

Excerpts of An Early Telephone Line

From the minutes of an old Secretary book dated "Jan. 7th, 1903, a telephone meeting was called to meet at the residence of Claus Malcolm. C.E. Houghton was appointed chairman; Mr. Henry Welch, secretary. Officers were elected by ballot. S.V. Hulstedt and James Falloon were appointed as investigating committee to consult with other companies concerning wire rights."

"On Jan. 13th, 1903, the Knox-Henry Mutual Telephone Co. was organized at the home of Henry Welch. Twelve votes were cast for Nekoma as central and one for Woodhull. The sum of \$1.25 per day was to be allowed each man who did manual labor installing poles and wire."

"On Jan. 26th, 1903, the name was changed to Ontario-Clover Mutual Telephone Co. The line was built early in 1903 and cost each subscriber \$17.48. The yard long telephone boxes were installed, using 2 glass Leyden jars. These had to be recharged about each 6 months and Charles Thorp was appointed to purchase the material and do the recharging. Telephone dues were \$1.50 payable each 6 months. Later the dry cell batteries replaced the wet jars. About 1908 a number of the subscribers transferred to Woodhull while several still have Nekoma central.