

GTE Collection, 1907-1957

**Ontario City Library
Robert E. Ellingwood Model
Colony History Room**



Ontario, California

**Contact Information: Ontario City Library Model Colony Staff
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Processed by: Joanne Boyajian

Date Completed: April 2008

Descriptive Summary

Title

GTE Collection, 1907-1957

Creator

This collection was donated to the Model Colony Room by the General Telephone and Electronics Company (GTE) Ontario office on Feb. 26, 1986.

Extent

Number of containers: 1

Linear feet: 1.5

Abstract

Telephone service in Ontario started in 1883 when the Chaffeys persuaded J. J. Sabin to extend the copper line along the railroad tracks from San Bernardino through Colton to Los Angeles to the Chaffey house in Etiwanda and also south along Euclid Avenue to Ontario. By 1900, the first telephone exchange was installed in Jacob Jesson's drugstore (105 N. Euclid). Jesson was the local agent for the Sunset Telephone Company. There were only 3 telephones in Ontario, to be used for emergencies only.

In 1905, D. B. Wynne started up the Home Telephone Company with 30 subscribers. He also organized another company in 1907, the San Bernardino Valley Telephone and Telegraph Company with offices at 112 W. A St. Ontario. By 1912, Sunset, Home and the San Bernardino companies merged into the Ontario-Upland Telephone Company, which became the Associated Telephone Company in 1929. A new office was built at 123 W. D St. in 1936 and a dial system implemented with great fanfare on May 31, 1936.

On Jan. 1, 1953, Associated Telephone Company became part of General Telephone Company of California, later known as GTE, and currently as Verizon. This collection contains news clippings covering the growth of these telephone companies, a 1907 telephone book from the Home Telephone Company, the invitation and memento book for the 1936 grand opening of the D. St building and other pamphlets for prospective telephone company employees, how to incorporate phone service into your home, and instructions on using the new dial telephone instruments.

A separate but related collection in the Model Colony Reading Room is the set of early telephone books and city directories that GTE donated in 1988.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research during the operating hours of the Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, or by appointment.

Preferred Citation

GTE Collection, 1907-1957. Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

Acquisitions Information

This collection was donated by Kenneth Foshee, District Manager for General Telephone (GTE) on Feb. 26, 1986.

Processing Information

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Container List

Folder

- 1 Reproduced copies of pages from scrapbook of news clippings dated 1934-1936.
- 2 Reproduced copies of pages from scrapbook of news clippings dated 1936-1957.
- 3 One copy of "Pomona, Cal. Home Telephone Directory", dated Apr. 1907.
- 4 One copy of a pocket notebook entitled "Ontario and Upland Telephone Company Substation Wiring Plans", dated Nov. 1924.
- 5 One copy of a pamphlet entitled "In Your Building Plans, Remember Telephone Service", dated c. late 1930's.
- 6 One copy of a pamphlet entitled "Information/Instructions for Using Dial Telephone, Ontario-Upland Exchange", dated May 31, 1936.
- 7 One copy of invitation to dedication of Associated Telephone Company's new office building, June 25, 1936 and a memento pamphlet entitled "Your Telephone Service" dated June 25, 1936.
- 8 Two copies of pamphlet for Associated Telephone Company job applicants dated circa 1943.
- 9 One copy, Chamber of Commerce pamphlet, "Ontario, the Heart of Southern California", dated 1946.
- 10 Several pages from mid-1920's issue of "The Mouthpiece" showing photos of scenes from Ontario and Upland.
- 11 One copy of pamphlet entitled "Pomona Valley Telephone and Telegraph Union 20th Anniversary Entertainment by Telephone Employees", dated Sept. 12, 1922.
- 12 Copies of 3 b/w photos dated early 1900's and 1936.