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Framingham in the 1900s: Telephone, Television and Milk Delivery

Telephone

The first telephone call in Framingham was on April 1, 1880. At that time all telephone calls were handled by operators at an exchange called the Central Massachusetts Telephone Company. You had to turn a crank to alert the operator that you wanted to make a call. In 1932 dial service finally arrived where you could dial your own telephone number and did not need the operator. (Herring, pg. 200)

Telephones could not be taken with you. You had to go to where the telephone was hooked up to an outlet in a wall in order to make your call.

Television

People started watching television in Framingham on June 10, 1948. It eventually replaced listening to the radio.

The Lewis Furniture Company on Irving Street sold Philco TVs with 10" black and white screens for \$349.50 (Herring, pg. 298)

Home Deliveries

Framingham had 5 dairies that delivered to homes.

Sunshine Dairy, Waveney Farm, Fairfield Farm, Twin Maple Farm (Saxonville) and Hillside Dairy.

The metal box was left by the door and kept the milk, butter, eggs and other products safe. All you needed to do was leave a note to let the delivery person know what you wanted. Sometimes you would leave money in the box to pay for your order. Many women did not work outside the home and many families had only one car. Usually the car was gone during the day for the man to go to work. So families relied on deliveries of dairy products, bread and other products to come to the house.

Dinner Plates

Plastic was invented in the 1800s but was not really used in the home until the 1900s. After WWII there is an increase in the amount of plastic used in the home.

They started to make dinner plates in various plastic materials. It was easier to clean and did not break easily.