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Summaries and Notices

New Terminals for Subscribers' Telephone Cables

by Fritz Kummer and Maurice Ducommun, Berne

Polyester resin, a synthetic compound having excellent mechanical and electric properties, is used for new designs of modern and suitable telephone cable terminal equipment. The advantages and special design features of such cable terminals already in use or to be placed in service shortly, and their housings, are described.

Data Transmission on Telephone Lines

by F. Nüsseler, Berne

The utilization of the telephone network for data transmission poses some problems which for speech transmission have only been marginal: impact of attenuation and phase distortions, and spacing between the intelligence signal and spurious signals with low redundancy of data transmission. The object of this article is to go into these problems in greater detail and to show possible solutions.

The Selectivity of TV Receivers in the VHF Range

by Heinz Roggli, Berne

For television receiving technology, the selectivity of home receivers in the VHF range is of increasing importance, as many receivers offer a growing number of television programmes on VHF channels. Through observations on a number of specially selected home receivers the susceptibility to interference in respect of image channel—, adjacent channel— and neighbouring channel signals has been studied. This article investigates the type and origin of the various disturbances and describes some special characteristics, such as image reception and interference through feedback of the receiver-oscillator voltage to the community aerial system.

2,000,000 Telephone Subscribers in Switzerland

On 30 July the two-millionth subscriber was connected to the Swiss telephone network. This event was marked by a press conference held in Spiez on 19 August, when Mr. Locher, Director General of Telecommunications, and two of his senior officers talked about the past development and future prospects of the telephone.

The telephone made its appearance in Switzerland in 1880. 25 years later, in 1905, the number of subscribers stood at 50,000, and after another 39 years (1919) the con-

nection of the 100,000th subscriber was celebrated. The half-million mark was attained in 1948, the million mark in 1959. While it took 79 years to arrive at 1 million subscribers, a mere 12 years was needed to complete the second million. The 3-million mark is expected to be reached in 9 years.

Telephone density as expressed by the number of telephones per 100 people was 1.1 in 1900, and 11.2 in 1940. Today's proportion is 48.2. After the United States and Sweden, Switzerland holds third place world-wide as regards telephone density. The number of telephone calls per person was 6.5 in 1900, 26.3 in 1920 and 140 in 1950. By 1970 the figure had jumped to 363. While in 1900 80% of all calls were local calls, the proportion of local calls today is 46%. International calls account for 4%.

News Items

Postal Services

A drive designed to encourage still wider use of postal codes is to be launched in Geneva, Lausanne, Berne, Biel, Basle and Lucerne in September. General use of codes should allow the PTT to employ auxiliary staff for primary sorting.

An agreement concerning the newspaper subscription service Switzerland-Germany has been negotiated with the German Federal Post Office. This service is to be performed on a mutual basis by the electronic data processing plant of the Swiss ECC (Electronic Computer Centre) and the German 'Posttechnisches Zentralamt'.

Prototypes of a calculating and a non-calculating counter printing unit for the proposed automated postal giro service have been subjected to acceptance tests; they will now have to undergo continuous testing; the specifications of a second prototype will then be worked out on the basis of the test results obtained.

The Swiss postal passenger service carried 22.2 million passengers in the first 6 months of 1971, 5.5% more than in the corresponding period of last year. However, as the number of passengers paying full fares did not rise at the above rate, the increase in receipts was only 3.7%.

Telephone Service

Between the network groups of Delémont (Switzerland) and Montbéliard (France) subscriber dialling was introduced at the beginning of August.

At the international central office in Zurich II the ESK four-wire automatic switching unit has been placed in service (first stage).

The top station of the aerial cableway Sörenberg-Brienz Rothorn has been connected to the public telephone system by a wireless subscriber's line.

On 2 August a new radio-telephone link was placed in service between Berne and Kuwait. Other radio-telephone links provide service to Ankara, Tel Aviv, Cairo, Djedda, Teheran, Baghdad, Lagos, New York, Mexico City, Montevideo, Karachi, Djakarta, and Shanghai.

At the end of August, international subscriber dialling facilities were available at 195 exchanges serving 1.08 million subscribers.

In the years 1972/73 more than 190,000 telephone numbers, 10% of the present total, will have to be changed. They will include the first 7-figure numbers, which will be introduced in the local telephone areas of Glattbrugg and Thalwil.

Between St. Gallen and Feldkirch (Austria) a 900-channel microwave link and, on the second tube pair of the coaxial cable, 12 MHz working (for 2700 speaking circuits) are to be established in 1973/1974.

Telegraph and Telex Services

The second stage of the ATECO system (telegram handling by computer) was introduced at the beginning of August. The entire incoming telegram traffic of Radio-Suisse Ltd. is now handled by ATECO, which processes nearly 6,000 telegrams daily (35–40% of the total telegram traffic). The 7th September marked the beginning of the third stage (handling by ATECO of the traffic of the primary offices of Basel and Lugano).

In the first six months of 1971, 1,040 new telex connections, 36% more than in the corresponding period of the previous year, were set up.

Radio and Television Services

The third colour television mobile unit for outside pickup (out of a proposed total of four) was delivered to the television service of French speaking Switzerland in August and put into operation on 9 September. All three major linguistic groups are now equipped with such units.

In Zurich a simplex relay for wireless inter-communication between mobile subscribers (without connection to the public telephone network) has been placed in service. It operates in the 460 MHz range and enables up to 70 vehicles to be connected in the Zurich area.