

New Coin Telephone Set

Given Field Trial

A new coin phone, designed by Bell Laboratories and produced at Western Electric's Oklahoma City Works, is now on field trial in Norfolk, Virginia. It features a single coin slot, replacing the present three coin slots that have been in Bell System pay phones for more than 50 years. Located in the upper left corner of the housing faceplate, the slot will accept nickels, dimes and quarters. A customer-operated lever also provides for the release of stuck coins.

Another big change is the placement of the handset in the center of the faceplate. This arrangement is similar to that for wall telephones for the home. Other external features are two-tone gray housings, with chrome-finished ac-

cessories, and a more attractive display of information card material.

But aside from changes on the outside, the new coin telephone has a number of internal improvements. A notable difference is the replacement of the usual gong and chimes with electronically-generated tones for signaling coin deposits. The coin collecting mechanism has been completely redesigned to offer maximum protection against fraudulent dialing of calls.

The new coin phone also has an improved locking arrangement for the upper housing and cash compartment door—all designed to make it tough for thieves. The cash compartment will house either the standard size coin receptacle or one which will hold 50 per cent more money.

As to its possibilities in the future, the new coin telephone is readily convertible to TOUCH-TONE dialing when it is introduced.

Twenty-four of the new coin phones, made at W.E.'s Oklahoma City Works, were delivered in late January to the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia for field testing. The trial is expected to last six months. It is expected the product will be in regular production at Oklahoma City early in 1963, making this the first Western Electric facility to join the Indianapolis Works in the manufacture of telephone sets.

Besides final assembly, Oklahoma City will turn out many of the sub-units for the new coin telephone. Standard dials, handsets, networks and ringers will be shipped from Indianapolis. Output is expected to reach a capacity of 120,000 sets annually. Long range requirements call for over 1,000,000 sets during the first nine years of availability. The demand for the older type of coin telephones is expected to end by 1964.



◀ *The new single-slot coin telephone, demonstrated here by a Western Electric employee, was designed at the Laboratories. Its field trial is well underway and production should start late this year.*