

GAYLORD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE - Frank Calkins

Frank Calkins, proprietor of our telephone exchange, first came to Gaylord in 1881 on business connected with the Detroit Iron Furnace Co., by which concern he was employed. In 1900 he concluded the town was large enough for a telephone exchange and in co-partnership with H. N. Crandall, an expert electrician, established the present exchange with 40 subscribers. In May, 1902, he purchased Crandall's interest and has continued as sole owner. The number of subscribers has increased over four-fold from the original beginning and Mr. Calkins is now owner of an exchange at Vanderbilt with 47 subscribers, also toll lines to Vanderbilt, Elmira, Waters, Johannesburg, Hetherton and Wolverine. Connections with the farmers' line enables subscribers to reach every point in the county and gives direct connections with 250 phones. Through the Swaverly Company connections with all outside independent companies are made, giving unlimited service.

The exchange here is equipped with latest improved mechanism and the service is almost faultless.

Through practical application Mr. Calkins has become a telephone electrician and fully understands the many details necessary to carry on the plant.

Mr. Calkins has always taken a deep interest in Gaylord's welfare, is at present serving his third term on the board of village trustees, and has done much in having old wooded walks replaced with cement.