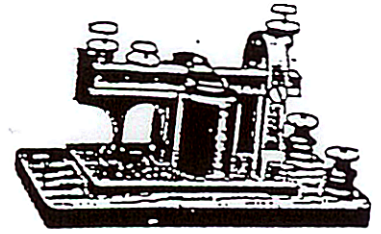


TELEGRAPH TRIVIA



The telegraph alphabet was conceived by Samuel B. Morse as he was returning by ship from Europe in 1832. As he was travelling, he jotted down the basic principles of the telegraph.

First crude telegraph was constructed by Morse from an old canvas stretcher and a wooden clock.

During World War 1, the American Army Signal Corps in France constructed 1990 miles of pole lines, and strung 28,000 miles of wire. They also strung a further 2,230 miles of wire on French lines already there; leased another 20,000 miles of wire from the French, and erected 40,000 miles of combat lines. As many as 886,000 telegrams a month were handled during the final months of the war on these lines.

The Grand Trunk Railway was one of the first rail systems to erect a telegraph line. The contract was given to the Montreal Telegraph Co. for construction of a one-wire pole line from Longueuil, Quebec to Portland, Maine--a cost of approximately \$60.00 per mile.

In 1912, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported that 9,252,540 land messages and 768,559 cablegrams (messages sent across the ocean) were handled, and 4,828 persons were employed in 11 systems for doing this.

The Canadian Pacific Railway was the first company in Canada to provide direct telegraph service from the Atlantic to the Pacific in 1886.

The first East to West wireless message across the Atlantic was transmitted by Marconi from Glace Bay, N.S. to Cornwall, England, in 1902.

Thomas A. Edison, who had many inventions to his credit, including the light bulb, was a telegraph operator, having worked in Stratford, Ontario at one time.

Andrew Carnegie, the great industrialist and philanthropist, worked as a telegraph operator for the Pennsylvania Railroad. In 1902, he donated the Carnegie Diamond Medal for contests to be held annually to determine the fastest telegrapher.

More than 55,000 telegrams of congratulations were received by Charles Lindbergh following his history-making solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927.

First news story dispatched by telegraph in Canada took place in 1846. It was transmitted from Hamilton to Toronto, and told of a fire in Hamilton where nine houses were destroyed.

In 1942 Canadian telegraph systems employed 7,544 full-time employees and gave service to the public from 4,979 offices. The last telegram transmitted in Canada was in Quebec in 1972.