

Family owned and operated Calaveras Telephone Company has pursued a path of providing customers with innovative service since 1895 when 16-year-old

James A. Tower using barbed wire fencing, strung the first telephone line for what was to become the Calaveras Telephone Company.

In 1899, Mr. Tower personally negotiated with Alexander Graham Bell to get

equipment and a connection agreement with Bell's Pacific Telephone Company

that connected Calaveras customers' telephones with the rest of the world.

James A. Tower died in 1936 at the young age of 56, leaving his wife Laura

and their young son Howard, who was 13 years old at the time, responsible for

the operation of the company.

In 1950, Mr. Howard Tower, then 27 years old, installed the first automatic

switching equipment in the county. This meant Laura no longer had to operate

a manual switchboard.

By 1962, all unsightly telephone lines had been buried underground and Calaveras

Telephone Company was operating out of new modernized buildings in Copperopolis

and Jenny Lind.

The company's first digital switch was installed in 1979 and 1990 saw Calaveras

Telephone install its first fiber optic cable. Buried between Copperopolis and

Jenny Lind.

In May of 1995 the company started Calaveras Internet Company, known now as

CalTel(www.caltel.com), with 56k dial-up modems. In 1998 CalTel started deploying

DSL to its customers in Copperopolis and Jenny Lind. CalTel has always strived

to provide the best and newest services as well as great tech support and

customer service.

The company installed a soft switch in 2004 and 2006 marked the

beginning of

deploying fiber to customer's homes, while in 2009 the company began to deploy

fixed wireless internet outside of its service area and deployed digital TV.

In 2011, Calaveras Telephone began building an alternate route between Jenny Lind and Stockton and finished in 2013.