STROWGER PROGRESS

History and Development of the Strowger Automatic Telephone System

1889: Almon B. Strowger invents switch having line contacts in circular rows inside a cylinder. Controlled by push buttons on telephone.

1891: Invention of 1000 line switch with disc bank having ten concentric frames -- rows of line contacts. Not used commercially.

1897: First commercial Strowger installation, La Porte, Ind. Used switches with 100-line disc type banks.

1894: Invention of gear-driven switch with "thre" (piano wire) line banks. Not used commercially.

1900: Third installation at La Porte. Earliest use of switch containing cylindrical bank and shaft with vertical and rotary motions. Invention of earliest dial type calling device.

1904: Invention of selector trunking, first use of dial telephones in large exchange (Augusta, Ga.).

1909: Earliest use of relays for switch control, instead of direct operation of magnets, over line wires. First die cast switch frame.

1901: Strowger Automatic goes abroad. (Berlin, Germany). Earliest use of automatic trunk selection, with busy test.

1900: Basic trunking principles established for large exchanges, used at New Bedford, Mass. Bank terminals molded in plaster of Paris.

1901: Formation of Automatic Electric Company to take over Strowger Automatic Telephone Exchange. Installation at Fall River, Mass., used line banks with fiber insulators and aluminum fillers. First use of "slip multiplex."