

Hello All,

As always, please send any questions about the reading assignment directly to me at oldtimetelephones@goeaston.net. I will bundle questions if necessary, repeat the questions, and give answers in an e-mail to the TCI List Server before moving on to the next reading assignment. This way everyone will benefit from these questions and answers. By sending questions directly to me, we will avoid unnecessary clutter on the List Server. Previous reading assignments, notes, questions, and answers are available in the TCI Library at <http://www.telephonecollectors.info/telephony-101/>.

Please read Chapter 10, Candlestick Desk Stands, on pages 54-58.

My uncle lived in the same rural town as my great aunt, and Uncle Bob had one of these candlestick phones in his appliance and real-estate business. So I remember these phones as well, but I am still partial to the magneto wall phones.

Although in hindsight it seems rather obvious, I was surprised to learn that the components of candlestick telephones (desk stands plus ringer boxes or subsets) are the same as those in the magneto wall phones. Same transmitters, receivers, ringers, coils, magnetos, and even some small hardware parts. But in the book I used the word “exactly” again, and one has to be careful. Of course the coils for local battery and common battery are different. And there were some different transmitters favored for local-battery usage versus common-battery usage in the early days, and I have not gotten into those details in the book. This had to do with the resistance of the transmitter, as it was customary to design transmitters with lower resistance for local-battery service to maximize the power available from the low-voltage source.

In this and later chapters, I have attempted to describe the phones in enough detail that you can see the advances in design and that the descriptions would be helpful for identification and for taking the phone apart. I have also tried to identify the major components (e.g., transmitters and receivers) by model number so you can look up their properties in other parts of the book (e.g., Chapters 2 and 3 for transmitters and receivers).

If there are any questions about the current reading assignment, we will deal with the questions before moving on to the next reading assignment.

Ralph