

Wilmington
Old and new

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THE
DIAMOND STATE TELEPHONE
COMPANY

Wilmington

Old and new



WHEREIN IS CONTAINED

A BRIEF REVIEW OF SUNDRY HISTORICAL, COMMERCIAL *and* INDUSTRIAL FACTS ABOUT WILMINGTON—*things past and present with many* PICTURES—INTERESTING, INSTRUCTIVE AND PLEASANT

To which is added, A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE GROWTH OF THE DIAMOND STATE TELEPHONE COMPANY

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MLCCCCXXIX



SPENCER COMPTON
Earl of Wilmington

THE EARLY HISTORY of Wilmington reads like a romance. From its very beginning until the Revolutionary period, a series of bitter struggles were fought between Swedish, Dutch, and English Colonial Expeditions for the control of the land upon which Wilmington now stands.

As early as 1628, a Swedish Expedition set sail eastward for New World conquest only to meet disaster at the hands of a roving Spanish fleet. Preparations for the Thirty Years' War, the death of the Swedish King, and other events postponed all other Swedish colonization attempts until 1638.

In March, 1638, another Swedish expedition, under Peter Minuit, landed near the present town of Lewes. Disappointed with the lower Delaware marsh lands, the expedition sailed northward up the South River (now the Delaware) until they touched the "Rocks" on the Minquas Creek (since named the "Christiana Creek"). The Indians called the "Rocks," Hopokahacking.

*The first Swedish
settlement in
Delaware, 1638*

*Early settlement of
Wilmington marked
by conflicts between
Swedes and Dutch
until 1655*

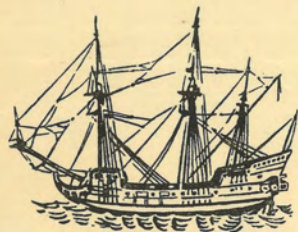
For a copper kettle and a few trinkets, Minuit bought the land from Mattahoon, Chief of the Leni Lenapes, an Indian tribe. A few days later, land was cleared and a fort erected — called Fort Christina, in honor of the young Swedish Queen. The land around Fort Christina was named “Christinaham.”

SCARCELY had the Swedes begun to till the soil when the Dutch appeared and claimed the land. They contended that seven years before a Dutch expedition under David Pieterz. De Vries had founded the settlement of “Zwannendael” in lower Delaware and had acquired all the land from the Indians.

Peter Minuit, the Swedish Governor, replied to the Dutch that his settlement was only temporary — a resting place for his expedition — and that he would soon sail away with his shipload of Swedes.

The Dutch carried this message back to New Amsterdam (now New York City). The Swedes, however, had no intention of leaving Delaware. They were an energetic group. They built houses, laid out gardens, tilled the rich and fertile soil, built roads into the woods, traded and made lasting friendships with the neighboring Indian tribes. Their settlement in Delaware was to be a “permanent” one.

Six



*“Kalmar Nyckel”
First ship to land settlers
at Wilmington*



*David
Pieterz.
De Vries*

THIS action of the Swedes, however, aroused Pieter Stuyvesant, then the Dutch Governor at New Amsterdam. He gathered together the Indian chiefs of Delaware and questioned them about the Swedes. The Swedes were hard-working, peaceful settlers, who gave them many presents, the Indians said, but had never bought the land from them. On hearing this, Governor Stuyvesant bartered for the land. An agreement was reached. For 12 coats of duffels, 12 kettles, 12 adzes, 24 knives, 12 bars of lead, 4 guns with powder and a few other small things, the Dutch acquired all of Delaware from the Indian Chief, Penomennetta. The agreement made, the Dutch Governor immediately sent an expedition down into Delaware to erect a fort at New Amstel (now New Castle).

*The Dutch buy all
of Delaware from
the Indians*

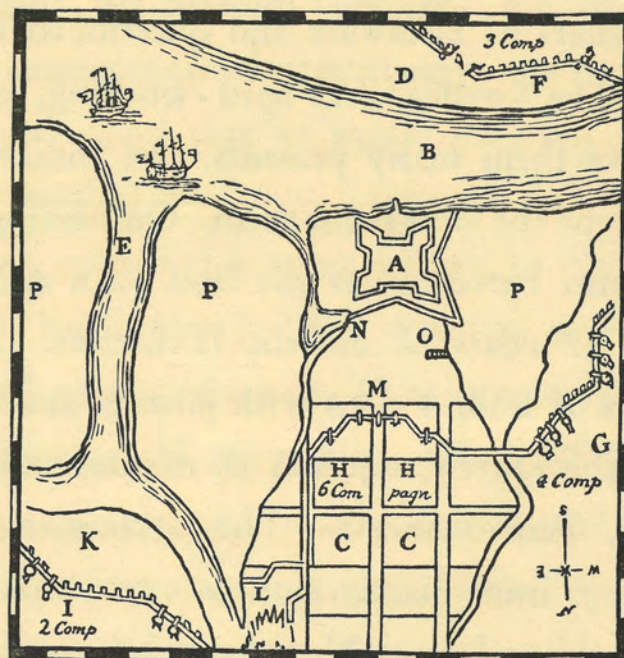
Seven

*The Swedes seize
Fort Casmir*

THIS move of Stuyvesant caused bitter conflicts between the Dutch and the Swedes. No sooner had the Dutch flag been nailed to the topmost part of their fort (Fort Casmir) than the Swedes attacked and seized it. The Swedes renamed it Fort Trinity.

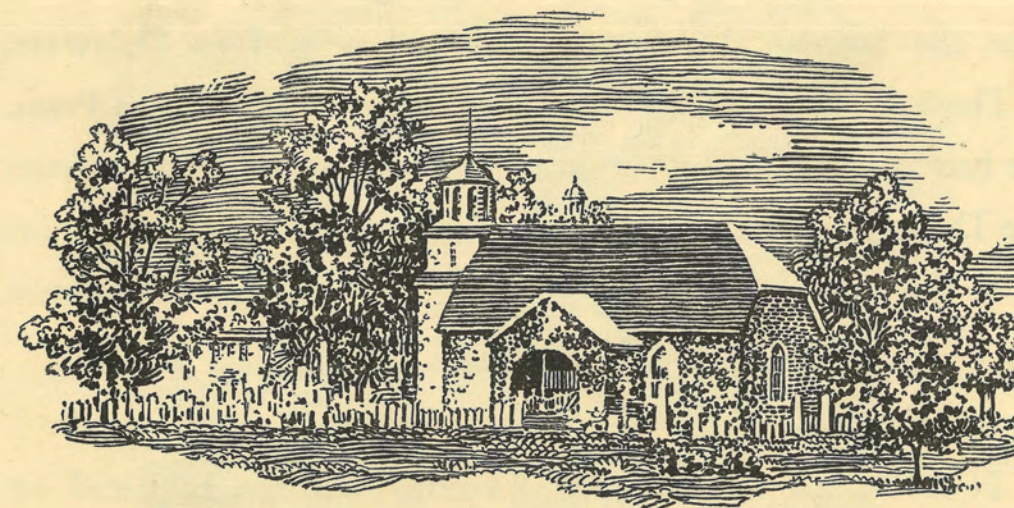
Retaliating by recruiting an army of seven hundred men in Holland, the Dutch sailed up the Delaware, captured Fort Trinity without a struggle, moved northward to Fort Christina and on September 25, 1655, took the last Swedish stronghold in the New World.

The Swedes were allowed to remain in Christinaham one year; after which they were to return to Gottenburg—ending their unsuccessful reign in Delaware.



Map of Christinaham (1655)
—now Wilmington

Eight



Old Swedes Church

TODAY there is still standing Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church erected by the Swedes in 1638, together with the old burial ground which contains the bones of some of the most illustrious early Delawareans. Among them are the early Swedish minister, Reorus Torkillus, and Mary Vining, the “Belle of Delaware,” a favorite of George Washington, who would have married General “Mad Anthony” Wayne had he not died at Lake Erie. Old Swedes Church today is Wilmington’s finest historical landmark.

The power of the Dutch lasted but nine years in Delaware. Hardly had the Dutch renamed Christinaham “Altona” than their struggles against invading English expeditions began. Despite a few victories, the Dutch relinquished all their lands in Delaware to the strong, well-trained English troops, and

*Expeditions from
England invade
Delaware*

Nine

*William Penn, the
new Governor of
Delaware*

like the Swedes, lost every claim they had to Delaware. The new English Governor of Delaware was William Penn. He had acquired Delaware on a ten thousand years' lease from the Duke of York for ten shillings, a portion of the profits from the southern part of Delaware, and "a rose to be given the Duke every year at Michaelmas."

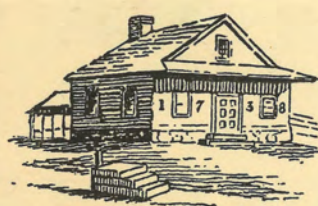
IN 1731, an Englishman, Thomas Willing, acquired by marriage a large tract of land in the northern part of Delaware which he named Willingtown. Willing realized the value of his land. He surveyed it, built many houses and mapped out streets. In the present city of Wilmington, his plans for streets has been followed.

Willing's land extended from the banks of the Christiana Creek and lay between French and Shipley Streets. The old Swedish village, Christinaham, stretched from French Street to the "Rocks" on the Christiana Creek.

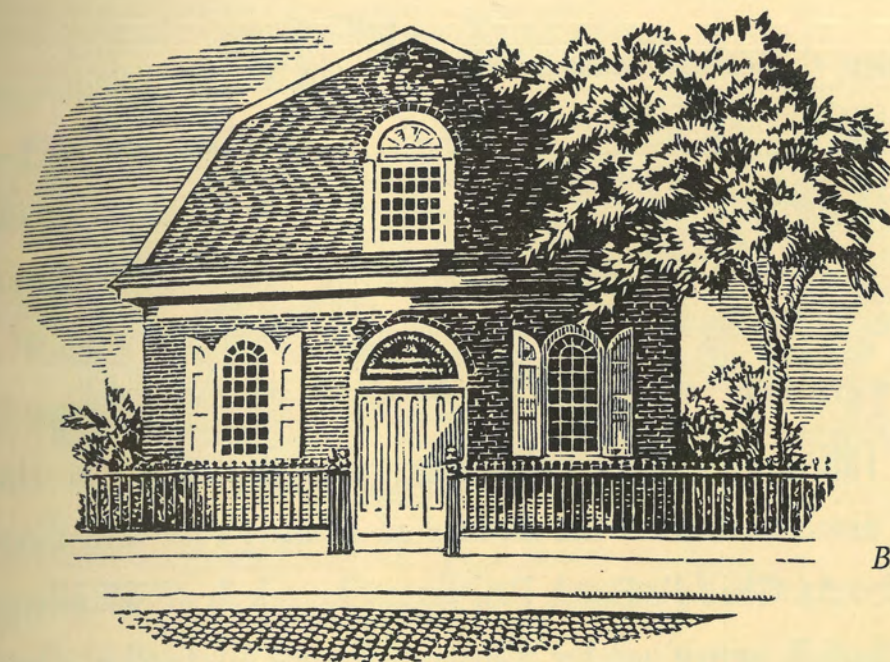
In 1736, the one hundred and three inhabitants of Willingtown petitioned the English Crown for a borough charter which would include the original Swedish tract. Four years later, the charter was granted with one stipulation — that the name Willingtown be changed to Wilmington.

This stipulation was added to the charter for two reasons: Thomas Willing, due to some unpopular real estate transactions, was disliked by the people and, secondly, Spencer

Ten



*Friends' School 1738
Fourth and West Streets*



*Building of the Historical Society
of Delaware, erected in 1740*

Compton, Earl of Wilmington (who took his title from a small place near London), was a friend of Thomas Penn, Governor of Delaware at that time.

DURING the Revolutionary period, Wilmington played an important part in the affairs of the Thirteen Colonies. At this time Wilmington was still a small town with a population of 1329. There were a few shops, a market house and the first fire engine company, called the "Friendship." Shipbuilding was in its infancy, but one company years before had launched the town's first ship, the "Wilmington." Paper and flour mills dotted the Brandywine; the Tatnall and Lea flour mills being famous in Colonial history.

*Wilmington during
the Revolution*

Eleven

When the British neared Wilmington, General Washington had the "upper stones" of these mills hauled into Chester County, Pennsylvania, for fear the British would seize them. Beyond "Quaker Hill" (now Fourth Street Hill) were several orchards owned by Friends, but the remainder of the land was "open country."

THE Revolutionary history of Wilmington is closely associated with the Battles of Brandywine and Cooch's Bridge. At Chadd's Ford, Pa., ten miles north of Wilmington, the English army under General Howe defeated General Washington's army on September 11, 1777. Here may be found Washington's headquarters, the old Birmingham Meeting House, built in 1722 and used as a hospital by the Continental troops. Nearby is the spot where General Lafayette was wounded and many other interesting historic landmarks.

When General Howe's army was preparing to attack Philadelphia by way of the Elk River, General Washington maintained his headquarters in Wilmington at the Howard DeH. Ross house, still standing at Third and West Streets. In the old "Robinson House," a Swedish Block House at Naaman's Creek, 8 miles north of Wilmington, Generals Washington and Wayne held many war-time conferences. This house is still the mecca of many tourists, for it has retained much of its historic lure.

Twelve



*Welsh Tract
Baptist Meeting House
built in 1746*



Indian Queen Tavern 1789

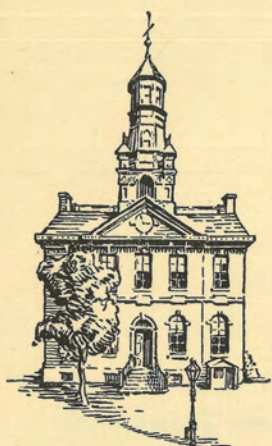
IN 1802, a French political refugee, Eleuthère Irénée du Pont de Nemours, built on the upper Brandywine Creek the first powder mill in the country and it, too, is still standing.

Since 1802, Wilmington has supplied explosives for use in the nation's wars, and also for industrial and agricultural purposes. As early as 1805, twenty-two thousand pounds of powder were made for the frigates being sent against Algeria, and in the War of 1812, the Brandywine mills supplied large quantities of powders to the American Army and Navy. In one instance a wagon train from the mills transported powder to Lake Erie to aid Commodore Perry.

Throughout the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and the World War, the du Ponts supplied three-fourths of the military powder. During the Civil War, they supplied only the Army of the North.

*The first
Powder Mill in
this country*

Thirteen



Old City Hall,
Built in 1798

In 1832, Wilmington, with a population of 7,000, was granted a city charter by the General Assembly. Richard H. Bayard was the first mayor. By the time of the Civil War, Wilmington's population had grown to 18,000.

TODAY, Wilmington has a population of nearly 131,000 with an estimated suburban population of 47,000. From the early Swedish, Dutch, and English elements, Wilmington's population is now 87 per cent. native born, with Germans, English, Irish, Italian, and Polish comprising the bulk of the foreign born.

Since 1900, Wilmington has undergone a remarkable growth. Modern transportation facilities (including the electrified railroad line to Philadelphia), development of private, parochial and public schools, erection of fine residences and buildings (the residential development, Westover Hills, contains copies of Old World buildings), new industries, and a modern marine terminal have contributed in making Wilmington one of the leading cities on the Atlantic Coast.

Wilmington is an important industrial, commercial and residential city. It is at the head of the Delmarva Peninsula, a rich fruit and farming district. The recent development of harbor facilities together with the close proximity of Bellanca

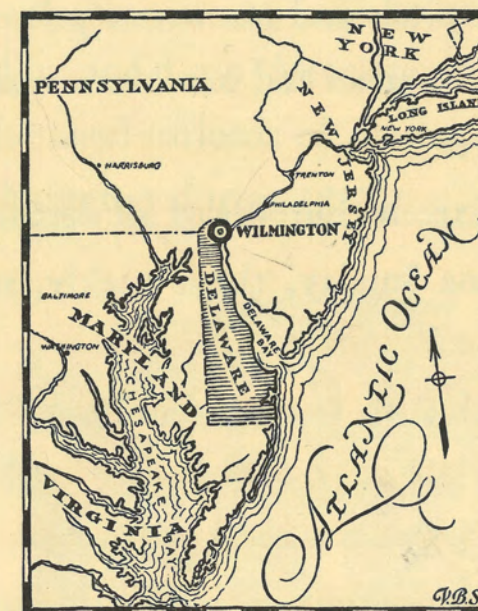
*Population largely
native born*

Field, a most modern Municipal airport, help bring Wilmington into close contact with not only all parts of the United States but the world as well.

THEN, too, the numerous truck, bus, ship, and ferry lines combined with the excellent railroad transportation — there are over 200 trains daily — make Wilmington ideally situated for markets and sources of supply of raw materials.

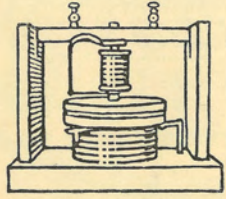
The city proper comprises 7,397 acres, including over 705 acres of park land. The historic Brandywine Park stretches miles and miles through beautiful, natural scenery.

*Modern Airport
added to other
facilities*



Port of Wilmington
on the Delaware River

HERE ARE SOME FACTS WORTH
KNOWING ABOUT WILMINGTON



Alexander Graham Bell's
first Telephone

Twenty-seven thousand four hundred ninety-seven families. (Average Wilmington family consists of 4.6 persons.)

Twenty-three thousand one hundred two dwellings.

Nearly 1,300 city officials and employees.

One hundred seventy miles of streets.

Two platoon fire systems of 161 men. Police personnel of 160.

Twenty-six grade schools (3 under construction), 18 private and parochial schools and five business schools.

A library of 140,000 volumes. (Several branches throughout the city).

Four public hospitals and numerous private ones.

Six private golf courses and one Municipal golf course.

Thirteen theatres.

One hundred sixteen churches of all denominations.

Three daily, one Sunday, three weekly, and one monthly newspapers.

Ten hotels, including the internationally known duPont-Biltmore.

Nearly 55,000 wage-earners.

Four hundred twenty-five industries, including cotton dyeing and finishing works, ship and car building and

Sixteen

repairing, tanning, woodwork, textiles, plumbing supplies, automobiles, aeroplanes and seaplanes, dyes and dyestuffs, chemicals, explosives, and many other articles. Wilmington produces over 150 different products.

Value of building permits during 1928, \$5,676,274.00.

Assessed value of real estate, \$146,234,950.

Public service corporations assessed \$2,399,000.

Average daily consumption of water is 15,053,852 gallons.

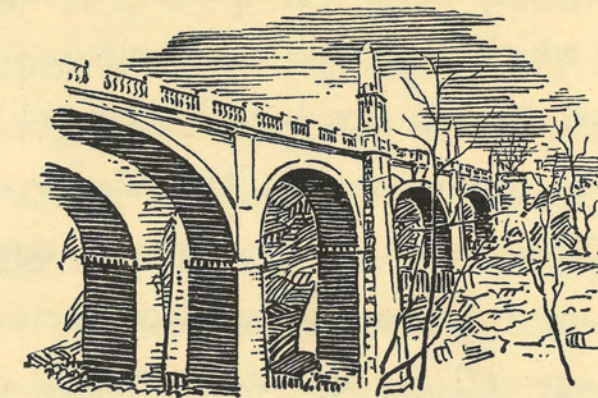
Six country clubs, and numerous private and fraternal organizations.

Bellanca Field, where the famous Bellanca airplanes are now built, situated six miles south of the city.

Sixteen banks (bank clearings for 1928 were \$222,311,-141.00).

Sixteen Building and Loan Associations.

Ninety-six thousand carloads of products shipped through the port of Wilmington during 1928.



Washington Memorial
Bridge

Seventeen

THE TELEPHONE HISTORY OF WILMINGTON

THE telephone history of Wilmington is almost as interesting as the history of the city.

In April, 1878 — more than half a century ago — W. T. Westbrook brought two telephone instruments to Wilmington from Philadelphia. He connected one instrument at his office at the northeast corner of Third and Market Streets with the other one in his home at 510 West Third Street.

A month later, D. S. Robeson brought two more telephones to Wilmington and installed one in the old City Hall and the other in the City Water Department, then at Tenth and Market Streets.

The earliest telephone lines in Wilmington were private. Mr. Westbrook charged \$50.00 a year, together with an installation charge ranging from \$80.00 to \$100.00 a mile.

At this time, there was an arrangement among some of the subscribers by which they could intercommunicate by giving telegraphic dot and dash signals with their call bells.

In August of that same year, Mr. Westbrook secured a switchboard. There were 35 telephones in the city at that time and 15 telephone owners agreed to be connected with Westbrook's exchange at Third and Market Streets.

Eighteen

*Wilmington's first
switchboard*

These first fifteen subscribers were John P. Allmond & Co., F. James Belt, Bower, Dos & Co., James Bradford, George W. Bush & Son, Delaware Steam Fire Engine Co., Every Evening Publishing Co., Harlan & Hollingsworth Co., Emlen Hewes, Jackson & Sharpe Co., D. H. Kent & Co., Jacob Pusey, Pusey-Jones & Co., Seidel & Hastings and Charles Warner & Co.

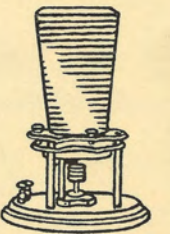
Little by little practically all the private telephone lines were connected with Westbrook's switchboard. In fact, the telephone grew so rapidly that by 1879 it was necessary to employ a Telephone Manager. The first Telephone Manager in Wilmington whose duties pertained solely to telephone work was James H. Mehaffey.

By 1881 it became necessary to move the "Exchange" from Third and Market Streets to larger quarters on the N. E. Corner of Fourth and Market Streets. Here, the "Exchange" occupied the rear of the third floor.

EARLY in 1883, W. T. Westbrook issued Wilmington's first "telephone book." Quaint and interesting, it contained on a single page everything the telephone subscriber of that time needed to know.

Not only did it list the names and numbers of subscribers but it also gave implicit and somewhat intricate instructions on how to use the telephone. For example:

Nineteen



The Telephone of 1876

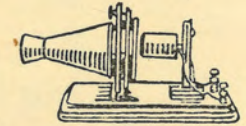
“MODE OF OPERATION

“Ring for the Exchange by the usual call — — — — — without waiting for an answering ring, listen to your Telephone and the Exchange in a few seconds will say, ‘well?’ (And should your number be 164, and you want 175), say connect 164 with 175. Replace your telephone and make one long ring at intervals of 15 seconds. You must observe the 15 Second Rule, and make one short ring when your conversation is finished.”

THEN, too, the early Wilmington Directory proudly announced that the Telephone Exchange was “Open Day and Night, Every Day in the Year,” and, furthermore, that messenger services were available — “Short errands, 10 cents, or 15 cents per one-half hour!”

Another item of interest concerning this early document of Wilmington telephone history is the small space provided at the bottom of the page for “Additional Names.” Perhaps, the telephone fathers of 1883 little thought that this quaint directory would grow into the many-paged informative Wilmington Telephone Directory of today, a most vital factor in our telephone system and a striking illustration of the tremendous strides in this city’s telephone growth.

Twenty



Telephone transmitter exhibited by Alexander Graham Bell at the Centennial 1876

JANUARY, 1883.
Telephone Exchange,

Open Day and Night, Every day in the year. } WILMINGTON, DELAWARE. } Messenger's services furnished. Short errands, 10 cents, or 15 cents per one-half hour. }
W. T. WESTBROOK, Manager.

MODE OF OPERATION.

Ring for the Exchange by the usual call — — — — — without waiting for an answering ring, listen to your Telephone and the Exchange in a few seconds will say “well?” (And should your number be 164, and you want 175,) say connect 164 with 175. Replace your telephone and make one long ring at intervals of 15 Seconds.
You must observe the 15 Second Rule, and make one short ring when your conversation is finished.

LIST OF OFFICES.		LIST OF OFFICES.		LIST OF OFFICES.	
129 Adair, L. F.,	83 Flinn, J. R., (Res.)	125 Palmer, L. W.,	3 P. W. & B. Freight Office,		
88 Almahouse,	20 Frantz, Dr.,	136 Pickels, H. F., (Serr.)	155 " " Foundry,		
134 Allen, A.,	49 Garrett, M. & W.,	175 Pickels, W. D.,	106 Pierion, W. H.,		
37 Allmond, J. P. & Co.,	55 Garrett, Elwood, (Res.)	117 Poole, J. Morton, Co.,	80 Pusey, Scott & Co.,		
27 Arlington Mills M'g. Co.,	49 Garrett, Howard, (Res.)	57 Gause, J. T., (Res.)	111 Pusey & Jones Co.,		
182 Artesian Bank,	49 Garrett, Maurice, (Res.)	93 Gause, Harlan,	64 Pyle, C. & J.,		
52 Augustine Mills,	57 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	68 Pyle, Frank, (Res.)		
63 Baird, Chas. & Co.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	159 Gregg & Pierce,	46 Pennington, Evans,		
44 Bates & Harrington,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	146 Pennsylvania R. R. Freight Office,		
44 Bates, G. H., (Res.)	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	191 Gilpin & Co.,	15 Phillips, L. D. & Son.,		
51 Bancroft, Jos. & Sons,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	49 Griggs, A. C., (Res.)	186 Paschall, S. D.,		
51 Bancroft, Jr., Samuel, (Res.)	159 Gregg & Pierce,	122 Gillespie & Co., Plumbers,	24 Philadelphia,		
160 Bayard Law Building,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	101 Harlan & Hollingsworth, Co.,	177 Remington & Co.,		
172 Bayard & Dawson,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	121 Harlan & Hollingsworth, Car Shops,	200 Republican Office,		
140 Beadenkopf, Wm.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	44 Harrington, A., (Res.)	66 Riddle, J. Son & Co.,		
37 Beggs, Jas. H.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	38 Harvey, J. M.,	40 Robinson, Chandler & Co.,		
165 Bellah, Quigley & Co.,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	191 Harvey & Sisler,	135 Robinson, R. R. & Co.,		
62 Bellah, Joseph, (Res.)	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	133 Hawkins, D. T. & Son,	70 Rockland Mills,		
84 Belt, Z. James,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	170 Heald & Co.,	30 Rodney, C. A., (Res. Call Vul. Fibre Co.)		
171 Betts Machine Co.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	176 Hewes, Emlen,	96 Richardson, Joseph,		
50 Bond, J. A.,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	33 Hilles & Jones,	173 Seal, J. H.,		
7 Bowers, Dure & Co.,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	17 Hilles, S. L., (Res.)	4 Seidel & Co.,		
178 Bradford, James,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	22 Hirst, Benj.,	56 Seidel, H. B., (Res.)		
58 Brinckle, W. R. & Co., Greenville,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	47 Hoffecker, J. H.,	59 Scott, J. Winfield, (Res.)		
58 Brinckle, W. R., (Res.)	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	19 Howland, C. W., (Res.)	103 Simmons, S. G. & Bro.,		
84 Bringhurst, Jr., E., (Res.)	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	19 Howland, C. S., (Res.)	48 Singles, E. H. & Son,		
157 Brown, H. A.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	5 Hamilton, John & Co.,	49 Smith & Painter,		
188 Bush, G. W. & Sons,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	148 Hewes, Emlen, (Res.)	100 Smith & Warner Axle Co.,		
98 Bush, W. D., (Res.)	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	154 Jackson Lime & Coal Co., No. 1,	89 Speakman, Allen,		
86 Bush, G. W., (Res.)	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	1 Jackson & Sharp Co.,	71 Sperry, W. F., R		
43 Bullock, W. S.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	54 Jackson, J. H., (Res.)	62 Springer, Morley & Gause,		
23 Brandywine Pay Station,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	131 James & Brother,	62 Springer, L. R., (Res.)		
56 Canby, E. T., (Res.)	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	153 James & Webb P. & S. Co.,	99 Stanton Mills, Stanton,		
163 Capelle Hardware Co.,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	162 Johnson, H. H., (Res.)	166 Stone, G. W.,		
128 Carlisle J. V. & Co.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	12 Johnson Forge Co.,	69 Stone, G. W., (Res.)		
50 Carswell, F. R.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	18 Jessup & Moore Paper Co., Brandywine,	61 Swift, W. H., (Res.)		
40 Chandler, Hayes, (Res.)	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	114 Jackson Lime & Coal Co., No. 2,	43 Smith, Chas. E.,		
41 Chief Engineer's Office,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	16 Kennebec Ice Co.,	141 Stewart & Jones,		
190 Chief of Police Office,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	65 Kent, D. H., (Res.)	183 Stoeckle, Joseph,		
131 Child, M. M.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	123 Kent Iron and Hardware Co.,	124 Schoon, W. H.,		
113 Churchman, G.,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	67 Kent, L. C.,	58 Stoner & Thompson,		
42 City Mills,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	102 Kent, B. Lundy,	107 Talley, C. W. & Co.,		
181 Clayton House,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	43 Kirkman, G. E., 10th street,	20 Tantum & Frantz, Drs.,		
109 Cold Spring Ice Co.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	10 Kirkman, G. E., 3d street,	99 Tatnall, Jos. & Co.,		
50 Cole, J. C.,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	147 Kilmer, L. R.,	105 Tatnall, H. L. & Co.,		
42 Cool Spring Reservoir,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	67 Kent, L. C., (Res.)	98 Tatnall, W. G., (Res.)		
77 Colquhoun, W. C. R.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	76 Lea, Preston, (Res.)	8 Texas, Jos. Co.,		
48 Coxe, Lewis & Son,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	26 Lea, Wm. & Son,	72 Thomas & Co., Chas. F.,		
99 Cranston, J. A., Newport,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	26 Lea's Mills, New Castle,	2 Townsend, B. F.,		
34 Cummins, Walter,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	52 Lindsay, D., (Res.)	88 Trustees of the Poor, (Office),		
58 Chandler, Dr. J. H., Centreville,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	112 Lobdell Car Wheel Co.,	50 Van Trump E. A.,		
25 Chester,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	39 McClary, Jr. S.,	116 Voshell & Solomon,		
144 Chandler, W. G.,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	39 " " Brick Yard,	30 Vulcanized Fibre Co.,		
29 Carswell, R.,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	64 McClary, W. J.,	21 Vaughn, Mrs. Dr.,		
149 Colquhoun, Alexander,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	9 McCullough Iron Co.,	94 Walton, Whinn & Co.,		
14 Darragh, Edward,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	35 McLea & Kendall,	85 Warner, A. D., (Res.)		
132 Danforth, N. B.,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	92 McWhorter, E. H. & Co.,	104 Warner, Chas. & Co.,		
79 Davis, J. T., (Res.)	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	50 Maris Building,	139 Warner, W. Y.,		
191 Delaware Fire Ins. Co.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	50 Maris, Geo. C.,	41 Warner, W. Y., (Res.)		
30 Delaware Cartridge Co.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	50 Maris, J.,	110 Weldin, C. Wesley,		
118 Del Western F. Office,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	174 Marr, J. R.,	87 West, Dr. S. L.,		
119 Delaware Mills,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	182 Mather & Canning,	78 Westbrook, W. T.,		
13 Delaware Beet Sugar Co.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	6 Mills & Combs,	138 Wilmington Coal-Gas Co.,		
95 Delaware Foundry Co.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	11 Moore, Jr., Enoch,	33 Wilmington Malleable Iron Co.,		
169 Diamond Gazette,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	47 Morris, W. H.,	45 Wilmington Saving Fund, J. E. Smith Treas.		
28 Diamond Match Co.,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	71 Morning News,	60 Wilmington & Northern Freight Office,		
115 Diamond State Iron Co.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	62 Morley, E. N., (Res.)	168 Wilson, J. A., Funeral Director,		
90 Donahoe, J. P.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	143 Maull, Dr. D. W.,	129 Woodward, W. W.,		
158 Duncan Bros.,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	126 National Bank Wilmington & Brandywine,	82 Worrell, Granville,		
162 Elliott, Johnson & Co.,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	184 National Dredging Co.,	36 Wales, Dr. John P.,		
74 Every Evening Office,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	184 National Dredging Co's. River Works,	137 Wood & Bancroft,		
62 Elliott, Alfred S.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,	53 Newark,	120 Wood, J. F. & Co.,		
185 Ferris Bros.,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)	145 Nields, B.,	20 Wilmington Dental Manufacturing Co.,		
26 Ferris, Ziba,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)	115 Old Ferry Rolling Mill,	108 Warner, Chas. & Co., No. 2,		
66 Fields, W. M., (Res.)	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)	49 Painter, E. C., (Res.)	195 Western Union Telegraph Office,		
127 Finley, Garrett & Wilson,	159 Gregg & Pierce,				
156 First National Bank,	71 Gause, H. T. (Res.)				
130 Flinn & Jackson,	62 Gause, S. Irwin, (Res.)				
91 Foord Bottling Co.,	93 Gause, Harlan, (Res.)				
63 Fritz, Chas. E. & Co.,	159 Gregg & Pierce,				

ADDITIONAL NAMES.

Wilmington's first Telephone Directory

THIS old Wilmington Directory contained some telephone subscribers who are today listed in the present directory. Among these subscribers are:

Augustine Mills

Joseph Bancroft & Sons

Wm. Beadenkopf

Betts Machine Shop

Hilles & Jones

Lobdell Car Wheel Company

James Bradford

Every Evening Office

Morning News

Western Union Telegraph Office

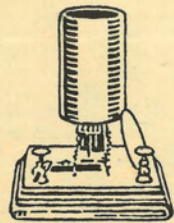
Chief of Police Office

N. B. Danforth

Chas. Warner & Company

Jessup & Moore Paper Company

Gawthrop Brothers & Company



*Telephone receiver
exhibited at the Centennial
in Philadelphia*

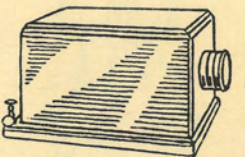
ABOUT this time, the Delaware & Atlantic Telegraph & Telephone Company was formed. This newly chartered company was using telephone equipment developed by Edison and Phelps, but when a Supreme Court decision upheld the Bell patents, they sold their telephone business to the Bell interests.

In 1898 a large building was erected at Sixth and Shipley Streets to take care of the remarkable telephone growth. By 1905 telephone progress had been so great in Wilmington that nearly a third of a million dollars was spent on expanding this building and adding new equipment.

In the meantime, many local rural groups had been formed to serve communities throughout Kent and Sussex Counties. On March 31, 1897, under the leadership of the late Hon. H. A. Richardson of Dover, these small rural companies were grouped together and chartered under the name of The Diamond State Telephone Company.

On May 10, 1905, this company was connected with the Bell System and seven years later acquired the property of the Delaware & Atlantic Telegraph & Telephone Company in New Castle County.

In 1900 Wilmington's telephones numbered 904. Ten years later there were 7,705; at the end of 1920 this number had



*Box Telephone used in
Bell's Lectures*

increased to 16,033. In 1928 there were almost 20,000. Wilmington today has nearly 22,000 telephones and it is predicted by the end of 1930 there will be over 24,000 telephones in service in this city.

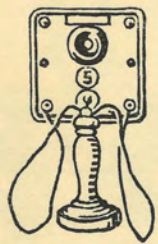
IN KEEPING with the city's telephone growth and in step with the astonishing development of Wilmington, The Diamond State Telephone Company opened on July 30, 1928, the new Business Office centrally located at Ninth and Tatnall Streets. Here is handled the business of subscribers whose telephones bear the following designations — Delaware City, Hockessin, Holly Oak, Middletown, Newark, New Castle and Wilmington.

This new Business Office represents the last word in construction and appointments.

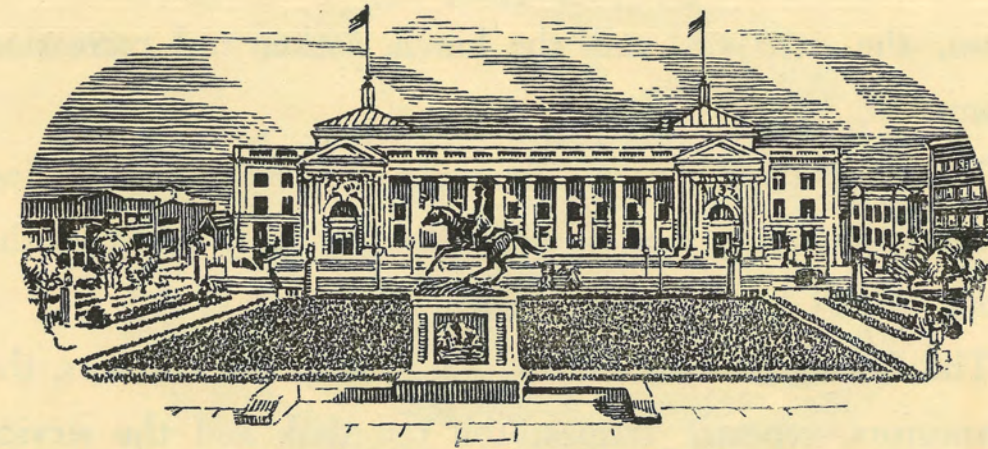
Subscribers' bills are paid at a convenient counter at the right of the entrance. In the lobby is a "Directory Library" containing directories of more than sixty of the principal cities in the United States. Here any one may secure lists of out-of-town numbers.

A customers' room is also provided in the new Business Office for telephone users, business men or out-of-town visitors who desire the advantages of a private office in making personal or business telephone calls.

Twenty-four



*Wall type Telephone
used in 1878*



*City and County Building
from Rodney Square*

Another innovation in this office is a group of telephone booths constructed mainly of glass. Wilmington is one of the first cities to have this new type of telephone booth.

IN this building are the offices of Edward P. Bardo, District Manager, and Arthur C. Hawkins, District Superintendent of Traffic. H. C. Ruth, District Superintendent of Plant, has his office in the building at 22nd and Washington Streets.

The basement contains the cable and transformer vaults, battery, boiler and power rooms, motor generator charging sets, ringing machine and the power panel.

The first floor contains the District Manager's office, the business office, assignment bureau, clerical bureau, District Traffic Superintendent's office and the operators' training rooms.

The second floor contains the switchboard operating

Twenty-five

room, the cafeteria, and the lunch, locker and recreation rooms.

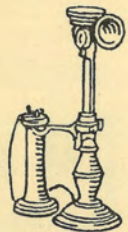
The third floor contains the main distributing frame, line finder frames, first and second selectors, relay racks, wash-room, Wire Chief's desk and the local test desk.

The fourth floor contains the toll and third selectors, the connectors, repeater frames, toll test desk and the service observing room.

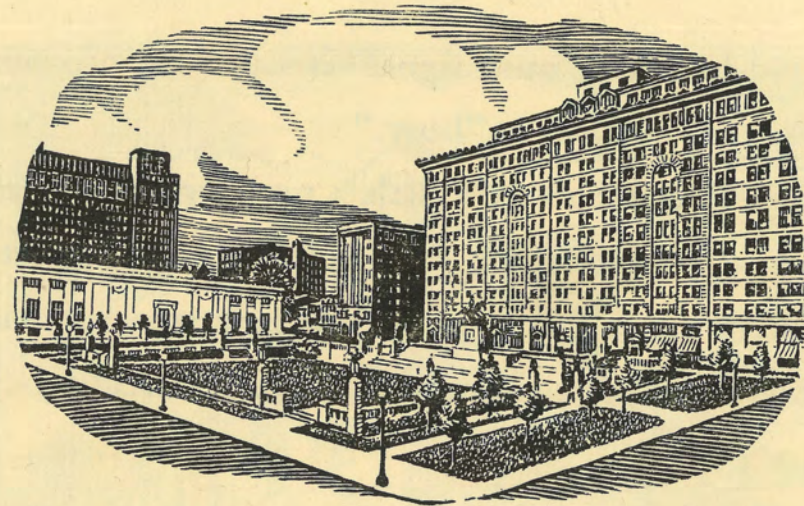
THE tremendous growth of telephone service in this city recently necessitated its expansion and revision.

Accordingly, the dial telephone system, in use in Philadelphia and many other large cities, was installed in Wilmington.

In the manual type of telephone service used in Wilmington prior to the dial system installation, an operator responded by eye and ear, voice and hand, to a lamp's flashing and a spoken number. Dial operation replaces all this with its electro-magnets — thousands of them — and their intricate associated equipment. It almost sees, speaks, thinks and hears like the operator.



*Desk type Telephone
in use 1886*



*Public Library, and
du Pont Building, also
du Pont-Biltmore Hotel
on the right*

HERE IS HOW THE DIAL SYSTEM WORKS

A SUBSCRIBER lifts the receiver, hears the dial tone, dials the number wanted and in less than a minute hears the ringing signal or the busy signal.

When the receiver is raised, a "line finder" in the Central Office finds the line of the calling party, connects it to the first step in the apparatus and then sends out a humming dial tone that the line is clear — in other words, the dial system's "number, please." As the numbers are dialed, electrical impulses are sent along the line. Each impulse puts in motion different sets of mechanism. Through the complicated maze of apparatus to the final point, the subscriber's call picks its way to the line of the party being called. Here a "connector" tests the line of the called party. If not in use, the connection is made and the ringing begins. If the line is being used, another set of mechanism is connected to the circuit

and a rapid buzzing "busy signal" is sounded, informing the subscriber that the line is "busy."

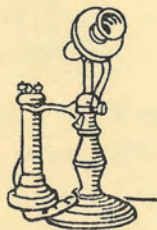
If a subscriber incorrectly dials a number not corresponding to a telephone line, the mechanism also "picks" this up and transfers the call to a special operator who responds and assists the subscriber to complete the call correctly.

THE installation of this new dial system in Wilmington was a huge task.

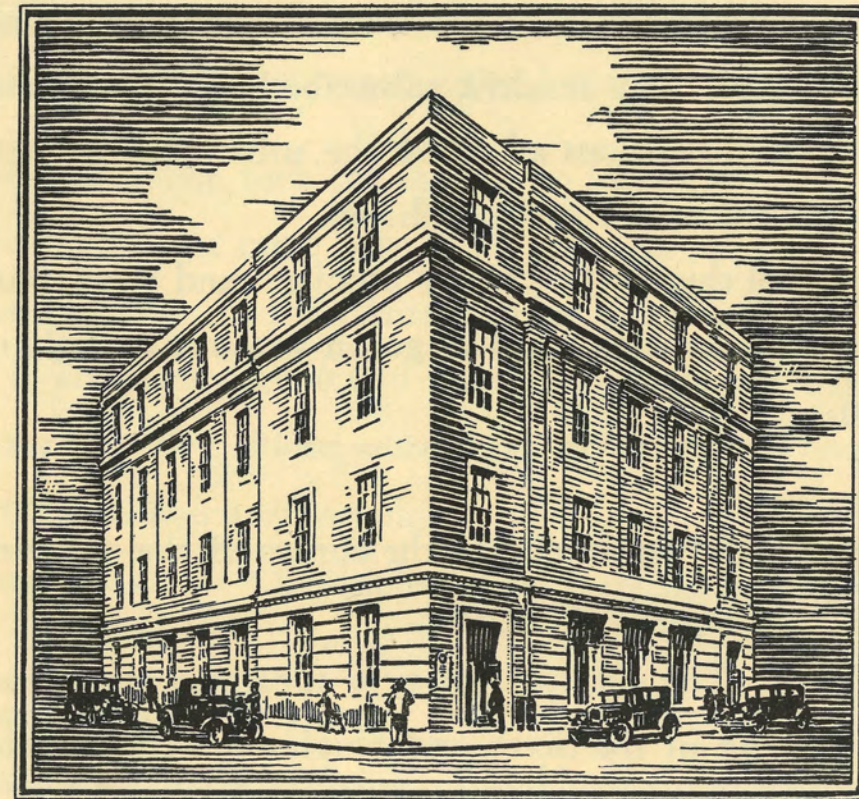
Telephone scientists, researchers and engineers had first to study whether or not Wilmington really needed this new type of telephone service. How fast would Wilmington grow in the next ten, twenty, thirty or forty years? Would telephone requirements increase in proportion to the city's growth? How much — and just what kind of equipment would be required? These and myriad other questions had to be answered and answered correctly.

Then the question of installation.

Another gigantic task. Every telephone number had to be changed. A new telephone directory had to be compiled. Every manual type telephone had to be replaced with a dial telephone. Private Branch Exchange switchboards, including the unusually large one used by the duPont Company, had to be adequately equipped or completely changed to meet



The Telephone of 1895



*The new Building of
the Telephone Company
in Wilmington*

the new requirements. Company operators, Private Branch Exchange operators, the operating forces of the telephone company itself — in fact, every telephone employee — had to be trained in this new kind of work.

WILMINGTONIANS had to be carefully and thoroughly instructed in the proper use of the dial telephone. Talks and demonstrations were given before civic, business, social and educational organizations. This was in turn supplemented by a special force of forty students from the University of Delaware — "The Flying Squadron of the

Dial" — who were specially trained and who then not only inspected every resident subscriber's dial telephone but answered any questions asked by the subscribers concerning the proper use of the dial telephone.

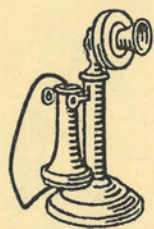
Despite all this — these many problems and their solutions — the telephone service had to go on without a single interruption.

THE "cutover" was the climax of the dial installation in Wilmington.

The old operator type apparatus was functioning in the Sixth and Shipley Streets Building — speeding calls from one home to another, office to office, city to city, state to state — while in the new Ninth and Tatnall Streets Building, the modern sparkling dial apparatus was waiting for the final moment when the "old" would give way to the "new."

Then came the final moment — not a second must be lost — not a call must be interrupted — the subscriber must come first. Tension. Then the "cutover" . . . *the first dialed call*. The old lines leading into the Sixth and Shipley Streets Building had been almost miraculously "cutover" to the apparatus in the new building. The modern dial system had supplanted the old manual or operator system.

Thirty



HERE ARE A FEW INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT WILMINGTON'S DIAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

The dial system took ten months to install.

The equipment came here in 25 carloads.

The apparatus in the Central Office weighs over 400 tons.

In it are some 10,000,000 individually soldered wire connections — over 1,300 separate units of equipment — taking 135,000 man hours to install.

There are about 4,000 miles of wire connecting the apparatus.

There are 145 operators.

There are 5,000 originating toll and long distance calls daily.

There are now 10,560 working lines serving 21,900 telephones.

SOME FACTS ABOUT DELAWARE'S TELEPHONE SYSTEM

DELAWARE now has nearly 32,000 telephones connected by a network of 128,549 miles of wire, representing an investment in telephone plant of over seven million dollars.

There are 23 Central Offices furnishing switchboard facilities for the 160,000 local calls and 7,900 toll calls daily.

Thirty-one

For 1929 alone, \$2,000,000 was appropriated for the expansion of the telephone plant in Delaware, including \$1,500,000 for land, Central Office equipment and construction costs. The actual building costs for this year will amount to about \$100,000.

THE "outside plant" program for The Diamond State Telephone Company for the year included about \$931,000 for cables, wires, poles, crossarms and apparatus of all kinds outside of the Central Offices and outside of the subscribers' premises.

About \$500,000 of this amount was spent for cable construction alone. Through this expenditure, 86 per cent. of all the telephone wires in the state will be enclosed in storm-proof cable which makes them practically immune from any damage by storm. Then, too, there has been a marked activity in the construction of toll lines in the southern portion of the state together with the initial step in a plan to enclose all present open wire now in use between Wilmington and Dover in storm-proof cable. This initial step includes the construction of toll cable between Wilmington, Dover, Middletown, Smyrna, Delaware City and New Castle.

WILMINGTON'S dial telephone service is now in operation. Sure, swift and accurate, its installation brings measurably closer the ideal of The Diamond State Telephone Company and every other Company in the nation-wide Bell System.

"A telephone service — free from imperfection, errors and delays, enabling anyone, anywhere at any time to pick up a telephone and talk to anyone else anywhere else in this country, clearly, quickly and at small expense."

