

The CCHS Newsletter

Carroll County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1308

Carrollton, GA. 30112

April May 2023

Toll Dialing begins in Carrollton.

A historic day in Carrollton, September 18, 1954, at the stroke of midnight; the new Southern Bell Exchange goes live. In just twenty-four hours, Carrollton changes its status from town to city.

Operator toll dialing— a new system of transmitting long distance call whereby the operator dials the called number direct without the aid of another operator in the distant town was inaugurated in Carrollton at the same time that Carrollton telephones go into dial operation, according to Mr. E. T. Blackman, the local Southern Bell Manager.

Mr. Blackman explained that “each city in the system has a code. The operator dials this code. When she receives a dial tone in the distant city she dials the called party’s telephone number.

The new system also eliminates the necessity of switching service from operators along the route on many calls, for the toll dialing equipment automatically and instantly locates an available path.

The advancement of this system will go even one step farther and eventually lead to customer toll dialing.



OWNERS of the local telephone system in the early days—L. P. Mandeville (right) and J. G. Cheney—are shown flanking Miss May Drewery, the city's first switchboard operator.

The newspaper clipping above is from the front page of the Carroll Free Press in September 1954. The entire edition was dedicated to the story. Many businesses advertised their new four digit direct dial number.



The Southern Bell Exchange building is located on Rome Street in Carrollton. The building houses all the equipment needed to operate the phone service for the local area. This was also where you went to establish new service. New service is now facilitated online or with a phone call.

Mayor P.L. Shaefer pulled the switch in the Carrollton telephone office Saturday at midnight, putting the new dial operation into service.

At the same time, six telephone installers, equipped with goggles and chest protectors, will pull heat coils in the old manual office, taking it out of service.

It is sometimes difficult for the current generation to understand the struggles of the previous generation. Dialing the number without the operator was a big deal, compared to today where almost all teenagers have their own phone.

Linda Pyle remembers that calling Bremen was considered long distance, even though she could look out her window and see their home.

Dale Harrison stated that it was cheaper to go from their home in Bremen and visit his Grandparents in Bowdon than call them long distance.

We have come a long way.



OLD SWITCHBOARD of the Carrollton Exchange when it was located in Bradley Building above the present location of McGee's Bakery. The late J. G. Cheney is wearing the hat and with him is Boyd Little who started the Bowdon Exchange.



The Scanning Project at the University of West Georgia was a tremendous success. This was the student led "Big Event" Part of a give back to the community project.



We appreciate their assistance very much. They seemed to enjoy looking at the old wedding photographs.

The student volunteers in less than two hours scanned over 1,000 photographs and documents.



These now have been cataloged and placed in storage waiting for identification. Each item is viewable in the CCHS Research Room.



We are now working with the Carrollton City Senior Citizens Group to schedule "scanning" days. This group may even know some of the people in the photograph.



There are scanning stations set up in the CCHS Archive Room, if anyone would like to scan. The equipment is easy to use, so anyone can help. Email History@rablakemore.com to schedule a time to help.



If you know these people, please let me know.





14th Happy Mother's Day

23rd CCHS Meeting

29th Memorial Day

The next Carroll County Historical Society Meeting will be May 23 at 6:00 pm in the Neva Lomason Library.



Clearance Sale at Burson Feed & Seed Inc.

A sad reminder that time marches on. People line up for the first day of the Inventory Clearance sale. Many wait in line to share their stories and memories through the years. Desiring to make one more purchase from the store they grew to love. Possibly to acquire a souvenir or reminder from the store.

Stepping into the store was like going back in time. A kind and warm welcome greeted each shopper. There was no hustle and bustle, you were encouraged to take your time and browse.

Mother's Day gifts from the store were always a win.

Ronald Burson, a giant in our community, leaves this world for a Heavenly home. Truly earth's cry heaven's smile. As many would claim "A walking encyclopedia of Carrollton's History".

Henry Burson formed Burson Feed & Seed in 1951 from a partnership with A. T. Jackson. First known as Jackson-Burson Feed Store. Mr. Jackson offered Henry, Ronald's Father one year's free rent if he sold his fertilizers in his store and shared the dividends.

There are many wonderful memories of Mr. Burson over years. His farming advice was spot on. He loved his family and he loved Carrollton. He will be missed by our community.



Carroll County Historical Society Membership Application

January thru December 2023

Individual Membership \$30.00 per year

Family Membership \$50.00 per year

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/ST / Zip _____

Contact Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Email address will be used for receiving bulletins, newsletters, and announcements that CCHS will be sending out concerning the Society activities.

Membership Fee Paid _____ In Memory of: _____

Donation _____ Total Paid _____

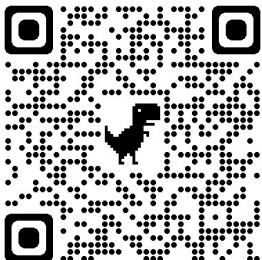
Donations to the Society will be used to fund preservation projects in Carroll County. All donations are tax Deductible.

Members receive our Monthly Newsletter

Mail To: Carroll County Historical Society
PO Box 1308
Carrollton, GA. 30112

Online at: | cchsorders@carrollcountyhistory.org

<https://www.carrollcountyhistory.org/cchsmf.html>



We Invite you to Join