

Interesting Cutover Event at Dallas, Texas.

September 3, 1921

With the recent cutover of the "X" office of the system of the Dallas Telephone Co., Dallas, Texas, to Strowger of some 2,300 inter-office trunks, an exceptionally difficult piece of engineering work was brought to a successful close.

Previous to the cutover, the Dallas network consisted of five manual and five automatic offices. After a careful consideration of the requirements of this network, it was decided to apply automatic switching to the entire area, the period of transition to be marked by a number of well-refined steps.

The first and greatest step just completed consisted in the conversion of the "X" office of some 8,000 lines to complete automatic operation and the provision of means whereby all automatic subscribers and complete connections to subscribers in any office whether automatic or manual. To permit this, second and third selectors and connectors were installed in each of the manual offices and the connector multiple extended to the A board multiple and the B boards removed entirely. In addition, each A operator in the manual office now is able to dial any automatic or manual subscriber direct.

An interesting feature of the cutover process was a "dress rehearsal" which took place 30 days before the cutover. The new equipment was given the regular maintenance, and a force of operators was utilized in placing an artificial load on it.

The inter-office trunk cutover was commenced at 12 noon on July 30 and completed July 31 at 3:30 a.m. Out of a total of 2,300 trunks, only 10 were made busy because of trouble.

The conversion of the "X" office was made at midnight of July 31. The work, which consisted of removing toothpick wedges from the line switches and cutting the cables to the old main frame, was completed in a few minutes.

Complete tests and service observations made since the cutover give evidence of very careful engineering preparation. The engineers responsible for the installation and cutover are to be congratulated on the highly successful result of their efforts.