

HISTORICAL FACT SHEET Telephone Industry Related Companies



COMPANY General Telephone Company

DATE ORGANIZED 1897

WHERE ORGANIZED Puerto Rico

FOUNDER(S) Rafael Fabian, Antonio Ahumada,
Benjamin J. Horton

NATURE OF BUSINESS Telephone Service Provider

Subsequent names or significant changes resulting from acquisitions, consolidation, sales or bankruptcies:

DATE

NOTE: This is the only reference we could find in any digital library regarding the General Telephone Company as embossed on the faceplate of this 1897 patented telephone.

REMARKS The American Government occupied Puerto Rico in 1897 and it became a US possession in 1898. Mr. Rafael and Mr. Antonio held the telephone franchise until 1902 when the US Govt gave the franchise to Mr. B.J. Horton. It is unknown where the above candlestick was made, perhaps Europe. The 3 box phone, inscribed "Property of General Telephone" in spanish is found on the writing shelf. This phone, with its single red banded receiver, was possibly made in Spain. This company is not the US (GTE) formed in 1933

Source: Electrical Industries of Puerto Rico, History of the Telephone, 1902

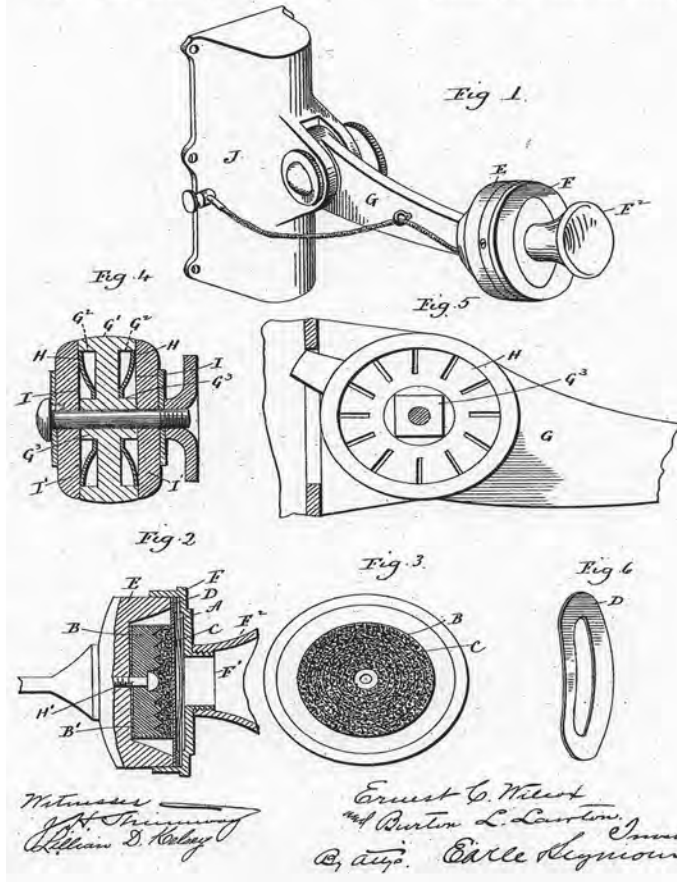
General Telephone Company

(No Model.)

E. C. WILCOX & B. L. LAWTON.
TELEPHONE TRANSMITTER.

No. 585,896.

Patented July 6, 1897.



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To the right is the only patent issued for telephone on July 6, 1897. It may or not be related to this telephone or company.



Notice the single red band on the long pole receiver indicating a European manufactured long pole as opposed to the double banded receivers of Canada.

Above is a photograph of the embossing on the writing shelf indicating, In Spanish, Property of the General Telephone Company. No other markings are located on the telephone.