Vandal-Resistant Mount for Coin Telephones

News of Public Telephone Development

Bell Laboratories engineers have designed a new coin telephone mounting to help prevent coin telephones from being vandalized. The new mounting consists of a tubular steel post with a recessed opening for the coin telephone. The recessed mounting provides security for the telephone's mounting screws and also covers part of the telephone's upper housing, preventing the phone from being pried open or off its mount (see *Diversity in Public Telephone Enclosures*, RECORD, *June/July 1972*). The work was done at Bell Labs' Indianapolis location.

A rugged, aluminum "hood" has also been designed by Bell Labs engineers for the new mounting. The hood limits access to the sides of the telephone by a potential vandal and provides some protection for the telephone against the weather. An overhead lamp enclosed in the hood lights the sign, the telephone, and the area around the coin station.

The new mounting, available in both walk-up and drive-up heights, is connected to a buried-in-concrete base or to a surface-mounted pedestal base, depending upon the location. It is scheduled to be available to Bell System Operating Companies this fall.

The new vandal-resistant equipment has been designed for use with a single-slot telephone, the Bell System's most recent model of coin telephone. The single-slot phone was introduced several years ago to provide improved public telephone service and is now in use throughout the country. To reduce potentially disabling treatment, the telephone has a steel housing—specially designed for maximum protection against vandals, thieves and weather—as well as an armored, steel-encased cord for the handset and an improved coin handling system.

Of some 1.3 million coin telephones in service throughout the Bell System, approximately 500,000 are single-slot telephones, and this number is growing at the rate of 125,000 per year. Following introduction of the single-slot telephone, Bell System public telephone larcenies dropped more than 50 percent. It is expected that the new vandal-resistant mounting will further reduce this problem.

Mrs. Connie Lathrop, a computer programmer at Bell Laboratories in Indianapolis, Indiana, places a call from a coin telephone equipped with the new vandal-resistant mount. Developed to protect public telephones from vandalism, the steel-encased housing prevents the phone from being pried open or off its mounting. In addition, the new aluminum hood protects the sides of the public coin telephone.

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