

The Phoenix Daily Herold

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Ting A Ling, Hello!

The new telephone for Phoenix nearing completion. Wire dialogues next week. Notes of the innovation.

On the 24th of June, Superintendent Keyser of the Sunset Telephone Co. Arrived from Los Angeles with a crew of line men to erect a Bell Telephone System for Arizona's capital. Foreman A. P. Yearsley has been pushing the work ever since. At first, seven men were needed. Now, only four are required to finish the work.

Foreman yearsley was pretty tired last night when a Herold reporter found him at the Mills House., after a hard day's work raising poles and hanging wires. But he consented to postpone his outdoor slumbers and give a few facts in connection with the present enterprise.

The poles come from California's redwood country and are taken by water down the coast to Los Angeles where rail transportation dumps them finally near Holmes, Gregory & Lindsley's Planing Mill at the depot in Phoenix. There, they are dressed into trim shape, shown wherever erected. There are two lengths, thirty and forty feet, the former for the business streets and the latter for outside territory. A city ordinance requires all wires to be hung at least twenty-five feet above ground. The 40 foot poles are sunk six feet deep in the ground while 4 ½ foot holes are considered sufficient for the shorter poles.

Thus far, 160 poles are in place and that number will be increased to 260 when the tall lot is erected. Should it extend to Tempe, as is now contemplated, very many more poles will be needed. They are expensive, a lot of 55 long ones costing \$200 for freight alone.

The distance thus far covered is over five miles, extending from the Asylum on the east to the hospital on the west, with many side branches to reach the numerous subscribers. As a separate wire is strung for each subscriber, the total wireage must be extensive even for forty patrons.

After the poles are up, spiked with iron steps, cross-arms nailed fast and all well painted, wires are stretched. A section extending along Washington Street from Mills House to the M. E. Church beyond the courthouse, has half a dozen wires up to stiffen it so that extensions may be made in any direction without pulling poles out of plumb.

The switchboard is partially completed at the main office. The telephones are of the well known Bell pattern. Each one has its own battery of salomonic and carbon, porous cup and zinc plate. No other dynamo or source of electric power is needed save that furnished by the battery that each telephone carries. New chemicals are placed in the battery at intervals of three month to six months, according to the phone usage.

Although the present system seems small, it is a creature of civilization that grows almost as rapidly as vegetables in the Salt River Valley. Eight years ago, the Sunset Telephone Company modestly put up some rough insignificant poles in Los Angeles, hoping almost absurdly, as it then seemed, to secure 200 subscribers. But their feeble plant took root at once and has been growing steadily until 1100 patrons are leasing phones in Los Angeles alone. The company controls the Pacific coast and is covering new territory as rapidly as possible. Between Los Angeles and San Bernardino, sixty miles of a metallic circle (circuit?) Has been built so that no dependance upon the earth has had to complete it. This is to modify the disturbance by induction from telegraph wires.

The chief officials of the Sunset Telephone Company reside in San Francisco and include George S Ladd, President; John I. Sabin, Vice President and General Manager; and John Lawrence, General Superintendent. They are all men of means, influence and business ability for the enterprise under their charge.

Subscribers to the Phoenix telephone system include: Phoenix Water Works, City Hall, Fire Engine House, Blinn Lumber Co., Insane Asylum Office, Insane Asylum, Milt Shermon, Jerry Milley, T. W. Hine, Mills House, three public schools, Loan & Trust Co., W. T. Smith, store and residence, T. J. Trask, Electric Light Co., Herald, Goldman & Co., H. E. Kemp & Co., Dr. Helm, J Gibson, N. O. Murphy, Valley Bank, Republican, M. & P. R. R. Depot, C. Churchill, Holmes, Gregory & Lindsly. Other subscribers are reported daily.

The telephone will probably be ready for operation next week.