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MATTOON SESQUICENTENNIAL

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CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone company evolves over the years

Most people just take it for granted that when they pick up the telephone to make a call next door or even halfway around the world, they will shortly be connected to the right number.

Few realize or even think about the years of hard work, technology and history behind telephone service in East Central Illinois. Or how it all began.

"Dr. Iverson Lumpkin, the founder of Mattoon Telephone Co., was firm in his belief that the telephone would end the isolation of rural Illinois as it would for the entire country," Consolidated Chairman Richard Lumpkin said earlier. "He recognized the need to invest in the future with new technology."

Even back in 1894, Dr. Lumpkin, a local dentist, was very interested in his community. Coming to Mattoon shortly after the Civil War, he was instrumental in building homes, starting schools, founding churches and bringing industry to the prairie.

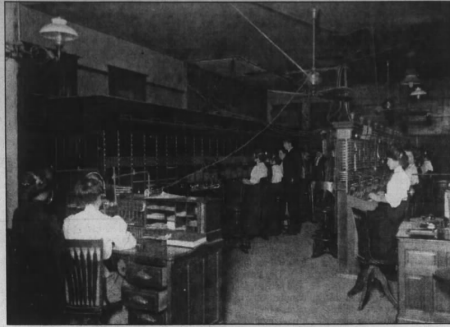
Four generations of Lumpkins, from its founder to the current chairman Richard Lumpkin, have steered the company in new directions — making it the 15th largest local telephone company in the U.S. By diversifying its services into the communities it serves, it has continually channeled jobs and salaries back into the local economies.

Consolidated serves thousands of telephone customers in East Central Illinois and thousands more world-wide.

In 2004, Consolidated purchased TXU Communications of Texas, adding 170,000 access lines.

Consolidated has contributed more than \$2.5 million to 39 area school districts through its Earning for Learning program.

Consolidated provides long distance and private line services, fiber optic-based networks, directory publishing, and telemarketing and business systems, as well as competitive operator services,



Submitted Photo ABOVE: The early days of telephone service at Consolidated Communications utilized the top technology available at that time.

RIGHT: Today, Consolidated continues to increase its service area and presence among Mattoon's top businesses.

Ken Trevarthan/Staff Photographer



paging/cellular mobile, billing and collection services. It also has ventured into Internet-provider services and cable television.

But at the start, there were a few who believed as strongly in the future of telecommu-

nications as did the founder of the Mattoon Telephone Company when he set off for Chicago to purchase his first switchboard. Dr. Lumpkin was fascinated in technology and firmly believed that the

future of Alexander Graham Bell's new invention and his community would be forever linked.

As he left for Chicago to buy the company's first switchboard, he declined the

Consolidated Communications Inc. Timeline

- 1841 – Iverson A. Lumpkin born in Missouri.
- 1865 – I. A. Lumpkin and family move to Mattoon.
- 1876 – Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone.
- 1894 – Dr. I.A. Lumpkin founds the Mattoon Telephone Company.
- April 20, 1895 – Mattoon Telephone Co. begins operation with 123 subscribers.
- 1897 – W. C. Lumpkin, son of Dr. Iverson A. Lumpkin, organizes Coles County Telephone and Telegraph Co.
- July 3, 1901 – Fire destroys offices of Mattoon Telephone Company and Telegraph Company.
- 1906 – Coles County Telephone and Telegraph Co. absorbs both the Mattoon Telephone Co. and Charleston Telephone and Electric Co. Iverson A. Lumpkin named president and his son, W.C. Lumpkin became general manager.
- 1924 – W. C. Lumpkin dies in an automobile accident.
- 1928 – Coles County Telephone merges with a telephone company in Shelbyville to become Illinois Southeastern Telephone Company.
- 1935 – ICTC and Illinois Southeastern Telephone Company merge to become Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company.
- 1985 – Formed Consolidated Communications Directories.
- 1988 – Formed Consolidated Telemarketing of America, now known as Consolidated Market Response.
- 1988 – Formed Consolidated Communications Operator Services.
- 1989 – Formed Consolidated Communications Public Services.
- 1991 – Company launches Earning For Learning program to return long distance revenues to local schools.
- 1994 – Happy Birthday! Consolidated Communications celebrates 100th year in business.
- 1997 – Consolidated Communications Inc., merged with McLeodUSA.
- 2002 – An investment group led by ICTC Chairman and President Richard A. Lumpkin agrees to purchase ICTC and other related businesses from McLeodUSA.
- Dec. 31, 2002 – Purchase from McLeodUSA complete, and the company name returns to Consolidated Communications Inc.
- April 2004 – CCI completes the purchase of TXU Communications.
- January 2005 – Consolidated enters television market with Consolidated's Digital Video Services.
- July 2005 – Consolidated Communications becomes a public company and begins trading stock on the NASDAQ under the symbol CNLS.

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