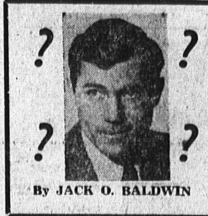


# Death Bells for Phone System to Toll May 31

## D-Day (Dial Day) To Mark End of Manual Control



By JACK O. BALDWIN

Remember Judy Wixom, the little golden haired "Pollo Princess," the seven-year-old captive of an iron lung?

We talked with her mother, yesterday and she tells us that Judy has lost some of her long blonde hair. It has worn away as she has lain on a pillow on a steel shelf on her iron lung for the past ten months.

When she entered the hospital last year she weighed 52 pounds. Now she is down to 29 pounds. Be there some reader who at the end of the day finds that he or she has a word of cheer left over, Judy would be mighty happy if they would jot it down on a piece of paper and mail it to her at Ward 40, Rancho Los Amigos, Hondo, California.

Talked yesterday also to Mrs. William Diesel, mother of Freddie, the 15-year-old high school student who is also a polio victim. His family has not seen him out of his lung since he entered it more than six months ago. She spikes a rumor about her son that he was having eye trouble.

"There is no truth to it. He's doing fine actually and looking forward to the day when he will be placed on a rocking bed with a chest respirator," she said.

The temperature in the ward yesterday climbed to 90 degrees. I wonder what happened to all those promises from some of the students at Torrance High School who promised, "We're going to go see Freddie every week."

Actually Freddie is quite thrilled that during the past six months four of his friends have visited him.

There were certain moments while attending the Ice Capades show last Sunday that I felt certain the show would soon steal the title of the "Greatest Show on Earth" right from under the big tops of the circus barns.

Judging from the attendance (and the prices) the show can certainly compete as family entertainment with any circus. Speaking of competition, the Ice Capades, in my opinion, was so far superior to the recent Sonja Heine Ice Revue I marvel at the fact that they are both considered ice shows.

However, the Ice Capades was not without its weak spots. The weakest spot is the show's big production number, "Brigadoon." People go to an ice show to see skating—at least I do, and not to hear light opera. The number was far below previous Ice Capades efforts. The costumes for the numbers were not nearly so impressive as in other numbers in the show, and the skating during the number was incidental to the plot.

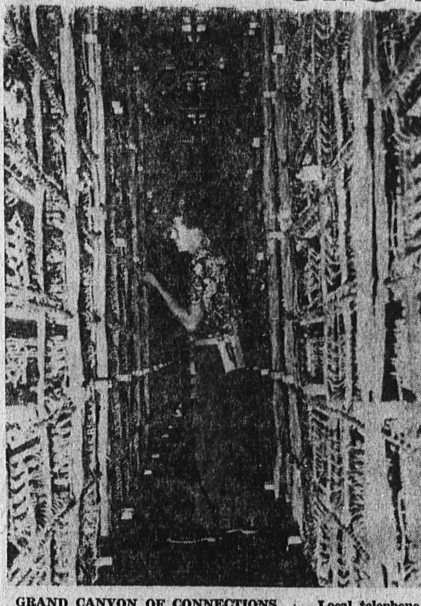
Otherwise the show was in the "terrific" class. Donna Atwood skated, she didn't hula nor tap nor run on her toes. The other acts used the ice to its fullest advantage, making good use of its frictionless, slippery surface for bursts of speed and grace. The comedy acts especially tickled the audience's funny bones because the routines were designed to be performed on ice and only on ice.

It's a good show. Take the family!

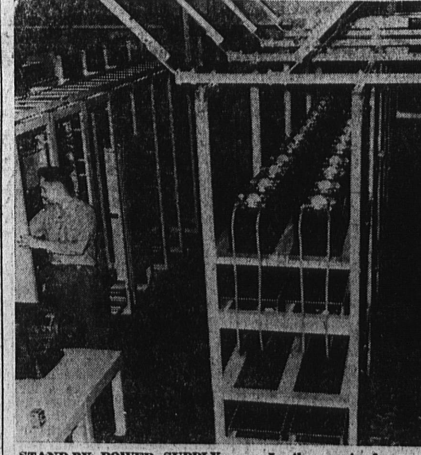
**THIS 'N THAT:** Bob Innes philosophizes that since we all have two ears and but one mouth it clearly indicates the good Lord intended us to listen twice as much as we talk.

The headline of the week was one written by Marv Hall in a story about one-fifth of the accidents in California being the result of drinking. Marv's headline: "One Fifth Leads to Another."

**Incongruity in advertising:** Driving down Cabrillo Ave. yesterday the announcer coming through on my car radio urged me to buy Log Cabin Bread. Said he, "Log Cabin Bread has that log cabin flavor." But now who wants to eat bread that tastes like a log cabin?



**GRAND CANYON OF CONNECTIONS . . .** Local telephone officials estimate that more than 1 1/2 million soldered connections are contained on these two banks of switching equipment through which all Torrance calls will be routed when the system switches to "Dial" on May 31. Gilbert Grill, a switchman, runs a test (one of several hundred thousand) on the equipment which will be turned over to the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. on May 25 by the installing company.



**STAND-BY POWER SUPPLY . . .** In the event of power failure these 23-cell, 48-volt batteries will automatically cut in to feed power to operate the Torrance telephone exchange. Switchman B. W. Lowe runs tests on the equipment prior to the cut-over to the dial system the end of this month. In addition to the batteries the exchange can be operated also from an auxiliary power supply located outside the building.

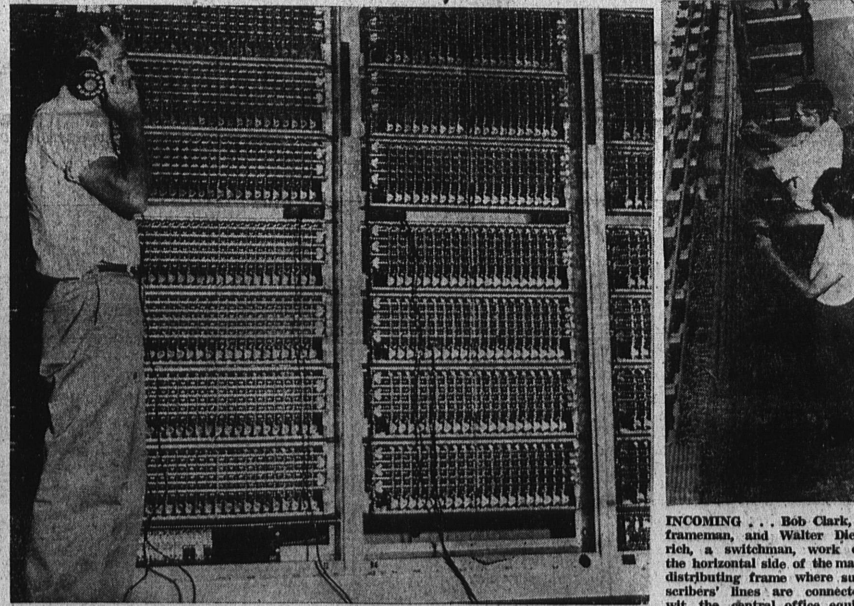


**SPECIAL TRAINING . . .** With the aid of a specially designed mock-up switchboard, operators who will remain in Torrance are receiving daily training on how to handle calls under the new automatic dial system. Supervising two trainees at the board are Louise Chatten, evening chief operator (left) and Bernice Ruppel, a supervisor, while Jane Morrison (seated foreground) sends in dummy calls to the two operators at her left. They are Kathryn Quigley, (center) and Lillian Ford.



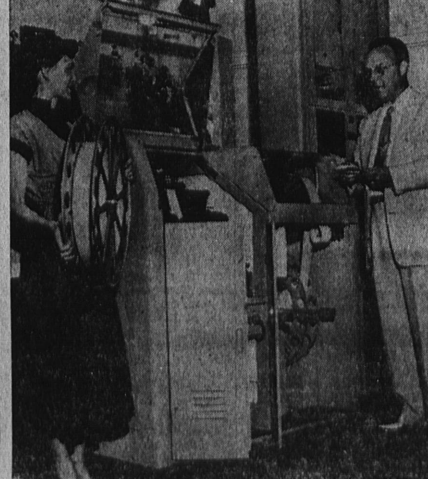
**SOON A MEMORY . . .** Activity such as that shown above will soon be a memory when Torrance telephone subscribers switch over to the long-awaited dial system on May 31. Pictured is the main telephone operator switchboard now in

operation at the company's office on Sartori Ave. Operators will be replaced by automatic equipment. Some of the present operators will remain to handle long-distance and other out-of-area calls while other operators will be transferred to other communities.

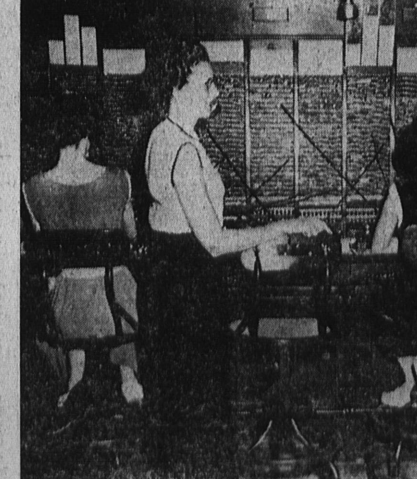


**TOUGH FOR A STRANGER . . .** It would be like looking for a needle in a haystack for a stranger to attempt to locate a loose connection on this bank of crossbar dial equipment which is a mass of soldered telephone connections, but to a skilled switchman like H. W. Lloyd, a Western Electric installer, it is a simple matter to locate within seconds each and every connection in this towering panel.

**INCOMING . . .** Bob Clark, a frameman, and Walter Diederich, a switchman, work on the horizontal side of the main distributing frame where subscribers' lines are connected with the central office equipment. The connections here number in the hundreds of thousands. The equipment is manufactured by Western Electric Company.



**IT'S GOT YOUR NUMBER . . .** Shirley Habeger, a service representative, grasps a roll of perforated tape on which all calls through the Torrance exchange (soon to be changed to Fairfax) will be recorded for billing purposes. Richard Pyle, manager of the Torrance exchange, says the machine is incapable of making an error in favor of the company.



**SHE'LL STAY . . .** Lillian Blackman, an operator in the Torrance Exchange, will be one of the 30 operators who will remain in Torrance after the cut-over to automatic equipment on May 31. The company has been "borrowing" operators from other exchanges to tide the local exchange over until the end of this month. The extra operators will be sent to other exchanges in the system.

Few in number will be the mourners and fewer still will be the tears shed when the present operator-controlled telephone system dies on May 31.

However, many will be those who on the last day of this month at the bewitching hour of midnight will shout: "The long wait is dead! Long live the dial system!" At that hour local telephone officials will yank a cord pulling the fuses in the old system and setting into motion the thousands of relays, crossbars, and transistors controlling the 8000 telephones in service in Torrance and Lomita.

**Coup De Grace**  
In Torrance the coup de grace will be administered by a hacksaw which will sever the main cable leading to the present operator headquarters on Cravens Ave.

In the event local subscribers have forgotten how to use a dial system, the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. is sending to each subscriber a booklet, "The ABCs of Placing Telephone Calls."

**Change Prefixes**  
When the switchover is completed without ceremony on May 31, subscribers in Torrance will find themselves in the FAIRfax Exchange while Lomita exchange subscribers will have to get used to saying "DAVENport" when giving out their phone number.

Billing under the automatic dial system will be by an elaborate billing machine which punches in tape the number called, the number making the call, the time of connection, and the time of disconnect. This tape in turn will be shipped to San Francisco where it will be translated into dollars and cents. Local subscribers are invited by Richard Pyle, manager of the Torrance exchange, to inspect a working model of the machine at the company's new office on Cravens Ave. at Engracia Ave.

**New Building Used**  
All the new equipment is to be housed in the company's new Cravens Ave. building. Operators who will handle "O" calls and long-distance will be located in the company's present under-sized building on Sartori Ave. Western Electric Co. manufacturers of the new equipment expect to complete their installation on May 25 and turn over to Pacific Telephone and Telegraph all the specially-designed equipment on that date.

### Hospital Bid Awarded

Contract for construction of a fuel pump unit at the Harbor General Hospital boiler house was awarded Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors. The job went to Fred J. Early Jr. Co. on a low bid of \$7997.