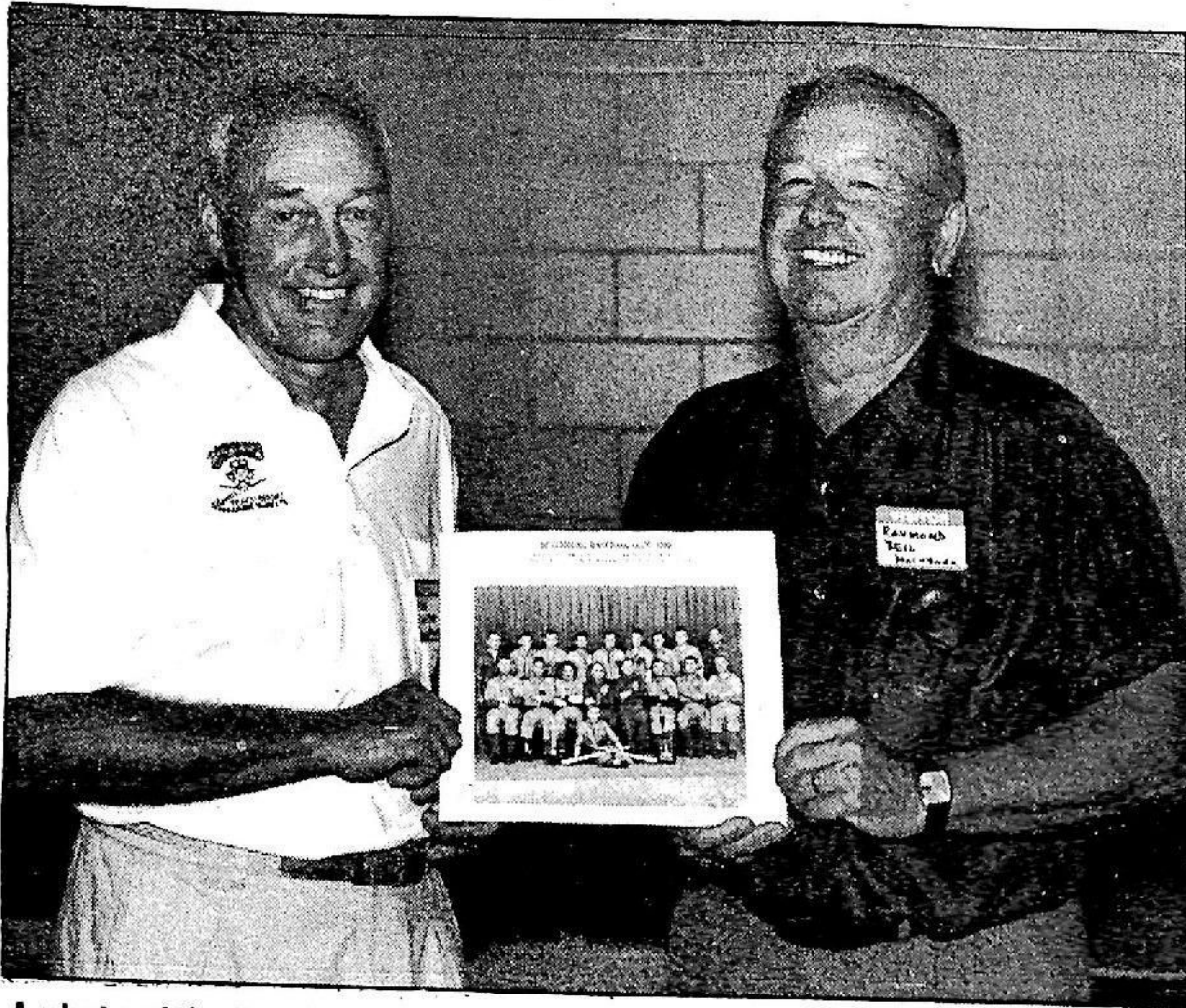
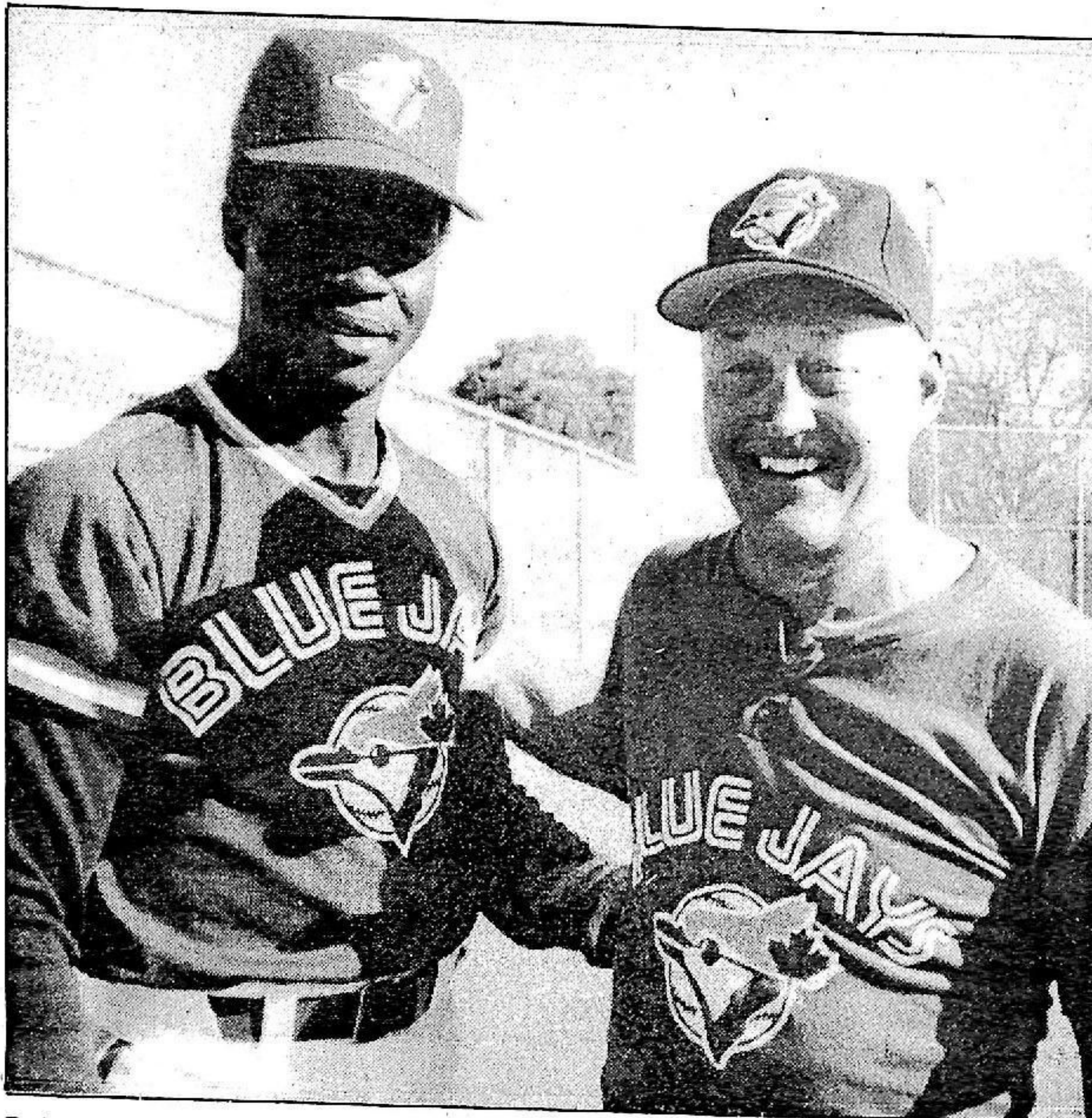


# Remembering the South Renfrew



A photo of the Beachburg team that won the 1952 county championship brings back memories for Bob Hopper (left) and Raymond Bell, who were both members of that team.



Bob Hopper (see photo above) has never lost touch with baseball. Now he works in security at the Blue Jays' training camp in Florida. Here he is shown with Blue Jay Tony Fernandez.

By Marie Zettler  
Sun Editor

*Remember when.....?*

That was the most-spoken phrase at St. Michael's School in Douglas Sunday afternoon.

The occasion was the first-ever reunion of players, coaches, and fans of the South Renfrew Baseball League.

Few records, other than old photos, exist of the early days of the league.

However, it's known that competitive baseball was played in Brudenell as early as 1894. And from the early 1900's to the 50's and 60's, the league was a dominant component of community life.

"Teams had their loyal supporters that would follow them wherever they played," recalls Mac Foran, a catcher with the Eganville team from 1954 to 1959. "People from Eganville would drive all the way to Barry's Bay to watch the games."

Back in the 50's, Sunday sports was just as controversial a topic as Sunday shopping has been in recent years.

"Remember the first time we played on a Sunday afternoon?" said Willis Freitag, who played for Eganville in the 50's and 60's. "We didn't know if we'd get run out of town for that."

They'd pass the hat at ball games to raise money to cover expenses. But there was no set admission charge.

"It wasn't legal to charge admission for sporting events on Sundays," said Mr. Foran. "Besides, there weren't any expenses except uniforms, baseballs, and bats. All the work on maintaining the fields was done by volunteers."

## First reunion ever

The reunion was spearheaded by a former Douglas player, Kevin Donohue. More than 200 people came.

"It's the first reunion that's ever been held," said Mr. Donohue. "We started out thinking we'd have about 25. But once it got rolling, we couldn't stop it."

People came from as far away as Kitchener and London and from many other points across the province. Contacts were made almost entirely by phone.

"Ma Bell did well on this one,"