

HISTORICAL FACT SHEET Telephone Industry Related Companies



COMPANY Montgomery Ward & Company

DATE ORGANIZED 1872

WHERE ORGANIZED Chicago, IL

FOUNDER'S Aaron Montgomery Ward

NATURE OF BUSINESS Distributor

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

While Montgomery Ward has been in business since 1872

it is believed that they began to sell telephones around 1900

DATE

1900

REMARKS Montgomery Ward has been included on the Fact Sheets because many telephones carry their name tags. Wards did not manufacture telephones rather they were distributors for telephones made by others but sold as their own.

For many years Montgomery Wards, almost exclusively, sold telephone products manufactured by the Chicago Telephone Supply Co. with several significant differences.

1. The brass nametag, some very fancy, with the Wards name was attached to most wall sets. Also, there were a few Wards marked transmitters that were manufactured, along with a larger number of magnetos which carried the Wards nameplate. Most of the transmitters were unmarked.
2. The extensive use of iron or steel was employed in the manufacture of certain parts on both wall sets and candlesticks. These included switchhooks, magneto cranks, escutcheon pieces, gongs and brackets. On Candlesticks the stems and bases were steel. Today these are easily recognized as they have often become rusty and pitted. Nichel plating, when employed, seldom held up very long on iron parts which led to the extensive practice of painting many of the non-brass parts on their products in black.

