



*Antique  
Telephone  
Collectors  
Association*

P.O. Box 2805  
Salina, KS 67401

atca.officemanager@gmail.com

**President**

Greg Kouba  
greg.kouba@yahoo.com

**Vice-President**

Greg Sargeant  
sargeguy.ri@gmail.com

**BOARD**

Scotty Poling  
spoling@social.rr.com

Chris Anderson  
ktnk55@roadrunner.com

Sherri Kouwenhoven  
sherrickouwenhoven@icloud.com

Dennis Fowler  
dcfowler@sbcglobal.net

Tom Herwer  
mox-nix@cablespeed.com

Barry Huckleby  
huckfamily5@att.net

**Web Administrator**

Chuck Eby  
chuck9@optonline.net

**Editor**

John Huckleby  
j.huckleby@comcast.net

**Office Manager**

Jerry Williams  
atca.officemanager@gmail.com

***Our President Speaks***

I Ho Ho Hope all of you are doing well as we enter this Christmas Season! I hope each of you and your families are staying healthy!

Our board is busy making preparations for our 50th Anniversary. We are planning to have a banquet in addition to our show in August at Shiphewana, Indiana. We will have commemorative items which celebrate our club's fifty years of serving collectors throughout the United States, Canada and around the globe.

We will also open the ATCA History page on our club website in January. The page is filled with historical documentation about the club, hundreds of photos from past shows all the way back to 1972. We have most 48 of the 50 first members who were instrumental in starting our club. Several club members have provided photos and other documents and memorabilia which we added to the page. We believe it is important to preserve our club heritage for generations to come. We certainly hope you all enjoy it. You may even see yourself in younger years in some of the show photos.

We are still trying to find venues and club members willing to host a show around the country. We have had several requests for an East Coast show and couple asking for a regional show on the West Coast. The biggest issue we are running into is trying to find venues during the pandemic that will provide space. We can only hope and pray for this virus to come to an end so that we can all safely gather together and enjoy seeing each other again and selling, trading and bartering in our hobby.

Our membership renewals are coming in at a fast pace and are keeping our Secretary Jerry Williams pretty busy! We still have a good way to go though, so don't forget to renew! All memberships expire at the end of December.

I hope that each of you and your family are able to have a safe and happy holiday! On behalf of your ATCA board, I'd like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours,  
Greg Kouba #3483  
Club President

\*\*\*\*\*

***May 7 and May 8 2021***

So what is the importance of May 7 and May 8, 2021? That is the date of our next telephone show. I think many collectors are really looking forward to another show and the location of this show is perfect for social distancing and safety.

The collectors will be able to set up outside, yet under either roof or under a large tent. If you want, you can also set up with grass under your feet and the sky over your head.

Jim and Kathy own a beautiful former golf course in California, KY, just south of Cincinnati about 20 minutes. There is a nearly new Holiday Inn Express and a Hampton Inn about 10 minutes north.

It will be a FREE SHOW for the collectors; however, there will be a twist. Many collectors like to just show up and ask, "Where is my table?" We do not always know how many to prepare for and it puts the show hosts at a disadvantage.

Collectors wishing to attend this show will send in a FIFTY dollar check for pre-registration and tables. When you show up at the show, your check will be returned. If you do not show, then your check will go toward the coffee and donuts. If you do not send in the pre-registration check and just show up, you will need to pay a \$30 registration fee and \$10 per table. No exceptions.

You may think this is unreasonable, but it is not. If you pre register, it is a free show. Be safe and see you at the show in May.

**Wanted to buy**

Single bell style bell tap phones.  
Various style phones with crank on front door.  
Charles Williams related equipment.

John Dresser  
Fjdress@pacell.net  
22584 Veronica dr.  
Salinas, Calif 93908

\*\*\*\*\*

**INDIANA TELEPHONE HISTORY BOOK**

I still have some NOS copies of my 'Hoosier Connections - Indiana Telephone History' books that I believe collectors will enjoy. I researched 14 years (before the Internet) to find the historical information included in over 400 pages with many pictures. It includes a general history of Indiana Telephony, 'telephone company histories' of those here in 1990, and more.

Hundreds were sold at \$30 each. I have them ON SALE now for \$17 each + \$4 USPS media shipping in the lower 48 states. Don't miss getting yours - this is a limited offer.

Steve Shearer, #643 1560 S. 50 E.  
Princeton, IN 47670 (Cell) 812-677-1056  
foxhollo@gmail.com

\*\*\*\*\*

Mike Davis #2022 phone (516) 735-9765  
email mike@mvtelonline.com

**web site mvtelonline.com (view my collection)**

**Wanted:** Broken American Toll Coin collector, I need parts. If you have one that isn't broken I'm also interested. 29A-75, 29A-77 and other original upper housing keys stamped 29A and with unique serial numbers from the Regional Bell Companies that opened the upper housings of single slot payphones. Also looking for the locks that were in the upper of the WE single slot payphones from South Florida lock number 29A21. Original (not repro) keys and locks for the upper housings of Gray, AE, WE & NE 3 slot payphones. Wanted old and unusual payphones and parts. Gray, Western Electric etc. Parts such as hoppers, relays, coin chutes locks and key. Let me know what you have. Also looking for WE 3 slot panel payphone model 235G, early 1A, 1E type single slot payphones, anything unusual. Beige Western Electric 1234, touch tone 3 slot payphone.

**For Sale:** All kinds of parts for Western Electric single slot payphones. NOS Western Electric/AT&T metal coin chutes for single slot payphones, also works if you have a Protel 4000/8000 main board, \$40 each or 10 Protal boards for \$200. NOS Medico locks with 2 keys that will fit both the upper housing and the vault, \$20 each. Original Western Electric 29A locks with a key that were what the Bell System single slot payphones had in the upper housing, 1 lock with a key \$20 or 2 locks with one key that opens both for \$30. These locks will fit the upper housing and the vault of single slot payphones made by Western Electric and also Northern Telecom. They will also fit the vault door of WE and NE 3 slot payphones. I also have Protel smart boards that you can use in a Western Electric 1D2 type payphone. You can install them and have them programmed how you want and the phone will work with coins. I have many other parts available including some nice Verizon embossed vault doors (\$20) and NOS black (\$25) and NOS stainless steel (30). Feel free to let me know what you need.

Jon Kolger No. 561  
6906 Meade Drive  
Colleyville, TX 76034  
(817)-329-5262  
jkolger@gte.net

**WANTED**

Looking for unusual acoustic "string" telephones, particularly those with magneto-signaling and/or speaking/listening tubes. Also seeking primitive homemade acoustic telephones, the stranger the better.

Also wanting to buy acoustic telephone literature, such as catalogs, flyers, instructions, etc...

**What do you have?**

Still looking for a BLUE North Electric 7H6 Galion desk (or wall) telephone.

Also still looking for a BLUE Western Electric 302 with BLUE plungers dated 1941 or earlier.

\*\*\*\*\*

Steve Hilsz  
PO Box 429  
Salome, AZ 8348  
(520) 370-3267  
jydisk@tds.net

**REPAIR**

Dial repair is \$6 per dial, major parts such as switch pile-up extra, plus postage

\*\*\*\*\*

Al Ilekis  
204 Lawton Rd  
Riverside Il 60546  
ailekis@ilekis.com  
312 502 6750

**Wanted**

Early Stromberg Carlson swivel top transmitter as pictured. I am looking for the plug -in transmitter part. Brown mouthpiece for Stromberg transmitter. Buy or trade



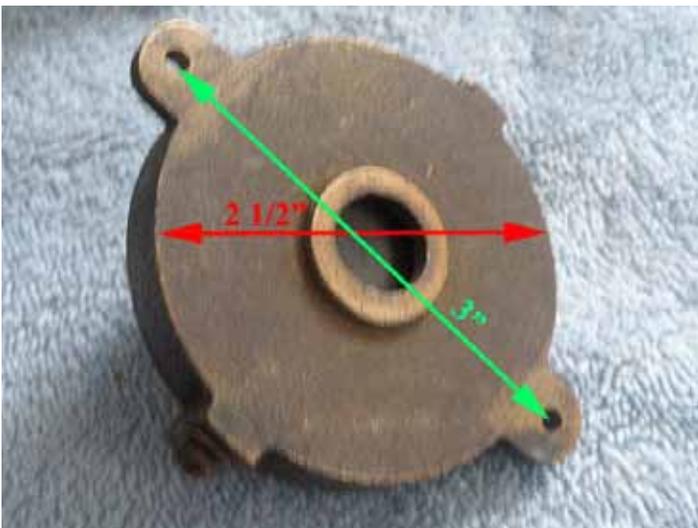
\*\*\*\*\*

**Shipshewana Golden Anniversary  
National Show  
August 6 an August 7, 2021  
Farmstead Inn, 260-768-4595**

John Dresser  
fjdress@pacbell.net

I am looking for an inside mount trans unit. These were mounted in trans boxes and sometimes inside a top. The top box had a mouth piece that screwed into the wood. These two are just examples, I am not looking for a specific mfg just an earlier inside mount unit.

I'm open to buying a top box with that unit in it for the right unit regardless of the condition. Have anything?



Wanted

AE Receivers with Inserts as per photos  
Please contact Bob Hugh at 780-504-0450  
or bobhugh@shaw.ca  
Will purchase or trade



\*\*\*\*\*  
I am looking for dial cards that show Circle Digit dialing on them. I am looking to do a short article on Circle Digit and only have one example that is not hand drawn

Tom Iverson

mrivy@wi-net.com

\*\*\*\*\*

Looking for a marked National Bell long pole receiver.  
Wante American Bell long pole receiver with screw terminals on top.

John Dreser

Fjdress@pacbell.net

22584 Veronica Dr.

Salinas, Calif 93908

\*\*\*\*\*

Wanted

TELEDEX index that fits under  
a candlestick.

Tim Karpen

(208)938-0205

tlkarpen@gmail.com

Mark Johnston 443-244-2825  
mark4589@hotmail.com

WANTED:

**SIGNS:**

Original Metal Telephone Signs, Round, Square, Rectangle, Flat, Flanged, 1 Sided, 2 Sided.

**PAY STATIONS:**

Gray Pay Stations: 8A, 11J, 23C, and Early 23D

**PAYPHONES:**

Gray, Gray/Western Electric and Western Electric Inc. 3 Slot Pay-phones.

Entire Collections or 1 piece, Especially looking for 150K, 162, 55G, 155G, 170s dial and non-dial, 190s non dial, any 200 series. Any Model with Black Contact Board and or Butterfly Transmitter Mount. 1A Rotary Dial single slot, and a 10 or 12 Button 3 slot.

**PARTS:**

All Parts Considered Including:

E-10-E, 10-E and 10G upper housing locks with or Without keys.

14E locks with original key.

12A, 12B, 15A and #14 Vault Door Locks.

Western Electric 3 Slot Vault Doors, need a Black and a Green in nice condition.

Payphone Handset Cords, Straight Black Rubber.

Canadian 3 slot Coin Chute.

Western Electric Extension Ringer (Gong) with Sleigh Bells.

Glass Mouthpieces with W/E threads.

I appreciate hearing if you have any or know of any of these items for sale.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dave Martin    215-628-9490  
**FOR SALE**

- 1.) Brass code plate for the top of an early three slot pay phone 34-A11 made for a.e. by gray \$100
- 2.) Parkesburg Iron Company, Alphabetical Index attachment for a candlestick phone - Utica Aluminum 1906 \$275
- 3.) Baird Midget Phone Oak Wall Phone Bells Ring Complete \$250
- 4.) Western electric white two piece speaker phone set attached to a 565HKM \$60
- 5.) Oak door: with a Phoenix name tag, working post-less ringer, and a bracket to hold the transmitter \$110
- 6.) Best telephone, Baltimore Bakelite mouthpiece Kellogg thread, \$250

**Wanted:**

Bottom plate for a W.E peg dialer candlestick phone



## Tales of the Hunt

by Chuck Eby #381

This is the next episode of the recurring feature for the newsletter highlighting various member's unusual telephone finds and stories of the hunt to obtain that find. If you have a story to be told, please contact me at [chuck9@optonline.net](mailto:chuck9@optonline.net). You can include your unedited story or give me a phone number and I'll call you. I am running out of stories so need your help.

This month's story comes from Don Picard #2181 about an old New England barn and a nice find with a twist. He writes:

The 1990's were an exciting time to be collecting old telephones in northern New England.

I had been collecting various New England antiques for a few years already when I came across a WE 20AL candlestick telephone in an antique shop. It caught my attention and I bought it. It was a cool piece.

After researching old telephone collecting and joining the ATCA I visited one of the club members, Bill Provencher, who lived in Vermont, not far from where I lived

in New Hampshire,. Bill's home was surprisingly full of a large number of old telephones including many very interesting, early ones.

Now caught up in this collecting interest, I began to search New Hampshire and Vermont antique shops for antique telephones. I quickly learned I was many years behind other telephone collectors. Norm Mulvey's business card circulated in antique shops everywhere in NH and VT, offering a thousand dollars for any wood wall telephone with a magneto crank handle on the front. Bill Provencher's business card featuring an early WE potbelly candlestick was not far behind in circulation. Many antique shop owners and "pickers" had strong allegiances already in place and were not even open to very good offers for what they were holding in their back rooms. Norm and Bill had this part of New England wrapped up. The Brimfield, Massachusetts



Flea Market shows furthermore turned out to be more of a reunion of telephone collectors than an opportunity to find any treasures. And once any one of the fields opened up as scheduled, the race by everyone to explore sellers' tents could still be disappointing even if one beat out the competition. At one of these shows I lifted up the top lid of an antique blanket chest located far back in a dealer's tent which had caught my interest. I still collected a variety of antiques and it was a nice example of an early American piece. Unexpectedly, inside the chest were old antique telephones! Actually, there were quite a number of them. All were wood pieces, some dogs, some nice, some complete, some not. As I began to pick through the group the dealer quickly turned to me and stated that none were for sale. They were all already being held for another telephone collector.

I realized different approaches were needed to help me find material. One approach that turned out to work was to network with old NH and VT residents who may have some knowledge of early, local telephone companies. Many of these companies once operated in rural New England. One day I was directed to a 70 year old fellow who lived in an old farmhouse which included an old barn on the property. Beginning

at the turn of the century, the property had served as a small independent rural telephone exchange run by the property's prior owner and where the switchboard was operated out of the farmhouse. The barn had not been used much in any way after he had bought the property according to the 70 year old fellow when we met in front of the barn. He was aware of the old telephone material inside but had never bothered to follow up on it until now.

The ground floor of the barn had a large, wide barn door that opened up to reveal an old 1940's telephone truck slowly rusting away. Inside the barn along one wall was a wooden ladder leading up to the barn's loft above. Up in the loft there was only a large, wide-open floor space and the loft floor was littered with old telephone material. The loft apparently had been the place to store away outdated telephone pieces over many years. There was a wide date-range of material in the loft. Spread out across the more or less left half of the loft floor spaces were many 1930's to 40's WE desk sets. Many were matched with WE and Holtzer Cabot wood ringer boxes. Spread out across the more or less right half of the loft floor space were older telephone pieces going back to the 1890's. Unfortunately there were only 2 complete old wood sets. I later learned all the other

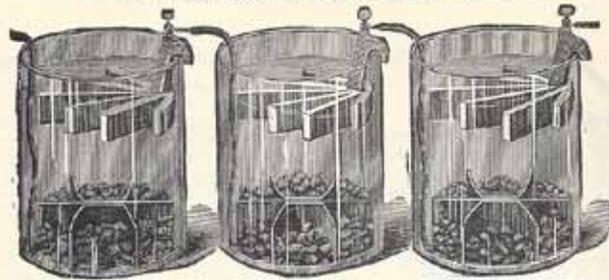
complete old wood sets along with other material once present had been removed by a large telephone company that had bought out this and several other small independents many years earlier. All of the complete old wood sets collected by the large company were said to eventually have been tossed into their town dump and buried. What remained at the barn, however, were the two complete old sets and many old parts. Carried down from the loft were two early WE "common battery" complete wall sets. Both with No. 3 WE top boxes with 2-bar Post magnetos and spear switch hooks. There were a few other type WE top boxes, a number of early Manhattan top boxes, a couple dozen various companies' transmitters and receivers, numerous Holtzer Cabot ringers, switch hooks and a variety of many other parts from these and other old companies' telephones. Almost all was wood set-related material, very little was candlestick. What was interesting from the loft material was confirmation that old New England Yankees did not throw anything away. Nothing! The loft floor's older half was littered with a carpet of early top box terminals, lightning arrestor plates, escutcheons, etc. from many different companies. Also salvaged were several jars of old original telephone screws, bolts, nuts, washers, etc... as well.

After a few meetings, the old fellow had second thoughts about parting with anything further. He had just seen some common old ringer boxes that had been refinished and re-purposed into expensive, operationally-updated "Country Junction" sets in a local crafts/antique shop and now thought the ringer boxes were very valuable. He was also now unsure about the value of the rest. We parted on good terms. This was 25 years ago. To my knowledge the old fellow never sold the ringer boxes or any other material after all. I recently learned that the old fellow has since passed away and the contested disposition of the estate and property has yet to be settled among the heirs.

The ground floor of the barn was never closely searched. There was a long workbench on the ground floor of the barn next to the ladder that led up to the loft. The workbench had several drawers built in underneath along with an adjacent approximate 4 X 8 foot wall case with a dozen or more open cubbyholes. The workbench was also not far from the old telephone truck so I prioritized exploring the loft during my time in the barn expecting that the workbench likely contained auto parts. However given the great number of dissembled telephone parts above in the loft, a few more telephone parts are likely there too.



“CROW FOOT” GRAVITY BATTERY.  
For Telegraph and Closed Circuit Work.



Battery jars are simply a straight sided round or square glass jar which was used to house a conductive solution of either acid or copper sulfate. Several different technologies emerged in the 19th century, the most significant of which were (at least from the perspective of the battery jar enthusiast):

*The Planté lead-acid cell of 1859*

*The Gravity cell in the 1860s (often referred to as a crow’s foot jar)*

*The Leclanché cell in 1866.*

Although Thomas Edison patented the solid nickel-iron battery in 1903, there are many Edison wet cell jars in existence as well as Edison battery oil jars. The *Wikipedia* page on battery history has a great deal of information.

## Glass Batteries

Nearly every telephone collector has a few glass battery jars around. Your editor once bought over 50 that came from one telephone storehouse in northern Indiana. I later disposed of all of them at one of the Abilene, KS spring shows.

Some of the more expensive jars will fetch up to \$300 but some of the unmarked common ones can still be had for under fifty bucks. The most expensive one I have ever sold was marked “Best Telephone” and I got \$300 for it. It is not uncommon for Western Electric ones to top a hundred while a Sampson with a fine label will get close to that.

The jars above could all be purchased from the 1903 Manhattan catalog. They bragged about selling over 100,000 of the MESCO dry battery.

**ANTIQUATE TELEPHONE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 2805  
Salina, KS 67401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
NEW CASTLE, IN  
47362  
PERMIT NO. 22



***Three Rare Manhattan Candlesticks that were less than \$30 in 1903***

Not all phones have exploded in value over the years, but most still sell for far more than they did a hundred years plus ago.

So going forward into the next forty or fifty years, what phones are cheap now that in the future you or your children will be saying, "Dad could have bought those when they were only....!"

To insure that at least one of your offspring will continue your passion for phones, spend \$30 and buy them a membership in ATCA as a Christmas gift. It might just be one gift that will keep them from calling for a dumpster when you leave this world!

