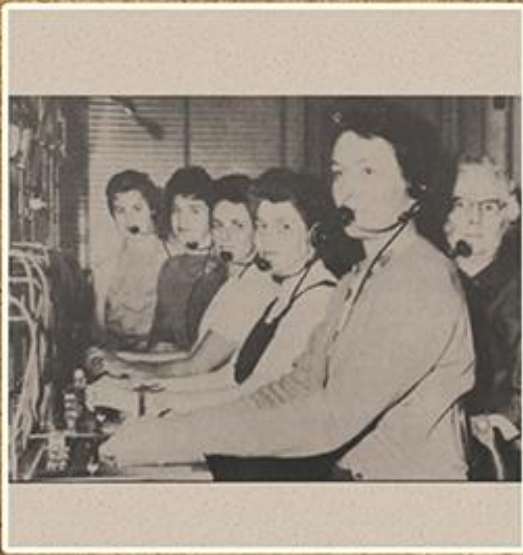


12 – Telephone Operators



Historic **HENSALL**



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May's Diner

See item #12 at
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In 1885, Waugh of McDonnell and Waugh's Hardware Store connected his store and house (on the northwest corner of King and Albert Streets) with a private telephone line. From 1889 to 1900 a telephone directory operated from J.C. Stoneman's jewellery store until it was destroyed by fire. By 1909, the telephone office was moved to Scott's Grocery Store with Lorne Scott as branch manager, until his father George took over the office until 1919.

The introduction of 24-hour service doubled the number of subscribers with adding Zurich and St. Joseph to the Hensall circuit.

In 1920, Miss Katie Scott, after nine years as night operator, became branch manager, a position she held for 41 years until her retirement in 1952. Bell Telephone presented her with a life membership in the Telephone Pioneers of America. After Miss Scott retired, Peggy (McGregor) MacLean and Donna (McEwan) Smith were the chief operators. Longest service records since 1952 belong to Pearl Shaddick, 19 years, and Wilma (Kyle) Caldwell, 14 years. Bonnie (Kyle) Bozzato was chief operator in 1964 when the battery exchange gave way to the dial system. Operators at that time included Wilma Caldwell, Judy Parker, Norma Cooper, Bonnie Kyle, Eleanor Mansfield and Mrs. Pearl Shaddick.

May's Diner