

Search for:

[Advanced Search](#)

Showing postings 1 - 4 of 4 in the thread: When did the local phone exchanges start up?.

Posting: When did the local phone exchanges start up? Poster: William Brainard Date: 16 July 2006 2:09 PM	Posting 1
<p>I recall from directories I've seen that Coventry had a five digit exchange starting with the number 7. I'm assuming the Pilgrim exchange came about in 1952-53. My grandmother's Melody Farm Dairy was Pilgrim 2-7501. Coventry and other communities went all numbers in December 1962 when the Coventry exchange became 742-****. We have had the same home phone number at the farm and before that Ripley Hill since 1951 when Coventry went to direct dial. Of course back then almost everybody had a party line. What fun! It really was a big deal growing up when we got color phones about 1966; we got a green wall phone and a yellow phone for my parents bedroom. The barn wall phone remained the same as it was when the barn was built in 1952; cradle on the side with the dial facing you. Wish we had it now; had an outside bell on the garage too.</p>	
Posting: Re: When did the local phone exchanges start up? Poster: Mike Nelson Date: 17 July 2006 11:35 AM	Posting 2
<p>My grandparents had a party line up at their vacation home in Sutton, Vermont until the mid 90s. The new phones aren't like the old ones. The family farm has one in the barn and I have to replace it every couple of years. The original old black wall phone must have gone about 20 years before it died. I hooked up an outside bell from Radio Shack, it works well for barns and garages. The ringers on the new phones aren't loud enough for outbuildings. You'll see less of the "742 Coventry" and "456 Windham" giving you an indication of what town the phone is located in. People can take their numbers with them (porting). They'll also be getting their numbers from cable companies and internet service providers. You'll also see the monthly telephone bill go down because of the new competition from other providers.</p>	
Posting: Re: When did the local phone exchanges start up? Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright Date: 18 July 2006 8:25 AM	Posting 3
<p>My guess is that the exchanges started in about 1946 or 1947. Before that calls went through an operator and at least most of the phone numbers were four digits, e.g. 1537. Then the dial phones came in and the exchanges: HArrison 3-xxx.</p>	
Posting: Re: When did the local phone exchanges start up? Poster: John Boudreau Date: 18 July 2006 5:33 PM	Posting 4
<p>HArrison 3-2344 was our number . Very easy to remember ! Then it became 423-2344 .</p>	