

RESTORING THE SIGNAL

VOICES
CONNECT US.
STORIES LAST.

— AN INTERACTIVE AUDIO EXHIBIT —

Pick up. Dial in. Listen.

Step back in time and experience the magic of voice through vintage telephones and modern creativity.



WHAT YOU'LL HEAR:

- Short stories
- Poetry
- Spoken memories
- Comedy
- Soundscapes
- Cryptids
- Oral history
- And more...

*Some recordings are real.
Some are imagined.
All are part of the signal.*

HOW IT WORKS:

- 1 Pick up a phone.
- 2 Dial a number from the list provided.
- 3 Listen and enjoy!

TO LEAVE A VOICEMAIL:
DIAL
1111
SHARE YOUR VOICE.
BE PART OF THE SIGNAL.

WANT TO PARTICIPATE?



Share your voice with the community!

You can upload an audio file or record online at:

<https://phone.lewismoten.com>

Suggested length: **3 minutes or less**

Submissions may include: stories, poetry, memories, jokes, music, soundscapes, cryptids, oral history, or audio experiments.

AFTER LEAVING A VOICEMAIL:

Please fill out a rollodex card so your recording can be added to the exhibit.



- Title of your audio
- Type of audio (story, jokes, music, etc.)
- Your name
- (On the back) Date & time of your call to help identify your voicemail

Thank you for being part of the signal!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



These telephones are part of an interactive art exhibit. They are **not** connected to the public telephone network. **Do not use for emergencies** or real-world communication.

MORE TO KNOW

- ✓ Rotary phones
- ✓ Touch-tone & speakerphone
- ✓ TTY access (Miniprint machine)
- ✓ Offline & local
- ✓ Preserving old technology for new voices

SCAN ME

TO UPLOAD AUDIO,
RECORD ONLINE,
OR LEARN MORE



<https://phone.lewismoten.com>

★ MORE PHONES ARE ON THE WAY! ★

OLD TECHNOLOGY. NEW VOICES. ENDLESS STORIES.



PHONE DIRECTORY



Dial a number to hear stories, memories, sound recordings, and TTY experiences.



1111

VOICE CONTRIBUTIONS

Leave a voice message or share your audio contribution.



2222

TTY CONTRIBUTIONS

Use your TTY device to leave a text contribution.




2323

ROYAL VISIT MEMORIES

Share your memories and experiences of the Royal Visit.

NAME	AUDIO	TTY
Brick Nave — Denmark LEGO Exhibit Story	555-1002	555-1003
Brick Nave — Test Recording	555-1000	555-1001
Lewis Moten — 100 Word Stories Weekly Challenges		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplicate Daughters, Divided Dad • Where the Mountain Speaks • Dad's Weather System • Great Minds, Strange Priorities • A Pirate's Worst Surprise • Legend at the Water's Edge • Except Those Ones • Becoming Purple • The Interest We Lost • The Scissor Situation • Alone With a Broken Bulb • Superpowers of Spooker Boy • The Ledger of the Woods • Nip from Another Dimension • Relativity Detour • Champion of the Backyard Games • Hung Out to Dry • The End? • It Was Probably the Lighting • Silence Has Teeth • Bubble Rap • A Very Cultured Performance • Repeat Until Texture Is Uniform • Craigslist Said It Was Healthy • Prompted Royalty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 697-0117 697-0168 697-0169 697-0171 697-0178 697-0181 697-0197 697-0227 697-0405 697-1028 697-1029 697-1030 697-1031 697-1032 697-1033 697-1034 697-1035 697-1036 697-1037 697-1038 697-1039 697-1040 697-1042 697-1044 697-1045 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 197-0117 197-0168 197-0169 197-0171 197-0178 197-0181 197-0197 197-0227 197-0405 197-1028 197-1029 197-1030 197-1031 197-1032 197-1033 197-1034 197-1035 197-1036 197-1037 197-1038 197-1039 197-1040 197-1042 197-1044 197-1045
Play Favorites — Random Radio Jingles	252-4031	252-4032



A collection of 100 word stories written by Lewis Moten as part of his weekly creative writing challenges. Each story is exactly 100 words.



RESTORING THE SIGNAL

AN INTERACTIVE TELEPHONE & AUDIO EXHIBIT



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• AN INTERACTIVE TELEPHONE & AUDIO EXHIBIT •

150 YEARS OF COMMUNICATION



This year marks the 150th anniversary of the public introduction of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia during June of 1876.



Visitors attending the exposition were introduced to inventions that would help shape modern life, including the telephone, the typewriter, and even ketchup. Today, both the telephone and typewriter effectively exist together inside the smartphones carried in most people's pockets, allowing people to speak, write, record, and communicate from a single handheld device.



Ketchup also continued its own march through technological progress. Once trapped inside stubborn glass bottles, it now arrives in squeezable upside-down containers — perhaps one of humanity's greatest engineering achievements depending on who is asked.



HOW THE EXHIBIT BEGAN

"Restoring the Signal" began as an idea proposed by the director at Stone Branch Center for the Arts to create an interactive experience where children and adults could use rotary telephones and hear poetry, stories, music, and recorded messages through vintage communication devices.

Rather than displaying telephones behind glass as museum artifacts, the goal became allowing visitors to physically interact with them and experience older forms of communication firsthand.

The creator of the exhibit had previously researched telephony systems, accessibility technology, and vintage communications equipment while participating in the local maker community through electronics projects, restoration work, and experimental hardware. That background helped transform the original concept into a functioning interactive installation.





HOW IT WORKS



The exhibit operates using a Raspberry Pi — a small computer — together with hardware that allows traditional analog telephones to operate on a small private network.



At the center of the system is Asterisk, an open-source private branch exchange (PBX) server that listens for telephones dialing numbers and responds by playing recordings and connecting visitors to different audio experiences throughout the exhibit.



Unlike modern communication systems, the exhibit is intentionally isolated from both the public internet and the public telephone network. Audio recordings are transferred manually using removable storage devices in what is sometimes jokingly referred to as a "sneakernet" — physically carrying files between systems instead of transferring them electronically.



To support participation from the public, a companion website was created using PHP and a MySQL database. Visitors and contributors can upload audio files or record messages online for future inclusion in the exhibit: phone.lewismoten.com

EXHIBIT NETWORK



SNEAKERNET

Audio recordings are moved to and from the exhibit using removable storage devices instead of the internet.



ACCESSIBILITY AND TTY TECHNOLOGY



The exhibit also includes a functioning TTY text telephone system. Artificial intelligence is used behind the scenes to help transcribe recordings into text, making it possible to generate TTY audio signals so visitors can experience how individuals with hearing disabilities historically communicated over telephone systems using printed text and modem-like tones.



Visitors can use a TTY machine and watch conversations appear on paper while the device exchanges acoustic signals across the network. For many people, this may be the first time they have encountered a TTY machine in person rather than simply seeing "TTY" printed beside a phone number.



WHAT YOU MIGHT HEAR



Visitors dialing into the exhibit may encounter short stories, poetry, spoken memories, oral histories, jokes and comedy, soundscapes, music, cryptid stories, experimental recordings, words of encouragement, historical audio, synthetic voices, and other evolving forms of creative expression.

**Some recordings are human.
Some are imagined. All are part of the signal.**



CONTINUING RESTORATION

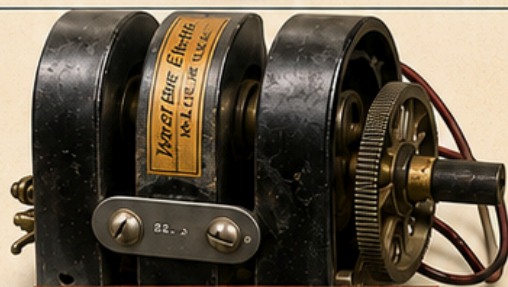


The exhibit currently includes rotary telephones, touch-tone telephones, speakerphones, and TTY devices. Additional devices are planned for future installation, including wall-mounted crank telephones and candlestick telephones with external ringer boxes.



The exhibit is designed to continue evolving over time as new recordings, telephones, restoration projects, and community contributions are added.

Appropriately enough, the exhibit's creator also owns a ketchup bottle telephone — although, like many experimental technologies throughout history, it is still undergoing restoration before joining the network.



MAGNETO FROM RINGER BOX

Generates the ringing signal for early telephones.

Share Your Memories of the *Royal Visit*

DIAL 2323 FROM ANY EXHIBIT PHONE

When King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited Front Royal, thousands of residents gathered to witness a once-in-a-generation moment in local history.



The Warren Heritage Society invites you to share your memories, experiences, observations, and stories from the royal visit. Tell us where you were, what you saw, how the community reacted, or what the day meant to you.



After the tone, simply speak naturally. Recordings should be approximately three minutes or less.

Your voice.
Our history.
Their future.

DIAL
2323



By leaving a recording, you understand that your contribution may be gifted to the Warren Heritage Society, 101 Chester Street, Front Royal, VA 22630. If accepted into the collection, recordings may be preserved within the Laura Virginia Hale Archives and made available to researchers, residents, educators, and the public. Recordings may also be featured in future exhibits, educational programs, or promotional materials.

WARREN HERITAGE SOCIETY

101 Chester Street
Front Royal, VA 22630



SCAN ME

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

Restoring the Signal
and our interactive
telephone experience.

phone.lewisnoten.com

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WARREN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Preserving our past.
Inspiring our future.

warrenheritagesociety.org



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