

-2-

Telephone growth in Yakima is a reflection of the growth of the city. The table below illustrates the growth of the telephone service in the past few years:

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TELEPHONE SERVICE AT YAKIMA

### BUILDING

Yakima's telephone building at 208 West Yakima, is the nerve center for telephone operations in the Yakima telephone district. Here in this three-story and basement, brick and concrete fireproof building, is housed the city's dial communicating system, long distance switchboards and other related equipment. During 1948, to meet expansion needs, a building addition of three stories and basement, of matching construction, was added to the rear of the existing building. The building as it now stands and the equipment it houses represents an investment of more than \$1,780,000. Total investment in the telephone plant at Yakima, including outside lines, is approximately \$3,600,000.

### YAKIMA TELEPHONE HISTORY

#### HOW THE CENTRAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT WORKS

The dial equipment serving customers here, known technically as Step-by-Step equipment, was especially engineered to meet the communication needs of this district and is as modern as any system in the nation. When you dial a telephone number, metal fingers called selectors and connectors, are guided by breaks in electrical impulses and automatically select the path to the called line and number. The metal fingers are guided in their selection of "paths" by the particular impulse electrically conveyed to them from the combination of numbers being dialed. Following the dialing of the final digit, the circuit is tied in automatically with the ringing machine so that the telephone you are calling starts ringing.

#### Switchboards

Telephone operators provide "Information" service, intercept calls to telephone numbers that have been changed, and render assistance on calls when you dial "Operator". In 1940, it took a total force of 32 operators working at a battery of 20 switchboards to handle calls for Yakima and vicinity. Because of the recent unprecedented telephone development there are now 44 switchboards in use, requiring a total force of 111 operators.

#### THE OUTSIDE TELEPHONE PLANT

In this exchange there are approximately 45,000 miles of wire connecting the more than 19,000 telephones here to the telephone office. Many of these wires are in lead sheathed cables in underground conduit or on telephone poles. Each telephone must have its own "tailor-made path" for the entire distance and complete facilities must be available in order to provide service.

#### TELEPHONE GROWTH AND THE INCREASING VOLUME OF CALLS

Every day an average of about 113,000 local telephone calls and about 3,000 long distance calls originate in this exchange to other telephones. This is a substantial increase over the 60,000 local calls and 1,000 long distance calls received on the average each day in 1940.



Telephone growth in Yakima has mirrored the growth of the city. The table below illustrates the tremendous growth achieved in the past few years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Telephones</u>	<u>Population</u>
1890	39	1,535
1900	48	3,154
1910	1,774	14,082
1920	4,872	18,539
1930	7,774	22,101
1940	9,470	27,221
1948	17,838	38,000
1949 (January)	19,179	45,000

#### YAKIMA TELEPHONE HISTORY

When John Lawrence of the Sunset Telephone Company arrived in 1889 to establish telephone service in Yakima (then North Yakima) he found a rapidly growing community made up of enterprising people. Mr. Lawrence found a quick response to his plans for a telephone exchange and an ordinance granting a franchise was passed by the city council. In December, 1889, the Yakima Telephone exchange opened with 39 subscribers with N. R. Stone as the manager.

The first switchboard was in the lobby of the Yakima Hotel where persistent admirers made it difficult for the young woman operator to concentrate on the subscribers' calls. The office was later moved to the second story of the building adjoining Vinings Hardware store. Service began at 8 in the morning, including Sundays, and continued until 9 in the evening. Night connections were put up between the hotel and railroad station and between physicians and others who had special need of services of that kind.

In 1918 the Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Company was reincorporated as the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company and at this time allied with the Bell System organization. In 1929 a new central office building was completed and the exchange was moved to its present location of 208 West Yakima. It was at this time that Yakima customers were first introduced to "Dial" service - the third city in Washington to have this type of service.

#### POSTWAR EXPANSION

Telephone engineers, in planning the recent building addition and the equipment which was installed in it, made provision for expansion room to take care of the communication needs here for many years to come. New equipment installations will be made from time to time in the future to insure a continually improving service.