immense storage battery and regular and reserve charging generators.

On the top floor of the building, besides the long distance switchboard already mentioned, are various appointments installed for the comfort and convenience of em-



E. L. Gaines, Traffic Superintendent of Home Company of Fort Wayne.



Frank E. Bohn, Vice-President and General Manager.



O. Marahrens, Secretary of the Home Telephone & Telegraph Co., Fort Wayne.

ployes, including a cafeteria and kitchen fitted with the most modern appliances money can buy, dining rooms, restrooms, locker rooms and a spacious assembly hall.

During the installation of the equipment, the various technical employes of the telephone company had been busy studying the new system with the view of maintaining the equipment in perfect order at all times.

One of the chief advantages of the automatic system, it is said, is that by the inauguration of carefully-devised schedules of routine testing and adjusting, it is the aim to forestall troubles rather than to correct them after the subscriber has discovered them. To this end, the operating department of the Automatic Electric Co., represented by C. G. Slater, has for some time past been conducting a school for employes of the telephone company, with the result that the company is now thoroughly organized for the maintenance of the service at a very high standard.

This article would not be complete without a word of praise for those who have been responsible for the bringing of the installation to a smooth conclusion. The work of installation was carried on in a very efficient manner by Chester M. Sells, assisted by a group of some 43 installers from the Automatic Electric Co., in collaboration with the engineering and maintenance staff of the Home Telephone & Telegraph Co.

The cut-over was attended by a large number of visitors, including T. C. Thompson, general superintendent; O. V. Dodge, sales manager; F. L. Baer, assistant chief engineer; Roy Owens, sales engineer; H. E. Clapham, advertising manager; H. P. Mahoney, superintendent of installation and operation; John Wicks, development department, and C. G. Slater, operating department—all of the Automatic Electric Co.; C. M. Niezer, president; Frank E. Bohn, first vice-president and general manager; O. Marahrens, secretary; H. E. Gray, general plant superintendent; E. L. Gaines, traffic superintendent; and F. X. Staub, equipment engineer, all of the Home Telephone & Telegraph Co.

Other visitors from out of town included Hart Farwell and A. L. Staderman of the Citizens Telephone Co., Terre Haute, Ind.; Vic. Hensel, Peninsular Telephone Co., Tampa, Fla.; R. K. Judy, St. Marys Telephone Co., St. Marys, Ohio; A. O. Black, People's Telephone Co. of Butler, Butler, Pa.; Jas. A. Rac, Sioux City Telephone Co., Sioux City, Iowa, and F. O. Cuppy, Lafayette Telephone Co., Lafayette, Ind.

Lincoln, Neb., Cut Over to Two-Wire Automatic.

The Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Co. made a cutover on May 24 of the larger part of its Lincoln exchange from the

floor. This allowed room for the new switches to be installed underneath.

The compact character of the new switchboard equipment solves a question that was troubling the company, that of space. The increase has been in excess of calculations, and the officials were facing the need of taking more of the building for switch room. This has been avoided for a number of years.

The delicate character of the task and the skill necessary in handling the various mechanical problems that arose made the job a difficult one, but the officials are congratulating themselves that it has been accomplished without any serious misadventure.

Province of Ontario, Canada, Has Over 476,000 Telephones.

In TELEPHONY of April 25, page 40, appeared a news item stating that "there are now 104,000 telephones in use in the province of Ontario, Canada, according to the annual report of the Ontario Railway & Municipal Board." This figure undoubtedly referred to the locally-owned telephone systems, for the statistical department of the Bell Telephone Co. of Canada has furnished us with the following figures for the province of Ontario:

Number of telephones operated by Bell company.....	366,801
Number of telephones operated by locally-owned systems which connect with Bell company.....	96,244
Number of telephones operated by locally-owned systems having no connection with Bell company....	13,009
Total	476,054

The city of Toronto alone had 142,405 telephones on December 31, 1924.

The telephone in Canada has grown five times faster than the population during the past ten years. In that period the population has increased about 2 per cent and the number of new telephones by over 10 per cent a year.

Western Pennsylvania Convention at Conneaut Lake Park.

The annual summer convention of the western district of the Pennsylvania State Telephone & Traffic Association will be held at Conneaut Lake Park on July 23 and 24.

This meeting will be preceded on Wednesday, July 22, by a one-day conference of executives and auditors of Classes A, B and C member companies of the United States Independent Telephone Association from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

Prices in the Metal Markets.

New York, June 1—Copper—Steady; electrolytic, spot and futures, 13½¢. Zinc—Steady; East St. Louis, spot and futures, 7.10¢. Antimony—Spot, 17.00¢.

Page Advertisement in Fort Wayne Journal Gazette of May 26.

three-wire to the two-wire system. Hereafter all of its service will be of this character. It has expended over half a million dollars in equipping the exchange with the latest switch stacks and instruments, part of it from depreciation account and part representing capital expenditures.

The exchange is entirely automatic, serving all of the suburbs as well as the city proper. The new switches are glass-encased, in groups of 100, and the entire reconstruction has been made along approved lines that will aid in giving better service at less maintenance cost.

All of the time that this equipment was being placed in the central office, the old exchange, part of which was represented in the original installation 22 years ago, was giving satisfactory service. This was made possible by the carrying out of well-laid plans. Jacks were placed under the switch stands, and these were raised to the ceiling evenly and rested finally on a false