

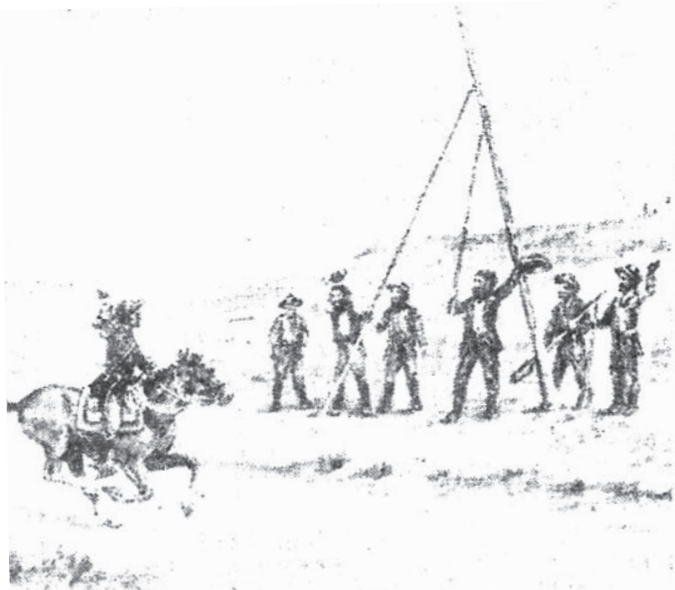
MARY M. STEIN – NEWAYGO, MI

Mary sent me copies of newspaper articles that ran in 1951 acknowledging the 100th anniversary of Western Union. Mary obtained these copies from **Katherine Eardley, sister of Agnes Eardley** who worked for Western Union and retired years ago. The article focuses on the Grand Rapids, Michigan office that was opened in 1858, 7 years after the birth of WU. The newspaper article was too light and the type too small for use in the *Newsletter* but I was able to piece together a photo of some of the 47 “girl” operators working in Grand Rapids at that time and Mary tells me that Agnes Eardley is the first lady on the left. Two other copies show a pony express rider in their waning days and the “Daddy of Telegraph Printers”. Mary, who joined our Honorary Member group this year, says she is in good health thanks to the good Lord.



Women Operators on Duty Here

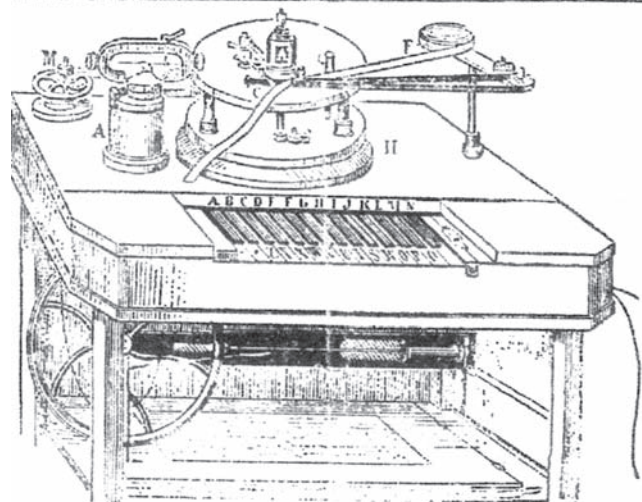
Battery of sending and receiving telegraph printers in the office of Western Union at 74 Division Ave., N., picturing some of the 47 girl operators employed by the company here.



Last Days of the Pony Express

A pony express rider greets Western Union linemen as they string wires of the first transcontinental telegraph, completed Oct. 24, 1861. The eight-day Pony Express was established on April 3, 1860, to carry telegrams 1,400 miles between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Cal. Sixteen months later the Pony Express passed out of existence when Western Union completed the first transcontinental telegraph. (Wide World Photo).

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1951



Daddy of Telegraph Printers

The House printer was the grand-daddy of all modern telegraph printers. Invented by Royal E. House of Rockingham, Vt., and patented April 18, 1846, it was the first telegraph machine to print letters, numerals and punctuation instead of the Morse code. This was the printer which started Western Union in business in 1851.