

1910 The Johnson “Pacific” Telephone Company (in Chatsworth)

Excerpts from documents compiled by Ann Vincent 2025

The Johnson “Pacific” Telephone Company was established in 1910, with a line from the ranch in the hill to Charles Johnson's place.

It was so effective that little by little, businesses, houses and individuals wanted to be added to the line, until nearly everyone in town had a phone – the old-fashioned wall type of course. Of course it was not very private, anyone in town could listen in to everyone else’s conversation by lifting the receiver and sometimes there was a click-click down the line as different ones took their receivers off the hook.

But it was pretty handy at that, and, moreover, when the Pacific Telephone Co. wanted to come in here, they had to get permission to take over the franchise and discontinue local services.

1963 - Chatsworth History - Katharine Johnson, pg6

The Johnson Pacific Telephone Co. was established in 1910 after Grandma Johnson broke her arm and they thought it high time there was a telephone service. That local telephone continued until the early 1920s.

2014 - Early Chatsworth California 1859-1959 Johnson - Starling (Bruz) and Doris Bryant, pg 65

In April 1907, Ann Johnson wrote a letter to Lenora about telephones, Mr. Charlton would help them get new phones, he will put in \$27.35 without the posts. Eastman has posts enough cut. Emma and Eastman will each put in \$5.00.

1986 The Letters of Ann Willden Johnson 1907-1920, pg. 4