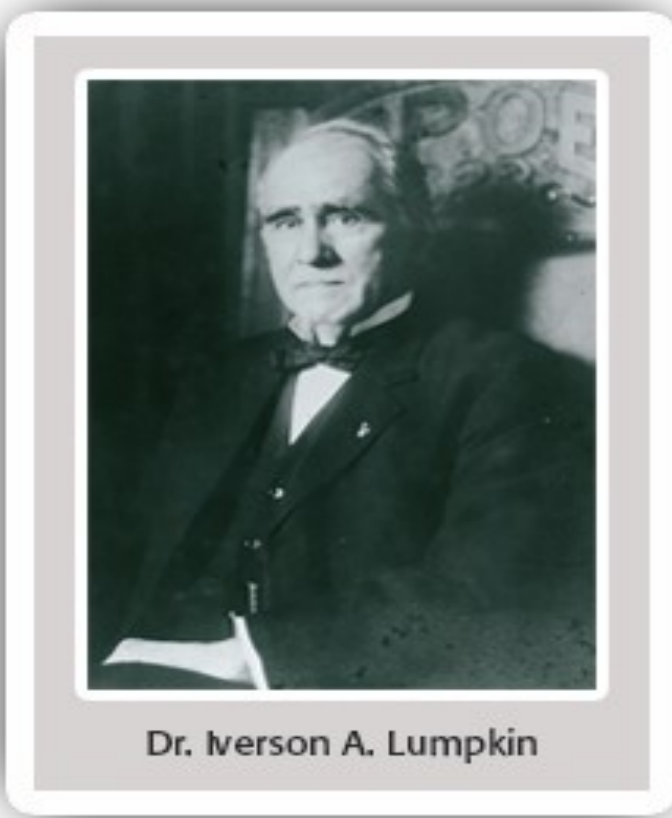




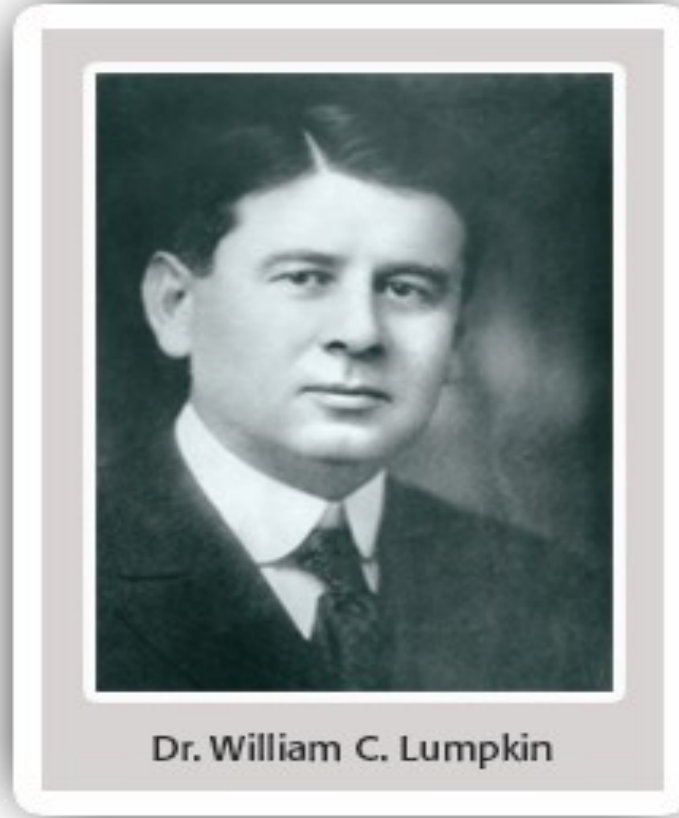
Alexander Graham Bell spoke those memorable words: "Mr. Watson, come here" , on March 10, 1876. Those words resonated with Dr. Iverson A. Lumpkin, a Mattoon dentist. Dr. Lumpkin was a visionary in his time, and intrigued by technology and progress.

Mattoon had been briefly served by a Bell central station from 1881 to 1884, but Bell abruptly pulled out of Mattoon. By 1894 the Bell patents had expired, opening the way for entrepreneurial spirits to enter the burgeoning industry.

Dr. Iverson A. Lumpkin and his son, William C. Lumpkin, also a dentist, were two such spirits and they soon entered into the telephone business. On August 4, 1894, the Mattoon Telephone Company was incorporated with Dr. I. A. Lumpkin as president and Dr. W. C. Lumpkin as treasurer. On September 4, 1894 the City of Mattoon passed an ordinance granting the company rights to operate a telephone exchange in Mattoon. The company opened for business on April 20, 1895 from rented offices on the third floor of the city building at 114 South 17th Street. The company started business with a 250 line switchboard and 175 customers had initially signed up for service.



Dr. Iverson A. Lumpkin



Dr. William C. Lumpkin



In May of 1897, the shareholders formed a separate company, The Coles County Telephone Company to serve the rural area around Mattoon. The Lumpkins were president and treasurer of that company also. In short order they had established over 300 miles of telephone lines serving: Arcola, Effingham, Greenup, Sullivan, Stewardson, Trilla and Windsor.

The switchboards were separate, but in the same office. The businesses were separate but the exchanges interconnected.



By 1899 the two businesses had outgrown the third floor space at South 17th Street and moved to the Demaree Building at 1601 Broadway. On the night of July 3, 1901, a fire destroyed the Demaree Building and the equipment of both companies.

The very next morning, W. C. Lumpkin left for Chicago and I. A. Lumpkin left for Indiana to acquire new equipment as quickly as possible. Within three weeks, a used switchboard had been installed in a vacant warehouse and telephone service was restored.

The Sinsbaugh Livery stable had recently burned at 17th Street and the commercial alley. Dr. I. A. Lumpkin acquired the property numbered 117 South 17th Street. Construction immediately began on a three story brick and stone building which came to be called the Lumpkin Building. The excavation work for the foundation began before the blueprints for the building itself were completed. It was to be the first building in Mattoon with a concrete foundation.



Late in 1901 both the Mattoon Telephone Company and the Coles County Telephone Company moved into their new quarters in the Lumpkin Building.

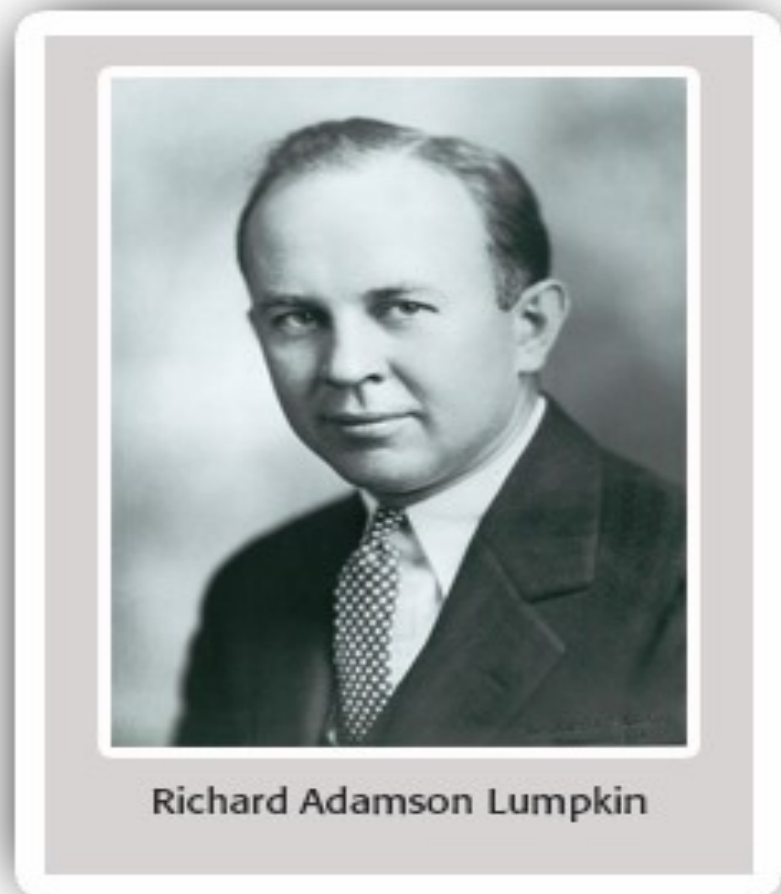


In addition to his dental practice and involvement with the telephone company, William Cutler Lumpkin was intrigued by the automobile. He took possession of a new Winton Six automobile on the first day of 1911. Arguably, one of the few autos in Mattoon at that time. The first new car dealer in Mattoon had just opened the year before. In the same year, 1911, William C. Lumpkin became president and principal shareholder of the Mattoon Motor Car Company. They initially sold Winton Six and Hupmobile autos. Over several years they would also sell: Chalmers, Hudson, Maxwell and Packard. The dealership was located on the first floor, Charleston Avenue side of the Lumpkin Building. Dr. Lumpkin sold his interest in the dealership to C. C. Glasscock in 1923.

In 1906, the two companies officially merged into the Coles County Telephone & Telegraph Company. They also acquired the Charleston Telephone Company at that time.



In 1924, following the untimely death of his father, Dr. William Cutler Lumpkin, Richard Adamson Lumpkin became general manager of the phone company at the age of 27. He continued the family tradition of leadership begun by his father and grandfather.



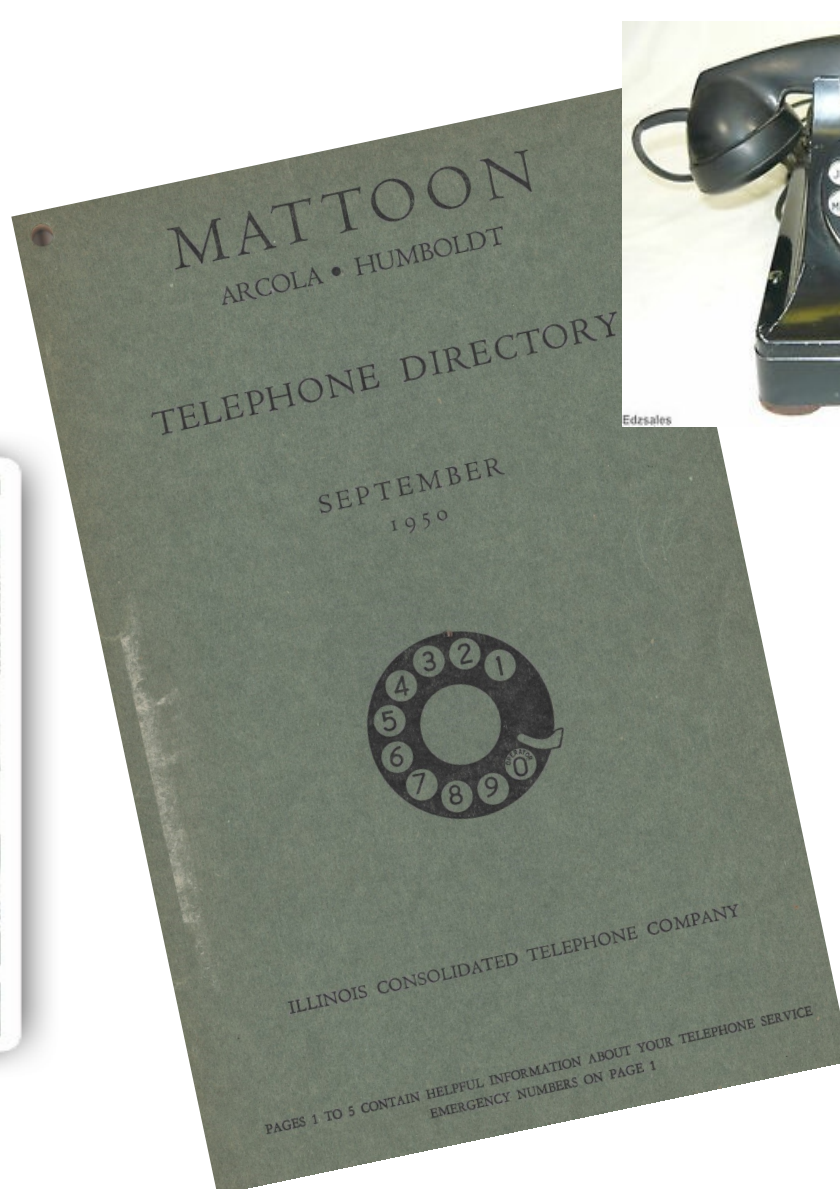
In 1926, the Southeastern Telephone Company was formed to broaden the reach of service outside of Coles County, including the Shelbyville area.



In 1935 all of the operating entities were merged into what became Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company.

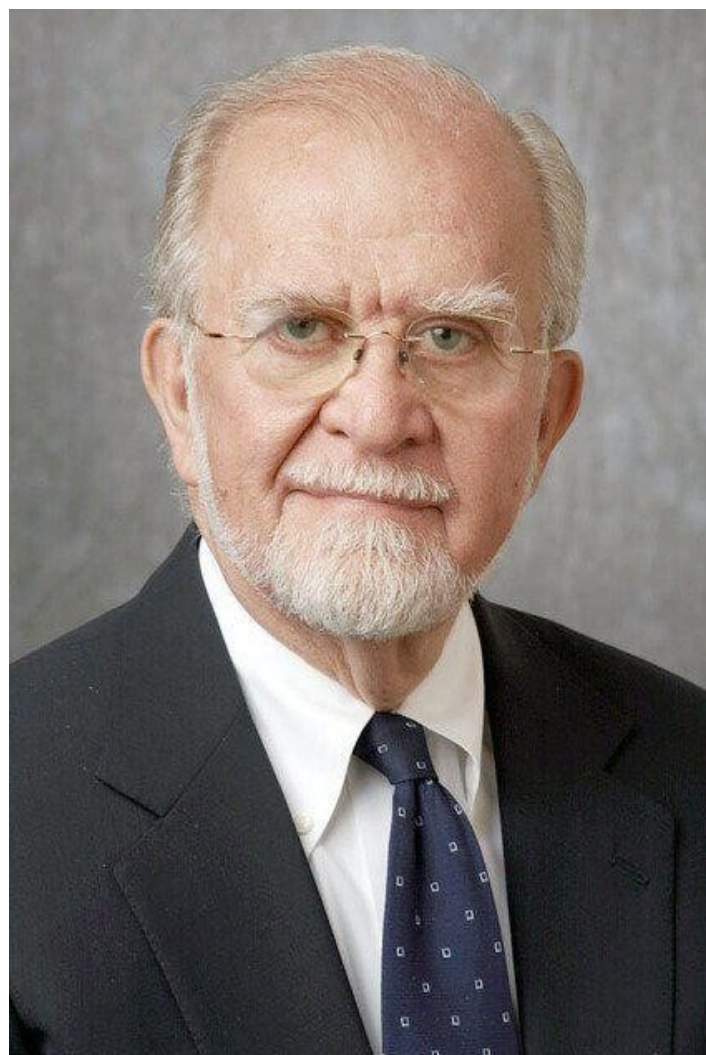


On August 26, 1950, the inaugural dial service was launched from the newly constructed switching center at 1501 Charleston Avenue.



Another significant milestone was the acquisition of the Illinois Bell exchange in Effingham, in 1960. The company continued to add other exchanges through the 60's and 70's.

In 1975 the building on South 17th Street was remodeled and continues to function as corporate headquarters.



In 1977 Richard Anthony Lumpkin was named president of ICTC. In 1984, he became president of the newly formed Consolidated Communications Inc., parent company of the various business entities. In 1989, after the death of his father, Richard Anthony Lumpkin was named chairman of the board.

In 1997, Consolidated was merged with McLeod USA. In July of 2002, Richard Lumpkin formed a group of investors to buy Consolidated back from McLeod. That deal closed on December 31, 2002 and Consolidated Communications Inc. emerged.



Since then CCI has been on a growth and acquisition track with several significant events:

2004-acquisition of Texas based TXU Communications.

2007-acquisition of North Pittsburg Systems Inc.

2012-acquisition of SureWest Communications.

2014-acquisition of Enventis Corporation.

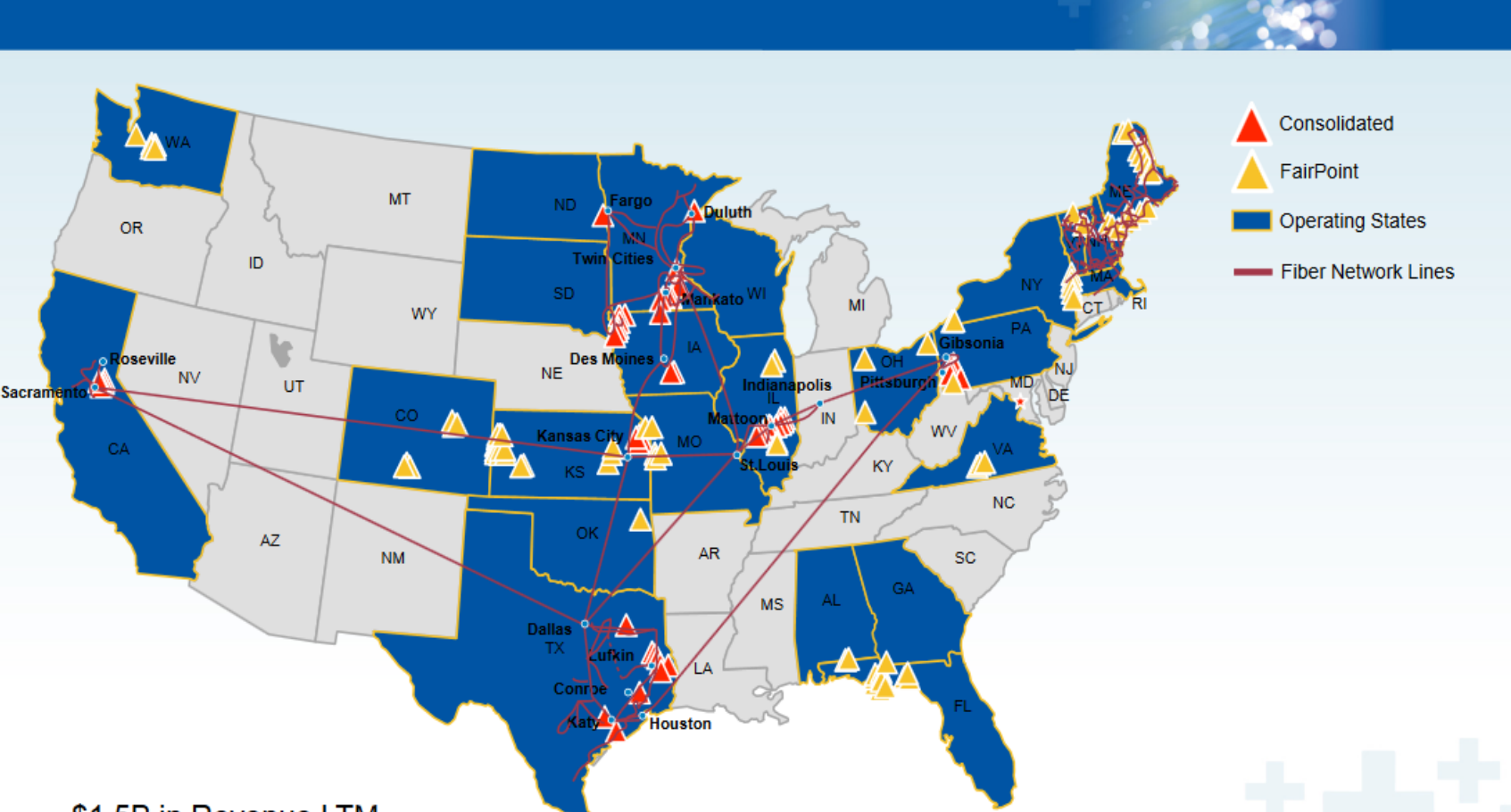
2016-acquisition of Champaign Telephone Company.

2017-acquisition of FairPoint Communications.

With the acquisition of FairPoint, Consolidated's footprint grew to parts of 24 states. The company owns 35,000+ miles of fiber optic cable, one of the largest fiber providers in the United States.



Consolidated at a Glance*



- \$1.5B in Revenue LTM
- \$541M Adjusted EBITDA LTM (does not reflect the full benefit of \$55M of targeted synergies)
- Diverse carrier, commercial and consumer customer base
- 35,700 fiber route miles
- Proven track record of successful M&A: FRP, CTC, Enventis, SureWest, North Pitt, TXU
- CNSL annual dividend of \$1.55/share, 50 consecutive quarterly dividends declared

Since 1984, CCI has been a proud sponsor of the Special Olympics Family Festival.



Richard Anthony Lumpkin relocated to Carmel Valley, California in 2007 but remained active on the board of Consolidated Communications. Richard A. Lumpkin passed away on April 4, 2019.