

# The Pole Line

A publication of The Telephone Museum

Where, if it rings, it's for you!

## Telephone Storage Project 2015 -- Telephones, Telephones everywhere ...

"When are we going to clean out the Archive Building?" Is a question that has been heard around the museum for few years now. An e-mail suggesting we acquire racking for the Visitor Center basement by purchase, gift, or, er "other means" resulted in a gift of racking from Galley Theatre Lighting.

Stan St.Onge, Charlie Dunne, Doug Kirkpatrick and Dave Thompson cleaned, dismantled and moved a double row of racks from the Galley shop in Methuen, MA. and then reassembled them here in the Visitors Center basement. There are eight sections, each 3' wide by 2' deep, assembled as 2 sets of 4 sections side-by-side and the two sets back to back.

During the assembly, we chose to acquire additional racking anyway on which to store even more telephones. These racks were new, easy to assemble, and were donated by several members.

Stan and Dave thus started boxing and moving telephones from the Archive Building and the Main Building. Often heard was, "Ehh, don't turn around now, I see more tele . . . ."

The telephone racks were planned to hold 720 phones. The racks are about 87% filled and the end is not in sight yet. However, we now have a better idea of types and quantities we have. Yes, there are MANY Western Electric 302s and 500s. We have found a few odd WE 300 sets and 500 sets, more Automatic Electric type 40s and 80s than we expected, as well as key telephone sets by WE, AE, Stromberg Carlson. Other interesting telephones from other companies including – North, Leich, Northern Electric have been also cataloged, as well as few of foreign manufacture.

The telephones are in various conditions: pristine (occasionally new packaging), dirty, missing cords



## 2015 Season Started at HOME

Our first event of the year wasn't ours! The Telephone Museum participated in the Homeschoolers of Maine (HOME) annual convention this year at the Samoset Resort in Rockland. While this was the museum's first time at a Maine homeschoolers event, Stan St.Onge, Charles Galley and Sandra Galley have participated in similar events in Massachusetts before. Our booth had both interactive exhibits in the way of a Step-by-step demonstrator with two dial telephones and two magneto telephones as well as photographs and other information about The Telephone Museum. Our booth was a hit with kids of all ages, and got a lot of interest and good questions from parents as well. Thanks to Dave, Sandra, Joe, Rick, Pat, Chad and Doug for putting everything together, staffing the booth and getting everything home again.

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### OUR MISSION

**is to demonstrate the social and technical significance of the telephone network from 1876 to the present, using working equipment to provide tangible, operable evidence of an evolving technology. We celebrate the inventiveness, craftsmanship, ingenuity and industry of the telecommunications community through educational programs, exhibits and special events.**

and other parts, need only minor TLC, or LOTS of TLC, but, are becoming more accessible. Stan & Dave will be getting them into the Finding Aid even as collect more from all the dusty corners, battered boxes and creaking shelves.

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**Pre-Hurricane Joaquin**

Hurricane Joaquin was a pussy-cat compared to the rain storm that it pushed through coastal Maine getting here. That storm rained cat-and-dogs so hard that a wall of water coming down Tannery Brook off Bald Mountain came over the road and flowed across the property as if it were a fast moving lava flow. Water was coming fast enough that it completely washed out the driveway and “piled up” against the foundation of the Visitors Center enough that it was almost halfway up the little cellar window in the foundation. While we can’t be sure of all of the ingress points, the basement of the Visitors Center flooded to a depth of around 3½ inches at the foundation walls and possibly to 4 - 4½ inches in the middle near the drain.



The driveway has been repaired, but it was an unbudgeted expense of \$630 that we didn’t plan on having to spend at this time of year. Despite the flooding and having that much water in the basement, there was remarkably little permanent damage to drywall and telephones stored there in cardboard boxes.

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**Visitors Center Wiring Project**

The punch list to complete the Wiring Project in the Visitors Center is “resisting” completion; but we are slowly making progress. The season opened this year with the final cable splice between buildings, and installation and retrofit of 1A2 wall key sets -- one in the basement outside the utility room, and another in the kitchen/break room. Many thanks to Josh Zuckerman for the cable work and Rick Miller for his efforts in troubleshooting and diagnosing “his first” 1A2 system. The timing of the completion of this task was just in time. The two WE 2851 telephones got a lot of use this season.

Along the way Chad Perkins and Rick had to relearn some “lessons of the past” regarding common audible ringing in key systems and had to remove ringing from the first key which had the museum’s PSTN line on it, and then restore the earlier temporary common audible whose cable had been torn out by the snow plow last year. The other line keys currently have No. 3 crossbar (327-2222), CX-100 (334-2922), No. 5 crossbar (338-6622), and pseudo-Kennebunkport C\*NET (967-3322) lines on them.

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- Sandra Galley, Jeffrey Webber, Stephen Pater,
- David Thompson, Pat Saunders, Stan St.Onge

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Still remaining is to set another underground cable marker behind the main building, establish a new cable entrance at “front” of the Visitors Center to reconnect facilities at the front of the property, and the completion of an Ethernet link in the main building that will feed the Visitors Center.

In support of this project, Rick and Josh repaired and reinstalled a 10/100Mb power-over-Ethernet (POE) switch in a rack in the No. 3 room. Also in the IT/infrastructure “department”, Bryan McLellan has donated and is installing a new Wi-Fi wireless system to replace the “stock” unit installed when we first got Internet service several years ago. Thanks to Bryan and his helper (whose name I missed!) for doing this, and Chad and Rick for extracting the snake that got stuck in the wall and getting the wires down.

#

### Mark Redmond Donates 5XB Documents

A couple years ago fellow TCI member Mark Redmond purchased a couple boxes of No. 5 Crossbar and sundry telephone switching documents at a TCI show in Lancaster, PA. Witnessing this transaction was board member Chad Perkins who gave Mark one of our cards and told him that if he ever chose to part with them to let us know.

As fate would have it Mark got in touch with us this spring. While many of the documents appear to be older than our No. 5, they still are very detailed and give valuable insights into aspects of No. 5 even though not everything matches up to ours. Given the scarcity of No. 5 materials we are delighted at the opportunity to have them.

Thank you Mark. #

### Motoring On Down To The Farm

Due to unusual circumstances this year, those visiting the museum this season may have rounded the farmhouse and seen a Motorhome at The Telephone Museum. This unusual circumstance started with the news that one of our most stalwart volunteers, Jeff Webber would be out of action all summer following surgery. Thankfully, through Pat Saunders’ loan of a motorhome and gracious donations of time and funds for cleaning and setup, it arrived in June and was ready to “go” the first of July. Only the motorhome wouldn’t be motoring!

Museum Secretary and board member Stan St. Onge and his companions George and Gracie (the cats) were able to summer in Ellsworth and staff the museum throughout July and August before returning to New Hampshire where Stan is a theater educator and staffer. The museum is very grateful for Stan’s willingness and ability to commit such a significant amount of his time to the museum’s short season -- thank you Stan.

Thanks also all of those that help make this possible in both big and small ways; not the least of which include Pat for orchestrating and loaning the motorhome, Charlie Dunne for arranging water hookup, Chad Perkins for electric parts and plans, Charles Galley and Bryan McLellan for guidance and septic hookup, Matthew Strong for assistance with the propane system, and others I’m sure -- thank you.

#

### Friday Burgers & Beers

We had a bit of fun this year doing a Friday evening burgers-and-beers social hour for friends and volunteers at the museum. It’s been a great opportunity to relax, have a “few”, chat about things while feeding “the hunger”. **A big thank you goes to all volunteers, members and visitors have helped support us this year.**

Join us again next year, as we have burgers and beers on the third Friday of the month, well except October when it’ll be the first Friday of the month!

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Photo credits for this issue: Sandra Galley, Bryan McLellan, David Thompson and Steve Pater.

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