City's New Dial 'Phone System Operates Sunday

.... A Minute After Two

A minute after two tomorrow morning a little bit of Kendallville will quietly pass away when they pull the Indiana Bell Telephone Co. switches which send the city's dial system into operation.

Progress, it's wonderful! But somehow we feel wistful about those two little words—"Number, please"—fading forever into a past already overflowing with memories of what once was but never more can be.

How many millions of times has the nameless, faceless voice asked "Number, please," as we carried on our business, big and small. The voice was always there, as clear as 2 a.m. as at high noon.

Had it not been there—well, it just couldn't be.

The voice played an intimate part in our lives. It was a link between us and our fellows, whether next door or in London.

Without the voice our isolation would have been a throwback in the world of the Pinta and the Santa Maria and their forbidding rear.

Now the voice is silenced. But what voice isn't sooner or later?

Tomorrow we salute both the old and the new. The old for a job well done, the new for a job it promises to do.

New Indiana Bell dial telephone systems, due to begin service tomorrow in Kendallville, Auburn and Spencerville, were given their first public test last night at a special "preview" dinner in the Auburn Country Club.

Civic leaders of the three communities joined the new chairman of the Indiana Public Service Commission in scoring inaugural long distance calls through the new switching equipment.

This city's dialing system goes into operation at 2:01 a.m. tomorrow.

Roy C. Echols, of Indianapolis, president of Indiana Bell and speaker at the dinner, labeled the new equipment "as modern a communications system as you will find anywhere in the country."

"It reflects our faith in the future progress of your community," Echols continued. "In fact, we have added in excess of $25,000 to our plant investment in the Auburn-Kendallville-Spencerville area.

"That's a sharp contrast with the investment in telephone facilities in the present telephone exchange opened in Kendallville 60 years ago. The total cost of the switchboard and all outside lines were only $600."

Echols described these highlights of the systems resulting from the two-year Indiana Bell Service Improvement program:

1. Local dial telephone service.
2. Expansion of local calling areas for Auburn and Spencerville.
3. Direct dialing of long distance calls by customers.
4. Expansion of telephone facilities to permit reduction of the number of families on urban and rural party lines.
5. Introduction of new seven-number telephone numbers.

First of the "preview calls" made was last night by Public Service Commission chairman Morton Stufflebeam of Kokomo. The former circuit court judge telephoned Gov. Mathiews to report his appointment to the governor's cabinet in Indianapolis. In the course of the conversation, ampli- fied so that all the more than 50 diners could hear, Stufflebeam detailed the Indiana Bell service improvement program for the governor.

Other "preview" dial calls included Kendallville Mayor R. J. Reinhilink, placed one of the "preview" calls which last night inaugurated new dial telephone equipment and Direct Distance Dialing area for Kendallville, Auburn and Spencerville. The official inaugural calls were dialed at a dinner at the Auburn Country Club; Mayor Reinhilink is shown above perfecting his dialing technique in a practice call placed at his office.

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Fourth District Cong. R. Ross (continued on page five)