

## RING! RING! HELLO?

### The Story of Telephones

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#### What Is a Telephone?


A **telephone** lets people talk to each other from far away.

Today we use cell phones—but long ago, phones looked very different!

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#### Long Ago...

- Early phones had a **hand crank** to make a call
- An **operator** helped connect calls
- Many families shared a **party line**


 That means you might hear your neighbors talking!

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#### What Is a Phone Book?

A **phone book** was used to:

- Look up people's names
- Find their phone numbers
- Call friends, businesses, or neighbors

 There was no Google—you had to search the book!

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#### Types of Phones

##### Rotary Phone

- Turn the dial for each number
- Takes time and patience

##### Push-Button Phone

- Press numbers to call
  - Faster and easier
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#### How Did Phones Reach Homes?

- Wires were strung across poles
- **Ceramic insulators** held the wires in place
- Lines connected towns and farms

These wires helped people stay connected across long distances.

## **Phones in Our Community**

In small towns like those in Nemaha County:

- Local companies built phone systems
  - Families used phones to stay in touch
  - Businesses used phones to take orders and share news
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## **Then and Now**

### **Then (Old Phones)    Now (Cell Phones)**

Shared lines                  Private calls

Used phone books    Use contacts/apps

Stayed in one place    Go anywhere!

No texting                  Text, video, apps

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## **TRY IT YOURSELF!**

At the station, can you:

- Find a name in the phone book?
  - Dial a number on the rotary phone?
  - Try the push-button phone?
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## **Think About It...**

- Which phone was easier to use?
  - Would you like using a phone book every day?
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## **Fun Fact!**

Long ago, some people had special ring patterns so they knew when the call was for them!

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## **Remember:**

Telephones helped people stay connected—even before the internet and smartphones!