

## 1946/47 - North American Area Codes:

With the recovery from the national decline due to the Depression now well behind the telephone industry, business was beginning to boom again. Although a telephone numbering system had been in place in North America since 1879, and had expanded in the 1920's to include city codes in larger areas, it wasn't until 1947 that the North American Numbering plan was developed and implemented (<http://www.greatachievements.org/>).

Telephone technologies had seemed to not only provide a convenient service to the general public, but it also seemed to magnify social contact. In the days of the telegraph, the user would travel to a telegraph office, send a brief message much like our current day text, for a one sided conversation. With the advent of the telephone, distant social conversations were possible from within your own household. No longer was it necessary to write letters to those in foreign places when simultaneous, synchronous conversational technologies were easily and readily available. Although at this point in time it was still necessary to utilize an operator for international calls, the process and speed in which to connect to the desired party was easily within reach. Also, it is important to note that not everyone, and similarly not all areas of the globe, had full telephone services. Even today there are still people and areas without telephone service.

Telephone technology, as with any other new technology, did and still does have its benefits and drawbacks. Many people today have not learned the skill of artistic writing often associated with traditional letter-writing as this is no longer a practiced skill (Postman, 1992). It is also important to note additional secondary domino effects of the telephone to the diminishing need for mail-carrying personnel and possible postal outlet closures or reduced services. On the other hand, during the course of non-digital telephone service, more people were being hired to satisfy the demands of the telecommunication industry.