

When I was a kid we had a brand new Wisconsin Telephone, (predecessor to Wis Bell) building next to the new bank. The old bank had horse hitching posts still up. Village of Cleveland, population 500.

One Halloween when we were allowed out after dark, (preteen) which never happened, we grabbed a big cable from a six foot spool and pushed the spool (while holding the cable) down a big hill in the back of the building unspooling it as a prank. I guess that this was my first OP against a monopoly. <g>

There is a big plaque on that building now, praising the forefathers for their insightful establishment of phone service to the village. We had a “party” line then, if you know what that was.

That building now has no staff and is used as a kind of warehouse for the local installer of 128k DSL, and **256k if you are on the new (post 1940) segment of copper cable.**

Funny thing is that in 1976 they ran I-43 right through there and didn’t bury fiber, from the Illinois border all the way to Green Bay. The only fiber I know of runs west to Minneapolis along I-94.

Five years ago when I lived in Cambridge near Madison, I first had Frontier DSL but was more than a mile from town so I could only get 1 Mb. So I got one for the house and one for the shop where I worked from. Since I had to buy phone lines with each it was \$100 plus per month and I used Vonage for phones at the time. I begged them for years to remove the old unused line taps and add a signal amplifier, but they were too busy milking the old cow they had, rather than expanding the size of the herd. It sucked.

So I then got Netwurx Fixed Wireless broadband, (3Mb and eventually after five years of begging 10Mb) after I was able to talk them into upgrading their tower from 56k on Farmer Lien’s grain elevator leg.

Their fiber backhaul connection came from Milwaukee west along I-94 to Johnson Creek where Netwurx tapped in. They then relayed by antenna to Lake Mills, and then a Cambridge water tower which then hit the farmers antenna near the tiny village of Rockdale. (home of race driver Matt Kenseth). Anyway, I had line of sight from my six acres to that elevator leg and the antenna on my shop roof to my router, and then a radio that shot that signal to another radio on my TV antenna on the house and to another router. Whew!

Now that I moved back to my home county, I have Spectrum cable as the only non-Satellite option available. Started in 2018 at 100Mbps, they upgraded to 200, I bought an upgrade to 300, they upgraded to 400, then 500, and then I bought an upgrade to 1000Mbps. At no time, as you can see in the attached, did I ever get more than half of that. So I am sitting at 450-500 now (I know, it sounds like a white people problem) but I am suing them to get the other half. Right is Right.