

done with one machine called a combine. The first to own a combine was Edgar Sims who lived for a few years where Clifford Ray lived.

Mr. Lou Robson and Mr. Billa Ketcheson were perhaps the first to own radios. The listeners had to use ear phones. To-day there is hardly a home without its radio and televisions are becoming numerous. Dick Cranston was the first to install a television. In 1952 Clifford Ray, Percy Ray, Floyd Ray and Gordon Ray had televisions installed. Frank Benton and Mr. Dickey also became television owners. Now there is one in nearly every home.

Mr. Billa Ketcheson had a machine to record the human voice.

With the high cost of labor for farm help, farmers turned to more mechanical devices. Hay is cut and baled in the fields. A few farmers own balers and do custom work for their neighbours. Several own threshing outfits powered by their tractor. Nearly all farmers milk their cows by machines and when the factory is closed, separate their milk with an electric separator.

About 1908 the neighbours were able to communicate with one another by telephone. Subscribers entered into an agreement with the Hastings Telephone Company "for a period of five years at \$10.00 from the date of connection, payable yearly, in advance". The contract was dated at Gilead - 1908, signed by H. A. Fairman, General Manager, W. J. Allison, Superintendant and Harry Bradden - operator of the exchange. The office was at the Bradden home (near Victoria Cemetery). In 1906 a telephone was in operation between the above three homes. It gradually grew until in April 1922 when Harry McCreary bought the Company there were 230 subscribers. The office was moved from Mr. Braddens to the McCreary home at Plainfield.



**HELLO** — Harry McCreary, whose name has been synonymous with telephone service in Thurlow for more than four decades, demonstrates with 1906 Swedish American, now long out of service. He still has enquiries for antique equipment.

There was also an office at Foxboro. It was at one time at Van Allen's then Hamilton's Store and later at Dan Ketcheson's. Now the Foxboro office is no more and all the calls go through the exchange at McCrearys. The 88 phones at Foxboro were gradually taken over by the Bell Telephone Co. and the line now is (almost) entirely in Thurlow, with 235 subscribers. At present there is about 90 miles of poles and 285 miles of wire.