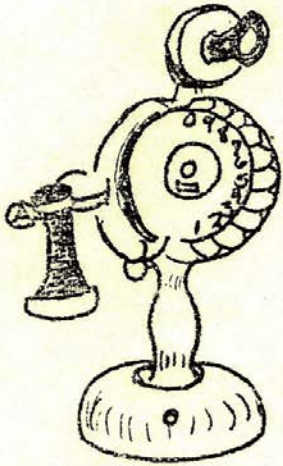


## ATCA BEFORE IT WAS ORGANIZED

Prior to the organization of the Antique Telephone Collectors Association, telephone collectors Tom Herwer (ATCA #18) and Al Farmer (ATCA #15) corresponded with each other about the idea of forming the Antique Telephone Collector Club around 1970. They had asked Ron Knappen, who was selling telephones, for a list of his serious buyers to determine interest in a club. Once Tom learned about the formation of ATCA through Oral Watts (ATCA #1), he abandoned his idea and joined forces with the new organization

Below is a copy of the letter he sent to the known telephone collectors at the time:



The Antique  
Telephone  
Club

Thomas Herwer  
1827 W 261 St.  
Lomita, Cal. 90717

Dear collector,  
Several of my friends and I are planning to form a antique telephone club, for the purpose of buying, selling and trading plus gathering of information. Your name was given to me by Mr. Ron Knappen of the Melrose Antique Shop. I would be interested in your response and would appreciate any comments or suggestions and interest in participation.

Sincerely,  
Tom Herwer