An engineering career with the Bell Telephone Companies

John Lawlor is a Transmission Engineer with New England Telephone and Telegraph Company in Boston. His answers reflect his experiences during five years in the telephone business.

Q: How did you begin as an engineer in the Bell Telephone Companies?
A: My first fifteen months were spent in "on-the-job" training—changing assignments every three months or so. These assignments gave me a broad, all-around background in telephone engineering. And they were accompanied by plenty of responsibility. They prepared me in importance with my ability to handle them.

Q: What is the attitude of older engineers and supervisors toward young men?
A: I've found a strong team spirit in the telephone company. You're encouraged to contribute your ideas, and they're received with an open mind. Young men and new ideas are regarded as vital to the continuing growth of the company.

Q: How about opportunities for advancement?
A: I'd say they depend on the man. Opportunities to demonstrate your ability come with each new job you get. The size and importance of your assignments grow with your ability to handle them. All promotions are made from within, and the growth of the business is creating new openings all the time. One more thing. Most telephone engineering locations are convenient to colleges. You can visit your advancements by keeping on with your studies.

Q: How does the telephone company stock up where pay is concerned?
A: Starting salaries are competitive with those offered by most large companies. Rates are based on merit, with several increases during your first two years with the company. What's more, your performance is reviewed regularly to make sure that your pay keeps up with your progress. All things considered, I think a Bell Telephone career is second to none in rewards and opportunities.

Find out about career opportunities for you in the Bell Telephone Companies. Talk with the Bell interviewer when you visit your campus. And read the Bell Telephone booklet on file in your Placement Office, or write for "Challenge and Opportunity" to: College Employment Supervisor, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, 195 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y.