



Summary Information

Title: Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange Records

Collection Number: 2010:006

Creator: J. B. Moore, as collector

Collection Dates: c. 1899-1980s

Extent: 2 cubic feet (2 boxes)

Language: English

Collection Abstract:

The Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange began in 1898 and provided telephone service to the Lufkin, Conroe, and Alto areas of East Texas. This collection contains appraisals and inventories, time books and payroll records, telephone industry and organizational newsletters, bond revenue record books, correspondence, and date nails documenting company employees and business activities. It provides additional records of women workers in the telephone industry.

Repository:

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Diboll, TX 75941
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Author/Processing Information: Processed by Matt Gorzalski in January 2012.

Biographical/Historical Note:

J. B. Moore was born in 1940 in Huntington, Texas and raised there. He worked for Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Company from June 1972 to January 1996. Around 1975 he was a switchman at the Diboll exchange and eventually became the safety supervisor. From July 1997 to July 2006 he served as the coordinator of the Environmental Health and Safety Program at Angelina College.

Telephone service in Lufkin began in 1898 when Dr. Alexander Madison Denman and Judge Edwin James Mantooth of Lufkin connected their offices with the city's first telephone line. By 1900, Denman, Mantooth, and investor Eli Weiner opened a one-room telephone office with a 40 line switchboard to serve the city, creating Lufkin Telephone Exchange. The Conroe Communications Company, later

purchased by the Lufkin Telephone Exchange, was founded in 1899. In 1908 the Lufkin Company contracted with the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company to provide long distance service. Conroe Communications Company was purchased by Lufkin Telephone Exchange owners in 1929, who then incorporated it as Conroe Telephone Company and operated it as Lufkin's sister company. In 1963 the company purchased Alto Telephone Company. In 1985 the corporation was reorganized as the Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange which included Lufkin, Conroe, and Alto service areas. On November 21, 1997 Lufkin-Conroe became a subsidiary of TXU Communications, which was later purchased by Consolidated Communications in April 2004.

The company grew to be the fifth largest non-Bell telephone company in Texas and the 22nd largest in the nation. It provided service to Lufkin, Central, Wells, Alto, Etoile, Fuller Springs, Diboll, Hudson, Apple Springs, Conroe, Lake Conroe, Montgomery, Walden, Cut N Shoot, Grangerland, and Riverbrook. It was also innovative, being the first in the United States to install technologies such as the IBM System 7 in 1973. Conroe Telephone Company was the first to install Northern Telecom DMS-100/200 digital switching combination in 1980.

Collection Scope and Content:

The Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange Records documents the employees and history of the company. The records include appraisals and inventories of the Lufkin Telephone Exchange and Conroe Telephone Company, time books and payroll records, telephone industry and organizational newsletters, bond revenue record books, correspondence, and date nails. The payroll books list employee names, hours worked, and wages, while the employee earnings folders list names and wages for operators and plant workers. Also included is a scrapbook binder that contains company histories and time lines, employee and wage papers listing names and positions, clippings, and typed copies of correspondence of company officials dating back to the 1910s. The collection supplements the record of women in the labor force as the company employed many women throughout its history.

Arrangement: Arranged and described at the collection level.

Subject Terms

Topics

- Telephone companies -- Texas, East
- Telephone companies -- Alto -- Employees
- Telephone companies -- Conroe -- Employees
- Telephone companies -- Lufkin -- Employees
- Telephone operators
- Women employees -- Alto -- Texas
- Women employees -- Conroe -- Texas
- Women employee -- Lufkin -- Texas

Corporate Names

- Alto Telephone Company
- Conroe Telephone Company
- Independent Telephone Pioneer Association
- Lufkin Telephone Exchange
- Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange
- Stromberg-Carlson telephone manufacturing co.

Locations

- Alto (Tex.)
- Conroe (Tex.)
- Lufkin (Tex.)
- Texas, East

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: There are no restrictions on this collection.

Acquisition Information: This collection was donated by J. B. Moore on February 16, 2010.

Custodial History: These records were collected by J. B. Moore during the 1980s and remained in his custody until donating them to The History Center.

Citation: Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange Records, c. 1899-1980s, 2010:006, The History Center, Diboll, TX

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Bibliography:

- Bowman, Bob. *East Texas Calling: The Centennial History of the Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange*. Lufkin, Tx: Best of East Texas Publishers, 1998.
- Consolidated Communications. "Our History." <http://www.consolidated.com/about-us/our-history/> (accessed January 10, 2012).
- "TXU Agrees to Sell TXU Communications to Consolidated Communications." http://www.electricenergyonline.com/?page=show_news&id=16188 (accessed January 10, 2012).

Collection Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1	Stockholder History, 1920s-1950s
Folder 2	Retirement Plan, 1934
Folder 3	Inventory and Appraisal of the Lufkin Telephone Exchange, 1936
Folder 4	Inventory and Appraisal of the Conroe Telephone Company, 1936
Folder 5	Wage and Hour Information, c. 1948-1959
Folder 6	Employee Earnings, Lufkin, c. 1951-1953
Folder 7	Employee Earnings, Lufkin, 1966
Folder 8	Employee Earnings, Lufkin, 1967
Folder 9	Employee Earnings, Lufkin, 1969
Folder 10	Employee Earnings, Lufkin, 1970
Folder 11	Employee Earnings, Lufkin, 1971
Folder 12	Employee Earnings, Lufkin-Conroe, 1970
Folder 13	Employee Earnings, Lufkin-Conroe, 1971
Folder 14	Employee Earnings, Conroe, c. 1951-1953
Folder 15	Employee Earnings, Conroe, 1966
Folder 16	Employee Earnings, Conroe, 1967
Folder 17	Employee Earnings, Conroe, 1968
Folder 18	Employee Earnings, Conroe, 1969

Folder 19	Employee Earnings, Conroe, 1970
Folder 20	Employee Earnings, Conroe, 1971
Folder 21	Employee Earnings, Alto, 1966
Folder 22	Employee Earnings, Alto, 1967
Folder 23	Employee Earnings, Alto, 1968
Folder 24	Employee Earnings, Alto, 1969
Folder 25	Employee Earnings, Alto, 1970
Folder 26	Employee Earnings, Alto, 1971
Folder 27	Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Manufacturing Company Catalogs, 1940s
Folder 28	Tax Papers, 1941-1942
Folder 29	United States Defense Bond Revenue Book, 1942
Folder 30	United States Defense Bond Revenue Book, 1942-1943
Folder 31	United States Defense Bond Revenue Book, 1945
Folder 32	<i>Texas Telephone Topics</i> Newsletters, 1940, 1957
Folder 33	<i>Telephone Engineer</i> Newsletters, 1953
Folder 34	Independent Telephone Pioneer Association Correspondence and Newsletters, 1954-1956
Folder 35	Acme Visible Records, Inc., 1955-1956
Folder 36	Publications, 1957, 1986
Folder 37	Alto Telephone Company Directories, 1962, 1966-1970, 1976
Folder 38	Broaddus, Huntington, and Zavalla Telephone Directory, 1970-1971

Box 2

Item 1	Payroll and Time Book, 1939-1941
Item 2	Payroll and Time Book, 1941-1945
Item 3	History Scrapbook, c. 1910s-1980s
Item 4	Date Nails (113), c. 1899-1980