

## Communication – Telephone & Radio in South Stafford

by Marion Brooks Robinson

The first telephone installed in Falmouth was at Berry's Store on Washington Street. The neighbors went to use that one phone. They used it for calling taxis, doctors, plumbers, or calling in prescriptions – necessary calls – never for general conversations

I remember our first telephone. You gave the operator - a real live human being - the number, and she used a switchboard to connect you with the number you called. We never had a party line, but one of our neighbors did. You had to use the same line, so you couldn't all talk at the same time. You had to wait until one party finished their call before you could use it.



The phone company in Falmouth was Bell Telephone. The main station was in Fredericksburg. One time one of my friends took me to the building. It was located across from Hurkamp Park, near the intersection of Prince Edward and George Streets. Girls were sitting inside the building answering phones. There were always 8-10 girls per shift.



As far as radio was concerned, the family at night would pull up chairs in a circle and listen to the nightly shows. Our radio was an Atwater-Kent. It set up on legs and was a console with doors that closed up when you weren't listening so it. It looked like a nice cabinet in the living room. I really think that I enjoyed radio more than television, for you could imagine what people looked like or what they were doing.