Early Telephone Companies in the Stayton, Oregon Area

1901 - The first phone of record in Stayton, Oregon was that of J.M. Kitchen, MD, on August 2, 1901 on the corner of Second and High Streets. His phone number was "23".On March 8, 1905 the Stayton Mutual Telephone Company was organized to provide telephone service for the town of Stayton.

1905 - On March 8, The Stayton Mutual Telephone Company was organized to provide telephone service for the town of Stayton. Failing in an attempt to buy a line already in town, the Company built their own line. As more lines were built, a method of switching from one line to another was found.

1914 - The Stayton Switch Board Association was formed to handle the switching and long distance of the community. Companies at this time were Stayton Mutual, Sublimity Whiteline, Lone Oak Co., Kingston Short Line, Yeoman Line, Scio Line, Lambert Whitney Line, West Stayton Line, Fern Ridge Co., Jordan #2, Kingston Line and Sublimity Telephone Co. Later there were a total of 18 companies.

1955 - Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company was incorporated on January 14th. All existing lines and property of the existing 18 companies were incorporated at a total value of $15,423. The incorporators and first Directors were G.A. Sandner, Merle Crane, Gus Kirsch, Ed Bell, Mike Benedict, George Tate and Irvin Parberry. The Company equipment at this time was magneto (crank telephones) and common battery.

Thanks to SCTC, Stayton, Oregon

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Independent Telephone Exchanges, North Santiam Area, Linn and Marion Counties, ca. 1915

Telephone Directory, published by Thomas-Mayo Company and printed by The Stayton Mail. No publication date is included, but it appears to have been printed about 1915.
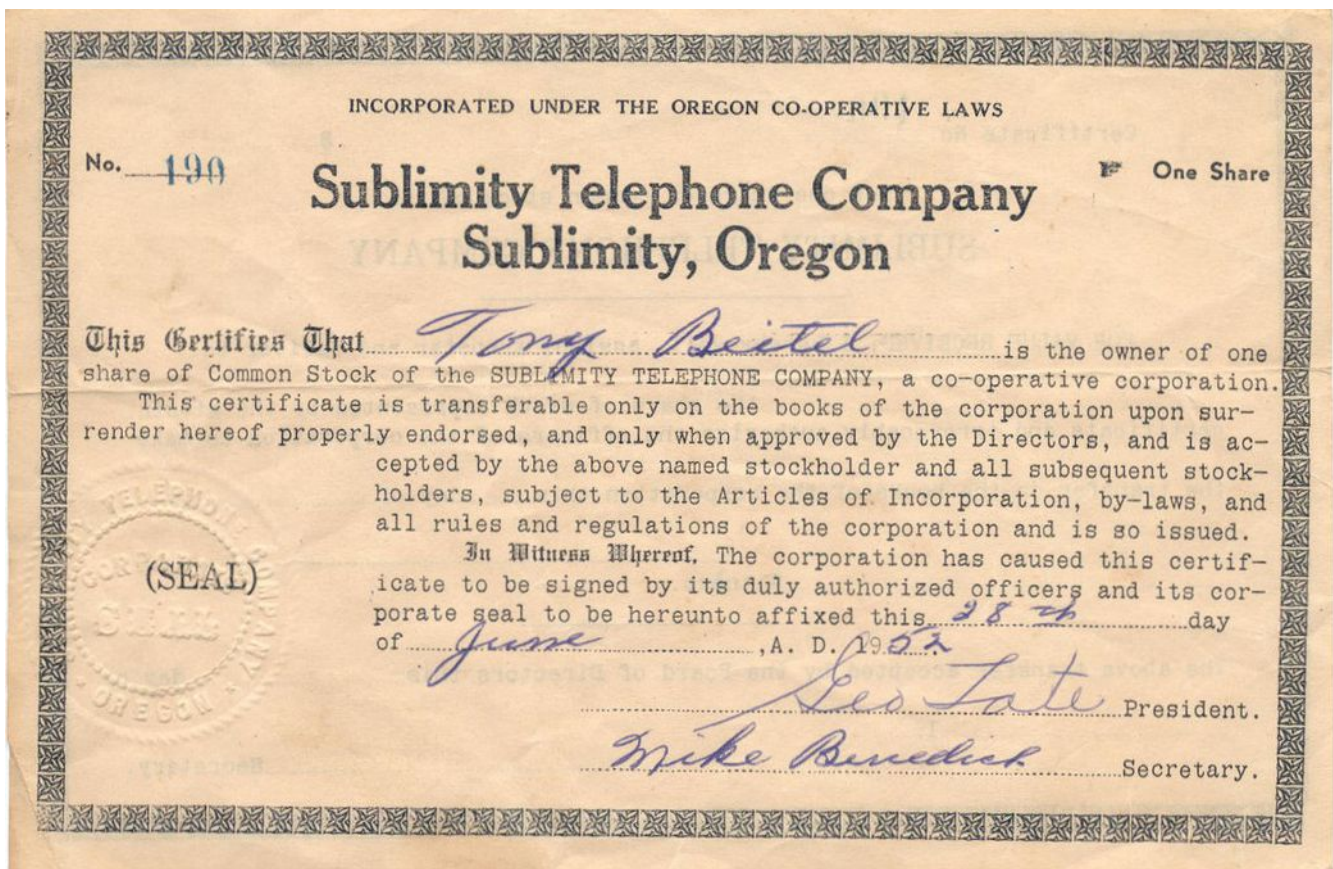
Names are grouped by telephone exchanges -- these were subscriber-based. There is some cross-over in communities. For example, the Scio listing includes folks subscribed to that exchange. However, other people with a Scio post office address were subscribers to the Stayton Exchange, so are included in that section. Be sure and check all the lists for your surnames of interest.

Thanks to linncountyroots.com

http://www.linncountyroots.com/Phone/1915PhoneDir.htm

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See next page, One Share of Sublimity Telephone Company Stock

The following is from Wendell (and) Georgina Freres.doc   8/14/2014

Back then in the mid 1940's, every phone call came through the switchboard. Someone had to be there 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The operators knew just about everything that was happening in the small communities -- and with party lines, so did just about everybody else.
Think about it – everyone's phone had a certain ring, so after a while, everyone knew who was calling who. Every phone connected to the system rang at each call. The sound and number of rings showed who was receiving a call.

The telephone company was within "hollering distance of all of the businesses. If you were out hanging clothes on a line, someone might step out and yell, "Get in there so I can call so and so." You knew everything that was going on and all their business, but you were not supposed to tell. You could talk only five minutes or so before someone else wanted to make a call. And anyone on the party line could pick up their receiver and listen in to your conversation.

The switchboard operators were the keepers of the community information, because the communication went through them. It was commonplace for someone to dial the operator to locate someone. Operators knew where everyone lived and if they had a phone or how to get a message through. A family member might call and ask when someone was coming home, and the operator might know. An example of this is when Georgina's sister, Rita, tried to call her one time. John Brand happened to work as a telephone operator and he butted in to tell Rita that Georgina was not at home, she had gone to Salem.