



Parkman Historical Society Presents: History of the Parkman Telephone Company

Presented by - Mary Ellen Finch Nixon

My adopted parents, Frank and Elsie Finch operated the old Parkman Telephone Company. The Finches worked for the Parkman Telephone Company first time in the 1910 area – then took a job with Ohio Bell in Mantua, Ohio. That is when they adopted me. When that company went to dial, they came back to Parkman as the company was in financial straits due to the operation of the fellow that was hired in the meantime.

My adopted parents, Frank and Elsie Finch operated the Parkman Telephone Company from 1935 until it went to dial. My foster father did all the manual labor with the help of one other fellow. We ALL worked the switchboard. Sorry that I don't have any photos of the switchboard. Wish my father could see the telephones that are in use today.

We lived in the big house at the southeast corner of the gazebo park just off route 422 and the road north to Middlefield, the house was the first one on the east side of the road going south. When I lived there, the telephone exchange was in our house, in the front room on the south of the building, on the main floor.



After dad died, mother operated the company up until the time they went dial and then bought the house. I graduated from Parkman High School in 1940. I lived there until I married in 1947 and then moved to Warren, Ohio. I now live in Arizona. I am sure that there have been many changes since I lived in Parkman.

Thank you, Mary, for sharing your story with our Parkman Community. I can only picture the Parkman Telephone Company like a scene from Lilly Tomlin's comic Ernestine the Switch Board Operator. As you said, it is amazing how advance the technology of phones is these days compared to when it began.

Even though today, the house was demolished long ago and just an open field of grass sits next to the Parkman Gazebo, photos from earlier Memorial

Day parade has a couple of views of the house that once hosted the Parkman Telephone Company. If anyone has more information to share about this topic, please feel welcome to expand our story about this or any Parkman Historical Presentation!

