



## **Dallas Municipal Archives**

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Archives Collections Finding Guides and Inventories

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Guide No. 81  
Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company, 1904, 1913-1917  
(91-026)

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Processed by:

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Records Management Division  
Office of the City Secretary  
City of Dallas, Texas

Dallas Municipal Archives  
Record Group 04-3: Utilities and Franchises—Telephone and Telegraph Services  
Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company, 1904, 1913-1917 (Collection 91-026)

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Collection Range: 1904, 1913-1917  
Six inches linear.

Correspondence, petitions, contracts, property inventories, typescript reports

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company, organized in 1881 to operate exchanges in Arkansas and Texas, owned exchanges in Galveston, Houston, Austin and San Antonio. A Dallas exchange with forty subscribers opened on June 1, 1881. In the spring of 1883 Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone was purchased by the Erie Telegraph and Telephone Company, a holding company. On July 19, 1883, general offices were established at Austin, and in 1889 the Erie Company conveyed all its property back to The Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company.

On March 1, 1912, the Bell System firms--the Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company, the Bell Telephone Company of Missouri, the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph Company of Oklahoma, and the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company-- were consolidated to form a new operating unit known as the Southwestern System, with headquarters in St. Louis. These companies were later merged in 1920 to form Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. With the breakup of the AT&T-owned Bell System in 1984, Southwestern Bell Telephone became a subsidiary of Southwestern Bell Corporation, changing names in 1995 to SBC Communications, Inc, and to SBC Southwest in December, 2002.

Collection consists of correspondence, petitions, contracts, property inventories, and typescript reports regarding telephone and telegraph services in the City of Dallas and across the state of Texas and the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company between 1904 and 1917. The items concern several issues, including petitions solicited by Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company in Texas cities to protest the quality of local telephone services; a proposal to the City of Dallas to merge local telephone companies; inventories and appraisals of the plants and properties of the Dallas Automatic Telephone Company and the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company; a listing of every location of telephone poles in the City of Dallas in 1913; and a unit cost analysis of the Dallas exchange of the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company. The records were used in the conduct of business of the City of Dallas Public Improvements Committee.

Arrangement: by subject and within the Petitions series by city.

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- Folder 1: Inventory and location of telephone poles in Dallas, Texas as of March 1, 1913
- Folder 2: Petitions regarding telephone services in Texas cities, 1904:  
Austin, Texas
- Folder 3: Corsicana, Texas
- Folder 4: Gainesville, Texas
- Folder 5. Houston, Texas
- Folder 6. Paris, Texas
- Folder 7. San Antonio, Texas
- Folder 8. Sherman, Texas
- Folder 9. Temple, Texas
- Folder 10. Tyler, Texas
- Folder 11. Waco, Texas
- Folder 12. Weatherford, Texas
- Folder 13. Proposal and application by J.C. Casler to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners, Dallas, Texas, regarding merger of telephone companies and the City of Dallas, 1917
- Folder 14. Correspondence with Mayor Henry D. Lindsley regarding merger of telephone companies and the City of Dallas, 1916-1917 [three items]
- Folder 15. Proposal by Henry Exall Elrod to investigate the properties and operations of the Dallas Automatic Telephone Company, 1917
- Folder 16. Application for the appointment of accountants in telephone company investigation by Marwick, Mitchell, Peat and Company, 1917.

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- Folder 17. Inventory and appraisal of plant and property of the Dallas Automatic Telephone Company by Edmund Land, 1916
- Folder 18. Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company unit costs [Dallas Exchange], 1913-1917
- Folder 19. Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company inventory and appraisal of property In the Dallas Exchange area, 1916