

# TELEPHONE

Friend 1: "Hello, what's up?"

Friend 2: "Nothing much. What about you?"

Friend 1: "I was just wondering about this amazing device which let's us connect to people far around us within seconds."

Friend 2: "You mean the telephone? Of course, it's a blessing to the families and friends and to the whole mankind."

Friend 1: "Let's have an overview about it's invention."

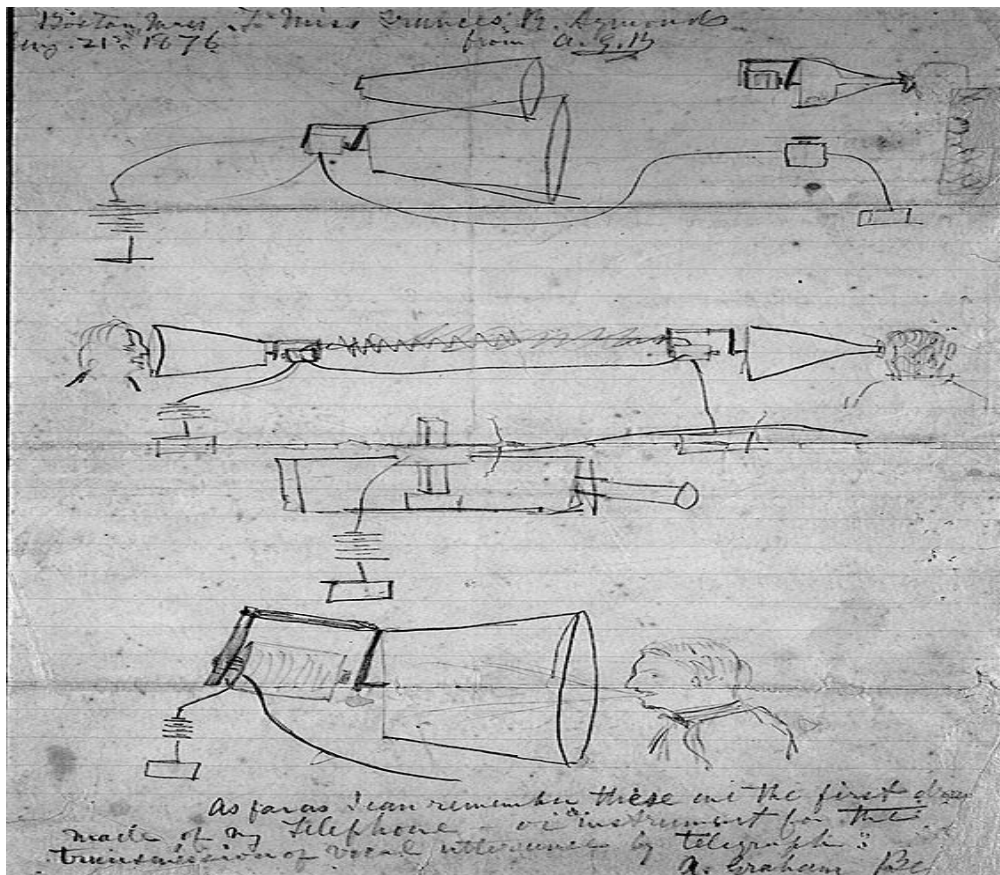
Friend 2: "Yeah, sure."

So, telephone, a device which connects people in a remote village to the people overseas, definitely with the availability of the network, is one the greatest inventions of all time.

Alexander Graham Bell was the first one to enroot the idea of television. The reason behind was personal as well as interest-oriented. He had immense love for technology and science and in addition to that his mother and wife, both were deaf.

In 1871, Bell started working on a telegraph machine which would send multiple messages at a time. Amidst his progress on

telegraph, he became preoccupied with finding a way to transmit human voice over wires. He started experimenting



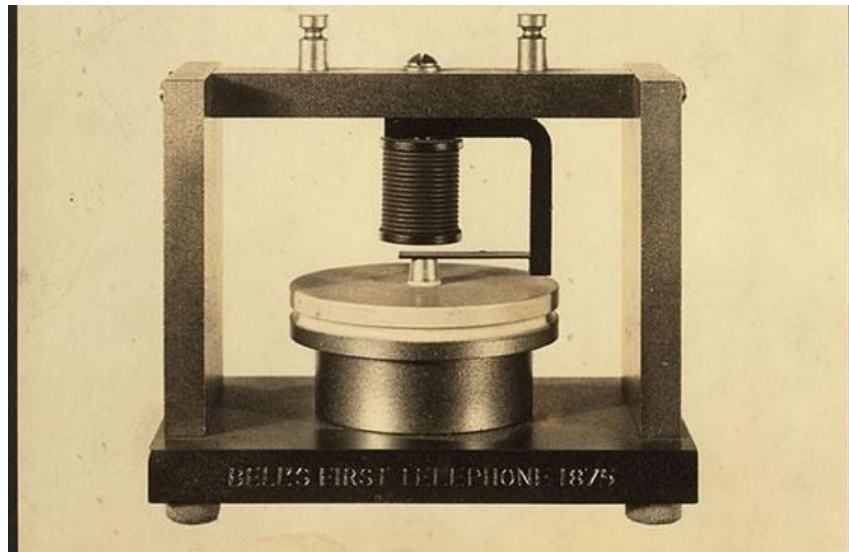
with two glasses tied to ends of a string and would speak which could be heard on the other side. Eventually, in 1875, Bell with partner Thomas Watson came up with a simple receiver which would covert electricity into sound.

However, many other scientists are being held the inventors of telephone despite the fact that the idea was implanted by Bell.

Antonio Meucci, an Italian immigrant, began developing the design of a talking telegraph or telephone in 1849. In 1871, he filed a caveat (an announcement of an invention) for his design of a talking telegraph. Due to hardships, Meucci could not renew his caveat. His role in the invention of the telephone was overlooked until the United States House of Representatives passed a Resolution on June 11, 2002, honoring Meucci's contributions and work.

To make matters more fascinating, a professor from Oberlin College, Elisha Gray is said to have booked a caveat in the same year when Bell proposed his patent for the telephone. These gentlemen didn't visit the office, their lawyers did it on their behalf. Bell's lawyer reached there before Gray's and hence Bell is regarded as the first one to implant the idea of telephone.

As for all innovations, Antonio Meucci invented the first basic phone in the year 1849 and Frenchman Charles Bourseul devised a phone in 1854.



Within 50 years of its invention, the telephone had become an indispensable tool in the United States. In the late 19th century, people raved about the telephone's positive aspects and ranted about what they anticipated would be negatives. Their key points, recorded by Ithiel de Sola Pool in his 1983 book "Forecasting the Telephone," mirror nearly precisely what was later predicted about the impact of the internet.

Privacy was also a major concern. As is the case with the Internet, the telephone worked to improve privacy while simultaneously leaving people open to invasions of their privacy. In the beginning days of the telephone, people would often have to journey to the local general store or some other central point to be able to make and receive calls. Most homes weren't wired together, and eavesdroppers could hear you conduct your personal business as you used a public phone. Switchboard operators who connected the calls would also regularly invade people's privacy. The early house-to-house

phone systems were often "party lines" on which a number of families would receive calls, and others were free to listen in and often chose to do so.



Today, while most homes are wired and people can travel freely, conducting their phone conversations wirelessly, wiretapping and other surveillance methods can be utilized to listen in on their private business. People's privacy can also be interrupted by unwanted phone calls from telemarketers and others who wish to profit in some way - just as Internet e-mail accounts receive unwanted sales pitches, known as "spam."

Yet, the invention of the telephone also worked to increase privacy in many ways. It permitted people to exchange information without having to put it in writing, and a call on the phone came to replace such intrusions on domestic seclusion as unexpected visits from relatives or neighbors and the pushy patter of door-to-door salesmen. The same could be said for the Internet - privacy has been enhanced in some ways because e-mail and instant messaging have reduced the frequency of the jangling interruptions previously dished out by our telephones.

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