"Mr. Watson- Come here- I want to see you!" These were the first words ever spoken on a telephone by inventor, Alexander Graham Bell on March 10, 1876. Many people do not know that the telephone was also being invented at the same time by two other individuals. With only hours separating the two inventors, Alexander Graham Bell patented the device before competitor Elisha Gray could file for his patent.

Through the invention of the telephone other technological inventions have been able to be created such as the internet, fax machines, and cellular phones. With the ever-changing habits of communication, the telephone has allowed the transformation of technology to adapt to the ever-increasing needs of the consumer.

HD SOUTH
Home of the Gilbert Historical Museum

Wall Mounted Phones



This wood wall phone was manufactured by the Century Telephone Construction Company. The cathedral top and exposed terminals on this phone likely date it to pre-1910, although a definite determination is difficult to make. The phone is currently wired in its original configuration with its original components and it will need to be upgraded before it is connected to the public telephone network.

Wood Wall phones were among the first phones that were made available to the public by the early telephone companies of the late 1900s. Most of these phones had self contained batteries to provide transmission power, and a magneto to generate the electricity required to ring the bells of the party being called. This strategy enabled telephone users to communicate with each other without the requirement for a centralized power supply. An added benefit was derived from the fact that the local batteries provided a stronger more consistent power source compared to common battery power that suffered from line attenuation in the extended line runs common in rural settings.

The manufacture of local battery phones with magneto ringing was essentially discontinued in the US during the 1940s. The rural nature of Canada, however, created an ongoing need for these phones. As a result, Northern Electric continued to manufacture local battery magneto phones until the early 1960s, and many of these phones were still in service into the 1970s.

This is a Country Store wooden wall telephone from the 1930's. It is real oak wood with brass trim and is fully modular. It has a memo storage box with a writing surface and pencil tray. The handset is a heavy duty one made out of oak, brass, and black plastic. The phone features a wall mountable, detachable line cord, detachable handset cord, and weighs approximately 7.8 pounds.





This is a 1903 reproduction wood wall phone with a metal antique brass bell, handset hook and touch tone dial. This phone features an old style cloth handset cord.



Inspired by the timeless designs of the mid 20th century, this classic pay phone has a nostalgic style and must-have appeal. Push button technology makes calling a breeze. Mounted to any wall in your home the stretchable cord lets you take calls virtually anywhere. This phone features an ear-piece volume control, coin bank, wall mountable, cord length of 5'-11'.

Although their intention was to build a better telephone, Stromberg Carlson still had to resort to novel ways around the outstanding telephone patents. One such was the switch hook. Their early wall phones resorted to a rather clumsy but effective method consisting of a bar across the front of the phone, with a receiver fork at one end and a lever at the other. To make a call the user lifted the receiver and turned the lever 90 degrees to rotate the transmitter into position. Switches connected to the arm completed the circuit. Once the patent expired they returned to a more standard switch hook design.







These are compact style Western Electric wall phones. The phones were initially small wood models and shortly thereafter of copper plated sheet metal composition having two coats of black enamel paint. Western Electric compact wall phones, although plain, were highly desirable, as they require minimal wall space for display.

Pay Phones



This is a Western Electric 3 slot payphone with a rotary dial.

Pay telephone stations preceded the invention of the pay phone and existed as early as 1878. These stations were supervised by telephone company attendants or agents (such as an employee in a hotel where a station might be located) who collected the money due after people made their calls. Some pay stations utilized a fail-safe collection method: After making the connections for customers, attendants would lock them in booths so they couldn't leave without paying.



In 1898, the Western Electric No. 5 Coin Collector, the first automatic "prepay" station, went into use in Chicago. The depositing of coins before placing a call would gradually become the norm in pay phones until the introduction of "dial tone first" service in 1966.



The 50A coin collector, went into production in 1911. By the end of 1912, 25,000 of these coin telephones had been ordered for New York City alone. The 50A model had three coin slots--for nickels, dimes and quarters --and was a "prepay" machine. The basic design, though often modified, was so practical and reliable it remained in production until 1964.



In 1905, the first outdoor Bell System coin telephone was installed on a Cincinnati street. It wasn't an instant hit; people apparently were reluctant to make private calls on a public thoroughfare

Candle Stick Phones



This is a Stromberg-Carlson style candlestick telephone called the "Tapered Shaft Desk Set." This phone was nicknamed "oilcan" because of its odd shape.

The Candlestick telephone was common in the early 1900's, and many companies made these phones. The companies included American Electric, Automatic Electric, Century Telephone Construction, Couch and Seeley, and Electric Engineering. The candlestick model was very popular until the introduction of the one-piece handset.



1901 Kellogg Candlestick Phone w/ Ringer Box The Kellogg Switchboard and Supply Company was founded in Chicago in 1897 by Milo Gifford Kellogg after Alexander Graham Bell's telephone patents expired in 1893 and 1894.



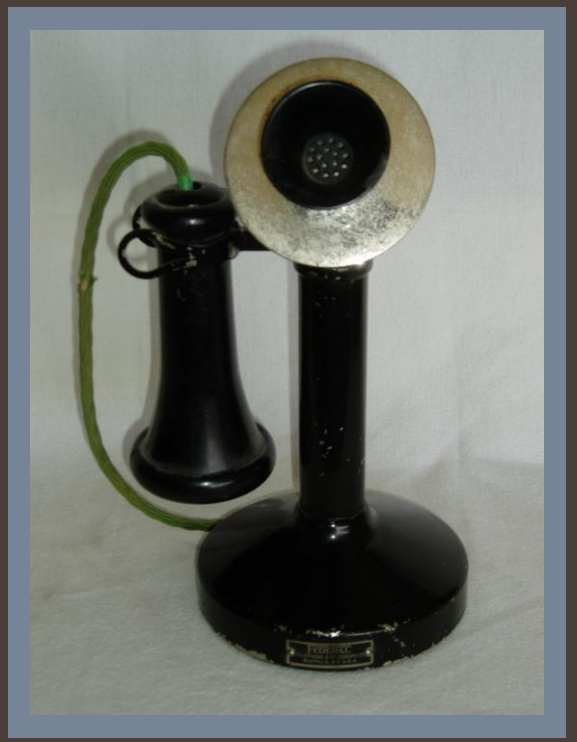
This is a Kellogg candlestick phone cra. 1901. This antique telephone was made for the Postal Telegraph Co. The housing is painted black, the mouthpiece and the receiver are black as well.



This is a post-War, Stromberg Carlson candlestick released in1920 - 1921 It had the ball-joint adjustment for the new transmitter and a raised base to accommodate a dial. It still featured some nickel trim that made it look a little better-finished than similar phones of the time. A Stromberg Carlson dial version was not initially available, but it was designed to be fitted with dials made by Automatic Electric, Kellogg, or Western Electric according to the preference of the buyer.



Golden Eagle Candlestick Telephone, 1910's Roman Style - Black with burnished brass accents and intricate metalwork.



Thompson Houston Candle-Stick Phone

This is a style of telephone that was common the early 1900s to the 1930s. Named after its appearance, this type of phone is commonly recognizable as the type used in the sheriff's office scenes of the 1960s comedy sitcom, The Andy Griffith Show.



This phone features a cloth cord, mainly sold in brushed brass or chrome. It is a rotary fashion dial, with the first adjustable ringer volume.

Desk Phones



This is a late 1920's Automatic Electric AE1 cradle phone. The tall cradle phone had chrome metal bands on the handset and chrome finger wheel dial. This tall cradle version has become very difficult to find.

In 1926, Bell introduced the first desktop cradle telephone, made by Western Electric. It actually was a sawed-off candlestick fitted with a cradle and receiver handset. This marked the end of the candlestick era (1892 - 1926) and the beginning of the desktop cradle telephone.



This is a round-based cradle phone, the first Master phone. It used the same base as their dial candlestick phone.



The HTF "Real Phone" was put out by the American Automatic Electric Sales Co. The diameter of the base is 5 1/4" the handset is 7 1/8"L and is 4"H. This is a very unusual early Telephone that was used in many homes during the first half of the 20th century. The brass plate on the front reads "Real Phone American Automatic Electric Sales Co. Chicago, U.S.A. Pat. 1,976,729.



This 1936 Stromberg and Carlson telephone was referred toas the **"fat boy".**



This is a1930's Kellogg Master phone 1000 "Red Bar", so named because the hook switch under the handset is a red plastic bar. This is one of the very hard to find metal bodied ones and represents one of the last of the "Master phone" series. This is a heavily Art Deco influenced series of designs. The name is the model name of the particular handset found on all these models. This one has a new black powder-coat finish.



This is the baby boomer phone of the 40's and 50's. It is a Western Electric original and it's Bakelite handset is classic and heavy. The bases were either steel or plastic and the true bell ringer brings back memories of old times. This is a common phone and a true classic made mostly in black. A white one is rare!

This is a Western Electric from 1937; manufacture of entirely new units was ceased after the introduction of the Model 500, but Model 300 units were continually remanufactured as such at least until 1958, and as the Model 55302well into the next decade. Overseas, the Model 300's exterior design was retained by European Bell branch companies for such models as the 1954 Bell Standard, widely used in the Netherlands and Belgium.



Novelty Phones



Hi Ho, Kermit the Frog here!

This is a rare vintage AT&T Kermit telephone from the early 80's. This telephone was manufactured by the American Telecommunications Corp. & Henson Associates, Inc. it comes equipped with a touch tone keypad, adjustable ringer, and is hearing aid compatible. Sought by many, this is a great find for Muppet collectors!



Vintage 1976 Mickey Mouse rotary and push dial phones





The Snoopy and Woodstock Phone rotary and push dial phones.
This phone was produced by the American telecommunications Corporation. This rare phone was made between the years of 1976-1979. This phone features a real phone with fully functional handset although most handsets come in red. It is also equipped with electronic ringer, last number Redial, tone dialing, hearing aid compatibility





For more information on HD SOUTH'S telephone collection
please visit the museum at 10 S. Gilbert Rd.
Call for museum hours.